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Introduction

“To influence the state policy in accordance with the legislation, in order to create conditions for the universal free and democratic development of children and youth and to achieve their legitimate interests. And also this way to contribute to the establishment of the state policy towards youth...” This is the first of the aims, stated in the articles of the Youth Council of Slovakia – its fundamental legal-political document. The articles were established only few months after November 1989. During the process of their establishment, none of children and youth organizations knew what the future would bring for them and especially for the children and youth in Slovakia. In the course of few years, the situation changed not only in the state order of our country, but also in the economical and social field. Such changes went on in other more developed European countries for decades. These changes brought also many negative aspects, as well as new challenges and dimensions in the work of youth organizations. The Youth Council of Slovakia, as a representative of children and youth organizations took an active role in the process of establishment of the state youth policy, as a fundamental condition for activities of civic associations on behalf of children, youth, and of course the state. The most important issue discussed in recent years is the stabilization of the democratic state order, to become fully accepted as a part of the uniting Europe. In the last elections, the votes of young people approved the way of the development of Slovakia according to the principles of democracy.



The Youth Council of Slovakia has become an inseparable part of NGO sector in Slovakia and it is ranked among democratic institutions. The Youth Council of Slovakia is a representative of youth at the international level and also in the international structures. It has become one of the most active institutions working in the field of youth work in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This is proved by the project II. European Youth Week or with permanent participation of representatives of the Youth Council of Slovakia

in the bodies of the international structures, as for example EYF (European Youth Forum), Premjer.net (network of regional and national youth councils), WAY (World Assembly of Youth).

The following pages will provide you with the information about member organizations of the Youth Council of Slovakia. I believe this publication to be a rich source of information in your work with youth and also in the process of searching new partners for co-operation in Slovakia.

*Rastislav Dikant
President of the Youth Council of Slovakia*

The Youth Council of Slovakia

1.



What is the Youth Council of Slovakia?

The Youth Council of Slovakia (YCS) is an umbrella organization of children and youth organizations with legal status. The Youth Council of Slovakia unites organizations with various activities aimed at children and young people, irrespective of political, religious, national and ethnic status. The Youth Council of Slovakia was established in Bratislava on June 7th 1990 and registered on June 25th 1990 at the Ministry of Interior in accordance with the law on civic association and operates throughout the Slovak Republic.

Aims of the Youth Council of Slovakia

The main aim of the Youth Council of Slovakia is stipulated for influencing state policy, in order to create conditions for the universal free and democratic development of children and young people and to achieve their legitimate interests. Also this way the Youth Council of Slovakia wants to contribute to the implementation of conditions for the activity of children and youth organizations and coordinated protection of their social interests.

The Youth Council of Slovakia has co-operated with partner organizations abroad, with international governmental and non-governmental organizations and authorities involved on behalf of children and young people. It also cooperates with state authorities and those civic associations active in the field of interests of the YCS.

In relation to their members and observers as also to other subjects oriented on the help and the work for children and youth, the Youth Council of Slovakia provides counseling, methodical and information services and endeavors to contribute in the establishing of financial resources for the activity of children and youth organizations. Every year projects arise from the claims and the needs of individual member organizations of the YCS. The important index for the Youth Council of Slovakia is the existence of children and youth-related social problems and it endeavors to react to these and to contribute to their resolution.

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Structure of the Youth Council of Slovakia

The supreme body of the Youth Council of Slovakia is the General Assembly convened at least once a year. It ratifies fundamental program and political decisions. The representatives of all member organizations are the delegates entitled to vote; the representatives of the observers are in an advisory capacity only.

The General Assembly of the YCS consists of two authorized representatives of the member and observer organizations of the Youth Council of Slovakia – the members of the Board of the Youth Council of Slovakia and the members of the Advisory Commission of the Youth Council of Slovakia. The General Assembly of the YCS has a quorum. When the representatives of the member organizations of the YCS present, they must meet the criteria of the clear majority. If the General Assembly does not have a quorum on the specified date of the Assembly, the Board of the Youth Council of Slovakia will convene within 14 days, irrespective of the number of representatives of all member organizations.

The exclusive competencies of the General Assembly are:

- Ratification of changes in the articles,
- Decisions about acceptance or exclusion of a member or an observer of the Youth Council of Slovakia,
- Election of the President, the Board and the Advisory Commission of the Youth Council of Slovakia, (age limit max. 35 years),
- Decisions about the abolition of the Youth Council of Slovakia and about property matters with the majority of two-thirds of all votes,
- Decisions about other matters according to the articles of the Youth Council of Slovakia,
- Authorization of the budget of the Youth Council of Slovakia and the financial report,
- Authorization of the report concerning the activities of individual bodies of the Youth Council of Slovakia.

The deliberations of the General Assembly of the Youth Council of Slovakia follow the rules of the deliberation.

The General Assembly of the YCS elects the Advisory Commission for the same period as well. In case of emergency, the President convenes the meeting of the chairmen members and observers. This meeting is the most important advisory body of the Board.

At the General Assembly, the representatives of individual commissions of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic for the consideration of requests for financing of children and youth organizations are elected. This commission is authorized to put through the claims of the Youth Council of Slovakia towards the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic.

Board of the Youth Council of Slovakia

The General Assembly of the Youth Council of Slovakia elects the Board for the period of two years and has a maximum of 7 members. The head of the Board is the President of the Youth Council of Slovakia. The President, together with the vice-president are responsible for activity of the Board towards the General Assembly.

The Board establishes also the regularly working professional commissions of the YCS, where the members and the observers can be equally represented. The foreign commission of the YCS is active at present.

Presidium of YCS is focusing on conceptual and strategic tasks; Secretariat secures technical and organizational tasks as well as regular service to member organizations.

Secretariat of the Youth Council of Slovakia

Since 2002, YCS Secretariat has faced significant changes. In contrast with the previous period, when the work of Secretariat was based on voluntary work and members of Presidium were directly involved in its work; since 2002 there have been professional staff members – each of them focusing on different spheres: Youth Policy and Regions, International Co-operation, Internet and Media. There is also the Office Manager and the Executive Director managing the overall work of the Secretariat. Establishment of a permanent Secretariat has brought systematic and

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Service for the Organizations

stable service to organizations, improved the advocacy of their interests and representation of youth policy towards important institutions. In addition to this, there are several project managers securing implementation of individual projects and a lot of volunteers contributing through their activities to fulfilling the goals of the Youth Council of Slovakia.

With regard to the voluntary base of work of children and youth organizations, the YCS endeavors to improve the professional level of volunteers. First of all, we can mention the distribution of information about the youth policy, social life, grants, international activities, philanthropy activities, and the reminders to documents concerning the non-profit making sector.

In addition to that, YCS annually organizes several trainings and prepares seminars focused on fundraising from non-government sources, extending the international co-operation and public relations.

Advocacy in the area of children and youth policy is an integral part of YCS service for children and youth organizations. YCS uses meetings with representatives of the Slovak Ministry of Education and negotiations on potential cooperation or urgent issues as a tool of advocacy. Currently there are very vivid issues such as – financing mechanisms of children and youth organizations, preparation of law on youth, preparation of national report on youth, and till recently, preparation of Concept of informal education as well. YCS is annually involved in the creation of an action plan that is the concretization of State Policy Concept towards children

and youth. In order to formulate fundamental attitudes and standpoints of YCS, the organization uses meetings of representatives of children and youth organizations focused on discussion on this topic. As a similarly important tool for enforcement of member organizations' interests, YCS uses representation and participation in committees, councils, and other advisory bodies of different state and municipal institutions. Details of individual YCS spheres of interests are described in following parts of this document.

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Youth Policy and International Co-operation

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Youth policy in the Slovak Republic

After the victory of democracy in 1989 in former Czechoslovakia, principles of the state policy regarding children and youth were drawn up and ratified in January 1992. But for the whole period there was no evaluation of accomplishment of individual aims. Some of the most important impulses for the formation of new and real national youth policy were recommendations of the European Council published in the resolution no. 6 in April 1998 and the conclusions from the I. World Conference of Ministers responsible for youth (so-called Lisbon Conference, in August 1998). The inspiration for the formation of the long-term policy conception in regard to children and youth in the Slovak Republic was also the recent discussion in the countries of the European Communities that lead to the so-called White Paper document. This was one of the reasons, why the Government Council for Children and Youth initiated a pilot group for the creation of draft of the Principles of the state policy regarding children and youth. The first meeting of this group took place on June 26, 2000. Every state - Slovakia as well, needed to ratify the long-term policy regarding children and youth, based on an agreement of all social and political partners – this should show independence, solidarity, responsibility, and activity. This policy should be comprehensive, responding to all non-government children and youth organizations in the country, as well as to all ministries. Not only in Europe, but in the entire world there is a strong need for governments to form, to ratify, and to implement together with civic society and youth organizations, such a long-term policy which through the mediation of youth, will create the future of a nation and at the same time of the whole world. We are proud to announce, that at the very beginning of the formation of this long-term policy, young people themselves and the representatives of the Youth Council of Slovakia were involved. The Government Council for Children and Youth at its sitting in October 2001 ratified the concept of the state policy in regard to children and youth in the Slovak Republic until the year 2007. The government approved this concept on its meeting by the government decree as well and by that it became the official document declaring support to work with children and youth from the point of the state – especially the

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executive power. The preparation of this concept was based on detailed report focused on the recent conditions for work with children and youth in the Slovak Republic during the period 1990–2000. Based on this conception, there is a preparation of the Law on Work with Youth in progress. The YCS is taking an active part in the formation of the youth policy in Slovakia and it also represents it at the European forum. In addition to this, it co-operates in the preparation of many documents concerning youth issues and together with the representatives of children and youth organizations and the Ministry of Education, it prepared financial guidelines for children and youth organizations. The Youth Council of Slovakia also cooperated with the Slovak Ministry of Education on preparation of *National Report on Youth* for European Council. The long-term youth policy has a clear vision of what men and women are needed for the future. The Youth Council of Slovakia wants to create and to support the society based on the positive characteristic features of its individuals and underline this process with a global attitude, including family, school, and civic society.

2.1.1

Action Plan for Implementation of Tasks Resulting from State Policy Concept Set up till 2007

Action plan is a document annually prepared and approved by Slovak government consisting of plan and implementation of specific tasks for every year resulting from State Policy Concept related to children and youth. The goal of the action plan is to set up priorities for the area of youth policy of the state for the future year and to evaluate implementation of tasks in the previous year. Individual tasks have a character of recommendations and are assigned for bodies of state administration, municipalities, and the NGO sector. Preparation of background data for action plan is running in selected ministry resorts (education, culture, labor and social affairs and family, interior, defense, housing and regional development), in NGO institutions (Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia, YCS), and international institutions (UNICEF). After all data from involved institutions are gained, the Ministry of Education becomes the gestor of Action plan proposal and submits it to the Council of Government for Children and Youth.

Governmental Council for children and youth is an advisory body consisting of representatives of ministries whose agenda is connected with children and youth, representatives of municipalities (Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia), and the third sector (YCS, Association of Information and Advisory Centers, Student Council of Universities, Confederation of Trade Unions). After the approval of document by Governmental Council for Children and Youth, it is submitted to Slovak government, which approves it and publishes it in the form of resolution. The role of YCS during the preparation and implementation of action plans lies especially in monitoring of completion of tasks and in providing support during its implementation. As a member of Governmental Council for Children and Youth it has a right to influence wording of the document. Currently, there are several urgent issues in the action plan. They are following: issue of preparation of legislation connected with children and youth – especially the law on youth; issue of participation of youth on preparation of regional and local policy and building partnership with municipality in decision making related to youth policy; and last but not least – the issue of State Policy Concept – preparation in the area of education for the next 15–20 years.

Financing

The role of state in financing children and youth organization is resulting from approved State Policy Concept. Finances from the budget of Ministry of Education represent an important part of sources needed for the implementation of activities of these organizations. The important task of the Youth Council of Slovakia is to control carefully the financing of children and youth organizations and to help the organizations with the formulation of rules for financial management. The Ministry of Education set up special regulation for this purpose. This regulation defines conditions for the support of children and youth civic association. Based on this regulation, organizations submit requests for financial support annually. Requests are evaluated by advisory bodies – committees that are divided into categories according regional impact of activities of individual associations (national, over-regional, regional, and local associations). Every committee consists of seven representatives of

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children and youth organizations and three representatives of state administration. This system strengthens participation of organization in decision-making on distribution of financial sources and mutual mechanism of control as well. Currently YCS cooperates with Ministry of Education on fundamental changes related to distribution of financial sources from the state budget.

We also inform the organizations about some important decisions of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic in regard to the financing and we protect the interests of the organizations. We provide the web page mladez.sk for the organizations to announce their activities, it enables them to record the activities supported by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and also proves the active work of our organizations.

Financial sources for children and youth organizations from other institutions than the Ministry of Education form a significant amount as well. We should mention financial sources from grants of other Ministries (for example profits from lotteries) and grants awarded by local municipalities. Other significant parts of sources come from different foundations and funds – for example Children of Slovakia Foundation, Foundation of Youth of Slovakia. In addition to these sources, children and youth organizations have other support in its sponsors and donors, such as corporations or private entities.

Representation of YCS in Other Institutions

As it was mentioned above, YCS has its representation in the Governmental Council for Children and Youth. This council is an advisory and initiating body of government for conceptual and legislative activities in the area of state care for children and youth. Council is responsible for preparing background papers for decisions in the area of policy related to state subsidies of ministries focused on children and youth. The goal of the council is to discuss proposals of action plans resulting from approved State Policy Concept related to children and youth till 2007. Talking about representation of YCS in advisory bodies, in which YCS has its representation – in the council it has the most representatives. The Youth Council of Slovakia, as an umbrella organization of children and

youth organizations, is active in the non-profit sector. The main objective of this project is to observe the situation in the non-profit sector and to protect the interests of children and youth among the other non-governmental organizations. That is why YCS has its representation in the Council of Government for non-governmental organizations, and it takes an active part in the process of the preparation of laws about the non-profit sector.

YCS is also represented in Commission for Evaluation of Grant Proposal within grant programs of support of information-advisory activities for children and youth. This is an advisory body deciding on distribution of financial sources coming from the Ministry of Education budget for information-advisory centers of youth. Similarly, YCS has its representation in the Commission of grant program of The Ministry of Education for the support of international activities in the area of work with children and youth.

YCS is also present in decision-making process within the Executive Committee of EU Youth program, Expert Commission of EU Youth program, Coordination Council for Preparation of National Report on Youth Policy for the European Council and in the council of the Student Loan Fund. YCS participates also on the management of Foundation of Youth of Slovakia as it has its representation in its executive bodies.

YCS has its representation also on the level of honorary member in National Convent that consists of representatives of Parliamentary political parties, academics, representatives of churches, NGOs, and others and serves as a basic platform for discussion on EU future on the national level. Similarly, YCS is present as an honorary member of Council of Commander of General Staff of Slovak Armed Forces.

International Cooperation and Mobility

International co-operation plays an important role and has a stable position in all activities of the Youth Council of Slovakia.

The YCS emphasizes the importance of cooperation with foreign institutions, communication with partner organizations, the representation of interests of its member organizations at the international level. It endeavors to develop and to support the

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international dimension of youth work. It participates in the international projects, forums, seminars, conferences and it also takes an active part in the preparation and the realization of projects with foreign partner organizations.

The Youth Council of Slovakia provides service for its member organizations including the contacts with foreign countries, as for example search for partner organizations, the intermediation of interesting offers for the cooperation with foreign institutions, informing about the work of the European youth structures, their events, and training activities.

In the year 2002, YCS gained accreditation for sending organization to fellowships in EU counterpart organizations within the Action 2 of EU Youth Program (European Voluntary Service) and sent its first volunteer for a year of voluntary work to Youth Council of Gaul in Spain.

The endeavor of the Youth Council of Slovakia is to increase the number of member organizations participating in the international youth activities and to spread the awareness in regard with the work of the European as well as the world youth organizations.

Another important role YCS plays is to represent the interests of our member organizations and the foreign policy of the Ministry of Education SR in the international structures.

The Youth Council of Slovakia is a member of the European Youth Forum that protects the interests of children and youth organizations at the European level. It is concerned with youth policy and forms a suitable legislative environment for the work with children and youth. The task of the European Youth Forum is to draw through the mediation of its organizations the attention to issues of the youth in Europe for the authorities of the European Community, the European Council, the United Nations, and to increase the participation of young people in decision-making processes, to support the development of mutual understanding and to fight for equal rights, to stimulate and to coordinate the work of member organizations.



The membership of the Youth Council of Slovakia in the European Youth Forum enables an active influence on the youth policy in Europe. YCS together with other national Youth Councils and international youth organizations in Europe co-founded EYF and since the end of 90's it has had its representatives in the EYF Presidium and in the European Union Affairs Commission (EUACOM).

The Youth Council of Slovakia is also a member of the Premjer (network of European regional and national youth councils) and the World Assembly of Youth.

In conclusion, we would like to remind you of the fact that in 1993, the Youth Council of Slovakia was awarded with the World Youth Prize as the most progressive and the best working youth council in the world. This prize we received from the hands of the Malaysian Minister of Youth and Sport.

Bilateral Contracts

At present, the Slovak Republic has signed bilateral contracts with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, and France and endeavors to develop cooperation with these countries also in the field of youth work. The Youth Council of Slovakia according to this contract makes contacts with the organizations with similar orientation in these countries. We have successfully developed contacts with the Youth Council of Germany (Deutsche Bundesjugendring) and mainly with the Regional Youth Council of Bavarian (Bayerische Jugendring). In the year 2003, YCS made official its long-time intensive cooperation with the Czech Council of Children and Youth by signing Declaration on Partnership.

YCS was also successful in beginning cooperation with France and in the near future it is prepared to communicate with Hungarian, Austrian, and Slovenian organizations about the conditions of mutual cooperation. In cooperation with foreign partners YCS was in previous years able to implement several successful activities such as trainings, conferences, fellowships, etc. through which it strengthened mutual international partnerships, as well as helped young people to get valuable experience through participation in various activities.



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Conferences and Seminars

The Youth Council of Slovakia informs its member organizations about training activities organized by the European Youth institutions, foreign organizations, as well as about the events that are taking place in Slovakia, concerning the international youth activities. It provides information about creating programs, searching partner organizations, financing foreign events, etc. We also endeavor to arrange the participation at the international conferences, workshops, and seminars. The goal of these activities lies in discussion, in searching solutions, and in providing information about problems, experience, ideas, and opportunities. Through these activities YCS encourages young people to take an active part in the decision-making processes. This might be a school of democracy and civic responsibility.

Not only the participants themselves but also the organizations, they are the members of benefit from the participation in the international activities. It also helps to build a strong position of the Youth Council of Slovakia abroad. Events like this provide an excellent opportunity to introduce their mother organization, to find some partner organizations, to exchange experience, and to introduce some successful projects. Thanks to intercultural learning, the participants in events are enabled to overcome prejudices and barriers; improve the tolerance towards other nations, nationalities, cultures; give a chance to visit new places and countries; to meet different traditions, and it is also a wonderful way to improve language skills.

Projects of the Youth Council of Slovakia

3.



Youth.sk

Project mládež.sk (youth.sk) serves for development of cooperation with children and youth organizations, Slovak Ministry of Education, other institutions and organizations, as well as with the wide public. The project consists of two components. The first one is the Internet support of organizations – consisting of provision of Internet connections, design and maintenance of web pages, and e-mail accounts management. The second but similarly important one is information-communication component. This component is accomplished through web page www.mladez.sk that through everyday information about youth (NGO) sector, actual events, camps, seminars, trainings, conferences, foreign offers and activities for Slovak children and youth organizations involves the wide public into cooperation. This web page also provides information on important documents, legislations, and financing. Several contacts for organizations, institutions, interesting links to other web pages, or discussion forum can be found there as well. Weekly mailing of information mailing list consisted of information published on the web page www.mladez.sk is a part of the information system. The web page provides also an Internet form of the magazine for youth policy called ZOOM-M (zoomed on youth). The biggest database of events in Slovakia, where children and youth organizations publish their activities throughout the year can be found there as well.

Web page www.mladez.sk cooperates with other institutions – Slovak Ministry of Education, IUVENTA (Institute of children and youth), Mládež program, Premjer net, various media – daily newspapers, radio stations, magazines, The Slovak Youth Foundation, or Slovak Academy of Science.

Until the end of 2002 Internet youth E-zine www.koxo.sk formed integral part of Project Mladez.sk. It was a natural and entertaining way to create conditions for education and leisure time activities of



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young people. The web page included interesting sections focused on music, culture, comics, sport, various issues, politics, traveling, literature, and PCs. In addition to this, the web page also offered a chance to get involved into discussion fora. The goal of E-zine www.koxo.sk was to create the space of meeting young people on the Internet. It became passive in December 2002 and currently it is not functioning.

www.mladez.sk
www.youth.sk
www.koxo.sk

3.2

Premjer Internet

The project Premjer Internet is a network of European regional and national youth councils, a communication tool with the aim to promote the cross-border cooperation between the regions and countries in the field of youth work. It is open to all registered youth organizations in the Premjer network regions to share good practice, to advertise international youth events and European youth programs, to connect youth organizations and local groups. Furthermore website www.premjer.net provides links to information websites on local and European funding, a forum for youth workers to discuss youth work issues and a forum for young people to discuss youth issues with each other.

The Youth Council of Slovakia was the initiator of this project and the idea to create the web page Premjer Internet because Internet can help improve communication among the European regions. According to this fact, the Youth Council of Slovakia was approved as the main provider of this project, not only technically, but providing organizational support as well. During the existence of this project YCS hosted twice a volunteer from Moldavia whose role was to coordinate activities of Premjer net, especially activities focused on web database.

www.premjer.net

Zoom-M

In 1995, The Youth Council of Slovakia in the year 1995 began to publish a regular magazine Youth Forum with subheading Magazine on Youth Policy. This magazine through its specialization filled the gap in informing children and youth organizations, institutions, and youth workers. Magazine consisted of articles on functioning of regional councils, informed on preparations of new financing systems of civic associations, offered comments of experts working with youth, news from the third sector, presentations of individual children and youth organizations, reactions to foreign issues, and offered various foreign activities. The magazine was issued until July 2003. At the beginning of December 2003, the first issue of common magazine of YCS and IUVENTA under name ZOOM-M, zoomed on youth! (Magazine on youth policy) was published. ZOOM-M brings summarized news of both institutions, is focused especially on youth, offers interesting information and tools for work with children and youth devoted to employees of civic associations and various institutions that are working with young people. ZOOM-M offers new interesting articles and has changed its design – it is colorful, livelier, and its rich information is focused on all spheres of work with children and youth.

Young Parliament

In 2000, for the first time in the history of the Slovak Republic the Young Parliament was held. It was organized by the Youth Council of Slovakia together with the active group of young deputies under the patronage of the Speaker of the Parliament of the Slovak Republic. The presence of the Speaker of the Parliament as well as some members of the governmental cabinet showed the importance of this meeting with the presence of young people. The goal of this project was to involve representatives of politics on national level into discussion with representatives of children and youth organizations. Interpellations and questions on



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members of parliament were part of the program. This event was held with participation of international guests.

The Young Parliament held its meeting also in 2001 with the presence of many members of the government and the deputies of the Parliament of the Slovak Republic. Discussions about the various topics of the youth policy were held in many sections of this event and at the end the delegates of the Young Parliament approved the resolutions concerning the individual topics addressed to the representatives of the government.

The Project of Young Parliaments was later transformed into the need for the Conference on Youth Policy on a national level.



3.5

National Conference on Youth

The goal of this conference is to secure meeting of Slovak government representatives with representatives of organizations and all those who are active in the sphere of youth policy in solving specific issue connected to problems of young people. As a parallel event, there is a presentation of activities of children and youth organizations where representatives of state and municipalities can get in touch with, and receive information about activities of children and youth organizations.

The Conference aims to point out the role of youth organizations in the society as well.



3.6

Non-Profit Sector

The Youth Council of Slovakia, as an umbrella organization of children and youth organizations, is active in the non-profit sector. The main objective of this project is to observe the situation in the non-profit sector and to protect the interests of children and youth among the other non-governmental organizations.

YCS is a member of the Council of Government for Non-Governmental Organizations, and it takes an active part in the process of the preparation of laws on the non-profit sector.

Trainings

The aim of the trainings is to educate volunteers and employees of children and youth organizations in the field of management and through this ensure better stability (motivation, clear organizational structure, marketing and fundraising, preparation of project proposals, and others according the need of member organizations).



3.7

participation of young people in life of society in general, with the aim of capitalizing their potential for the development of civic society in the Slovak republic.

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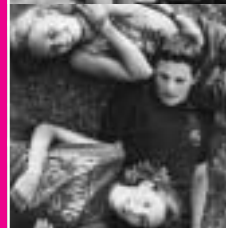
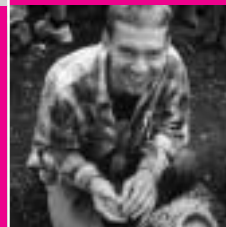
Slovak Youth Foundation

Slovak Youth Foundation was established in July 2001. The Founders of the Foundation are the Ministry of Education of the Slovak republic, the University Student's Council and the Youth Council of Slovakia. The Founders nominate members of the Board of Directors, which is the ultimate decision-making body of the Foundation. The Foundation administers grant-making programs providing direct support to projects and initiatives in favor of the young people in Slovakia. Foundation achieve its goals through targeting topical problems, a pro-active approach emphasizing the aspect of activation of potential carried by young people, supporting partnerships and networking, deliberately maintaining openness to new trends and alternative approaches to problem resolution, putting emphasis on effectiveness and transparency and implementing a principle of regional distribution of funds, ensuring the accessibility of programs to applicants from all regions of the country (including the most disadvantaged ones). The mission of the Foundation is to support and strengthen the

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Members of the Youth Council of Slovakia

4.



Amavet

Amavet is a civic association of children and young people. The activity of Amavet is focused on leisure time activities in the fields of science, technology, and ecology. The main priorities and aims of the association are: to enable suitable and reasonable use of leisure time for children and young people, to support the development and broadening of knowledge, to exchange and gain new information, to educate towards creative problem-solving, to popularize science and technology, and to create a new science culture for young people. Amavet organizes holiday stays (spring, summer, winter); specialized stays for children and young people; camps focusing on mathematics, chemistry, physics, model-making and polytechnics, ecology, debrouiars camps; exhibitions; public lectures; competitions; the publication of specialized hobby-based literature for children and young people at international meetings of young talents.



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www.amavet.sk

The Association of Clubs of Children and Youth with Hearing Disabilities in the Slovak Republic

It is a civic association of children and young people with hearing disabilities, their parents and citizens who help them. The principal mission and aim of the association is to protect and support the interests and rights of these children and young people. It offers help in the process of their integration and self-fulfillment in society in every aspect of their life. Its work is concerned with informal education according to social rehabilitation of children and youth with hearing disabilities in every field of their interests and activities. The members of this association are independent clubs, working at 6 primary, 3 secondary boarding schools specialized for children and youth with hearing disabilities and 3 common primary schools with special classes for pupils with hearing disabilities.

Združenie klubov detí a mládeže so sluchovým postihnutím v Slovenskej republike
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+421-2-6542 2016
FAX:
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E-MAIL:
lferko@mail.viapvt.sk

4.1

4.3



The Association of Christian Youth Communities

This is a youth NGO whose roots go back to the 70's. Currently it unites young people from the age of 14 throughout Slovakia. The basic elements are: establishment of small communities, regular reading of The Holy Bible, and the process of new evangelization. The main aim of the association is to train young people to develop Christian personalities with an active spiritual life in the civic society based on the Word of God. It prepares young people for family life and initiates the introduction of Christian, ethical and moral principles to every sphere in the life of young people. The activity of the association is organized in small communities and the members meet regularly. The activities are: various social and charity events, courses and seminars, publication of their own magazine and methodological reports for the community's leaders. Additionally, the association organizes nationwide events, summer and winter camps focused on the preservation of cultural heritage. The small communities are united at local level by regional centers. Regional center organizes local meetings, seminars, spiritual, educational, cultural, social, sport and other events.

Združenie kresťanských spoločenstiev mládeže
Pražská 11
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www.zksm.sk

4.2

4.4



eRko – the Christian Children Community Movement

eRko – the Christian Children Communities Movement is a nation-wide children's organization joining children and adults all over Slovakia to assist children in becoming mature and responsible personalities in the society they live in. Currently, eRko is active in 547 communities in Slovakia and involves more than 7.000 children and 1.300 group leaders throughout Slovakia, including small towns and villages. Since 1995, eRko has been organizing an annual children's program called DOBRA NOVINA (Good News). Dobra Novina is a program where groups of children visit homes and families in their communities during Christmas singing carols and collect money for their needy friends in third world countries. With the money collected, ERKO supports specific development projects, focusing on less-developed countries in Africa such as Sudan, Kenya, and Uganda.

eRko Hnutie kresťanských spoločenstiev detí
Pražská 11
811 04 Bratislava 1
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+421-2-5729 7294
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+421-2-5729 7294
E-MAIL:
erko@erko.sk
WEB:
www.erko.sk

DOMKA – the Association of Salesian Youth

DOMKA is a nation-wide youth organization that has been registered as a civic association since 1991. It is active in 33 independent centers and it associates 6000 young people. It is open for all young people irrespective of education, religion, and cultural or national background. The most important is an endeavor to become a sentient, tolerant, helpful human being, who easily finds its place in society. The activity of association is based on the Christian principles and focuses on the prevention in the educational system of young people aged from 10 to 26 years. First of all an educator, an assistant, an animator becomes a friend of the young, with their individual care helps them to develop their abilities to study, to work and to take the responsibility for all personal life decisions, and also to fulfill life with joy. It creates the possibilities and the conditions for their growth and self-fulfillment. DOMKA co-operates with Don Bosco Salesians. In their educational system, prevention is more important than the cure, the prosecution and the punishment afterwards. A youth worker endeavors to prevent some negative experience of young person, which could block his energy or could lead to some long-term pains for a remedy. The basic principles of this preventive educational system are religion, love, and compassion. The main activities of children and youth are: sports, hobbies, art, culture, events, music festival, dance, regular meeting on different topics, positive attitude to the nature, outdoor activities, trips, and formation courses. DOMKA is also a member of European organization Don Bosco Youth-Net, which associates 10 partner youth organizations from all over the Europe and is active in different youth exchanges and activities.



DOMKA - Združenie saleziánskej mládeže

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+421-2-5023 1210
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ustredie@domka.sk
WEB:
www.domka.sk

4.5

4.6



**Kresťansko-
demokratická
mládež Slovenska**
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821 09 Bratislava
TEL:
+421-2-5057 4012
FAX:
+421-2-5057 4012
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predsednictvo_KDMS
@yahogroups.com
WEB:
www.kdms.sk

Christian-Democratic Youth of Slovakia

The main objective of the association is to contribute to social, economic, and cultural growth according to Christian, national, and civic principles; to develop and strengthen these positive values among young people and to protect their interests and rights in everyday life. It also enables the integration of young people into society and supports their active citizenship, and at the same time offers professional preparation and background for this work.

4.7



**Spoločenstvo
evanjelickej
mládeže**
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+421-55-62 200 96
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+421-55-62 200 96
E-MAIL:
sem@sem.sk
WEB:
www.sem.sk

Association of Lutheran Youth (SEM)

Association of Lutheran Youth (SEM) is a nationwide organization established by The Augsburg Evangelical Church of Slovakia (ECAV). The objective of the organization is to spread the gospel of God's salvation among young people. It creates opportunities for youth meetings aimed at spiritual development following the path of Jesus Christ and helps the integration of young people into active life in the ECAV. All activities of the community are focused on young people. It organizes regular activities such as local community meetings, evangelical and bible study trips combined with sports and tourism, art festivals, nationwide youth meetings, conferences for youth workers, psychological and pastoral counseling, and the publication of a magazine called SEM – TEXT.

Fenix

The Fenix is an independent voluntary organization of children, youth, and adults, where members can fulfill their needs, gain new skills, improve their knowledge, and find friendship and honor among new friends. The members can rely on the help of people in the organization and repay this by helping others. The organization respects the social conditions in which it works and also participates in providing care for school age children, and defends the interests of its members - children, youth and adults. By means of its authority the organization pursues reasonable claims and the needs of its members. The organization participates in leading children according to ideas of independence, responsibility, tolerance, justice, humanism, and integrity towards other people and also to oneself as an individual. The programs of the Fenix childrens' organization are devoted to children and their older friends. They are based on games and competitions. The main activities are related to sport sections, tourism, and hobby-based clubs. It organizes expeditions to "secrets of nature" and trips beyond reality with lots of adventures for children.



Fenix

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4.8

4.10



Spoločenstvo maďarskej mládeže - Magyar Ifjúsági Közösség
Nám. 1. mája 10-12
815 57 Bratislava
TEL:
+421-2-5263 7974
FAX:
+421-2-5263 7976
E-MAIL:
mik@selye.sk
WEB:
www.mik-smm.sk

The Hungarian Youth Community – Magyar Ifjúsági Közösség

This organization was established by an initiative of young people of Hungarian nationality that are citizens of the Slovak Republic who feel the need for co-ordination of their activities at local level and organize events at nationwide and international level. The original idea of establishing an organization based on a structure of local communities working in regions of southern Slovakia was successful. The community focuses on the protection and development of culture and cultural-historical traditions, education and publication of scientific results. Additionally, the community is also active in tourism, sport, ecology, interpersonal relations, as well as in the field of social and cultural life and political education of young people. It publishes and distributes publications and materials focused on youth.

The Folklore Union of Slovakia

The Folklore Union of Slovakia is an independent voluntary organization, which brings together all those who share a lively interest in traditional folk art as a profession or as a hobby. It unites every fan and supporter who admires folk art and contributes to the creation of conditions for this part of culture. Progress in our society brings new possibilities in the preservation and development of folk art but also it brings some new problems. By solving these problems the Folklore Union wants to be helpful. It aims to preserve a continuity in its activities, in the process of finding a more effective and free form for the development of values of folk art in the interest of preserving cultural heritage and the heritage of our forefathers for future generations.



Folklórna únia na Slovensku

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szima@fus.mladez.sk

4.9

4.11



INEX Slovakia
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+421-2-5729 7306
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inex@inex.sk
WEB:
www.inex.sk

INEX Slovakia

INEX Slovakia is a non-profit organization founded in 1993. It is a member of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations, which is an international body covering more than 30 organizations from various European countries and some observers from Asia, Africa and America. INEX co-operates as an official partner with Service Civil International (SCI), Youth Action for Peace (YAP) and other international youth networks and independent non-governmental organizations. The main aim of INEX is to play an active role in international youth exchanges that promote international understanding, intercultural learning and tolerance. One of its basic activities covers organizing international work camps in Slovak Republic in cooperation with local partner organizations like municipalities, schools, centers of leisure time activities, national park administrations, environmental and other NGOs. In addition, INEX co-operates with similar organizations abroad to enable Slovak volunteers to take part in such work camps organized all over the world.

Laura

The Laura Association focuses primarily on the education of girls and aims to help them find and accept the role of woman and mother. It develops girls' personalities, creates conditions and possibilities for their self-improvement and self-fulfillment. One of the ways by which this goal is achieved is through the publication of a magazine for girls which is distributed nation-wide.

The association makes young people aware of interesting and challenging opportunities for their complete and responsible integration into life and society.

Laura is convinced that every young person has some positive values and is open to good. The events are organized according to individual centers, focusing on work with handicapped youth through sensuality, morality, spirituality and materiality.

The activity of the association is based on principles established by the pedagogue Don Bosco. It is a system of preventing the negative influence of society (crime, drug addictions, loss of a pride in being a woman, etc.). Laura facilitates active use of leisure time and gives extra value to the years of youth through participation in educational, social-cultural and sport programs.



Združenie Laura

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+421-2-6241 0219
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laura@laura.
mladez.sk

4.12

4.14



The Rainbow (Dúha)

The Rainbow is a civic association of individuals and collectives operating in the field of leisure-time activities for children and young people, organizing outdoor and nature-based activities and stays, non-traditional games and sports. The Rainbow is based on democratic principles, relating to ideas of humanism, personal freedom and tolerance for diversity of opinions. It was one of the first organizations established after 1989.

The main direction of the association is towards general harmonious personal development. It also offers a formative experience with a positive impact on contact with nature; providing a methodological, technical, consultative, organizational and informative co-operation among the base sections of the Rainbow, public and other social organizations; publication of periodicals, and the preparation of events for children and young people.

The age groups start from 8 and up. The primary activities involve the regular running of the sections and the clubs all year round throughout the Slovak Republic. The association promotes the principles of childrens' creativity, their self-fulfillment and a positive evaluation of their activities. Children are professionally guided by specially-trained experienced voluntary workers.

Dúha

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840 02 Bratislava 42
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+421-2-6453 3763
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info@oz-duha.sk
WEB:
www.oz-duha.sk

Scouting Slovakia

Clear message, strong principles and interesting educational methods express the basis of Scouting as a worldwide movement. In a free environment of friends, deep experience, life in nature and traveling for boys and girls – Scouts and Guides develop their character and other aspects of their personality.

Scouting Slovakia is one of the largest and most active youth organizations in the Slovak Republic. Over 7.400 youth members and about 900 adult volunteers are registered in more than four hundred Scout Troops all over Slovakia. Young members are divided into the three age sections – Cub Scouts, Scouts and Rovers – in which they experience specific programs.



Slovenský skauting

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ustredie@scouting.sk
WEB:
www.scouting.sk

4.13

4.15



Tree of Life

The Tree of Life is a voluntary NGO focused on the leisure-time activities of children and youth. The mission of this organization is to associate children and youth with the goal to be active in the fields of education, protection of cultural, technical, natural monuments, and the environment; and development of individual personality, democracy and historical awareness. Activities of the organization are running through the year and are geographically unlimited and focused on specific projects. The organization uses non-traditional, interactive forms of education. The Tree of Life was formed on the basis of the first nature protection movement of youth in Slovakia in 1979. Currently it is oriented on whole-year work implemented through its project throughout Slovakia.

Strom života

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FAX:
+421-2-5729 7309
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kancelaria@
stromzivota.sk
WEB:
www.stromzivota.sk

The Slovak Association of Country Dances

The Slovak Association of Country Dances is an institution representing country-dance camps. It was established in 1991 to support the development of country-dance events in Slovakia. It sets priorities and targets towards voluntary work in dance clubs, groups at schools, and dance courses. It promotes local folkloric dancing from various countries of the world in traditional or modern form. It also supports amateur dance groups.

Currently, the SACT covers the needs of the Slovak dance scene in these fields: historical sociable dancing, modern sociable dancing, square dancing, round dancing, line dancing, country dancing, modern exhibition forms such as step styles – clogging, buck-dancing, flat- footing, Canadian tap dancing, traditional and modern Irish step dancing. The association provides conditions for the training of its own dance coaches, organizes weekend dance seminars for trainers and dance groups, and moreover dance schools and courses for youth organizations and the public. Its activity, especially musical and dance programs on TV, has a positive impact on promoting the good name of country music and dance among the general public.



Slovenská asociácia country tancov

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FAX:
+421-2-5441 1049
E-MAIL:
sact@changenet.sk
WEB:
www.sact.sk

4.16

4.18



The Society of Friends of Children from Children's Homes – Smile as a Gift

Smile as a gift is an independent, apolitical, voluntary, non-governmental organization. The mission of the Society is protection of the rights of abandoned children in respect of the Declaration of Children's Rights and the Children's Rights Agreement ratified by the Plenary Assembly of the UN. Through its general activities it aims to help children in state social care and those in institutional care in their general mental and physical development and their integration into independent social life.

The Society involves the global public in the provision of social, material, moral, health and other help for abandoned children in Slovak republic. The Society gains and unites friends of these children, informs the general public, civic associations, state authorities about the life of children abandoned by their parents. In order to get more help for these children, to change legislations relevant for this issue, to secure financial aid and to organize benefit and sponsorship activities focused on fundraising, this organization cooperates with professionals, social workers, prominent people, civic associations, foundations, and other people.

Úsmev ako dar
Ševčenkova 21
851 05 Bratislava
TEL:
+421-2-6381 5208
FAX:
+421-2-6381 5209
E-MAIL:
info@usmev.sk
WEB:
www.usmev.sk

YMCA in Slovakia – The Young Men's Christian Association

The YMCA in Slovakia is apolitical and non-denominational. The objective of the activities of the association is the revival of young people aimed at physical and spiritual well-being through moral, educational, cultural, Christian care, based on democratic principles. It unites young people irrespective of origin, sex, race, nationality, religion, social status and political affiliation. For those young people who are interested, the YMCA provides opportunities for interesting and entertaining use of their leisure time and the development of their personalities. The association endeavors to live life in accordance with Christian ideas as an irreplaceable source of the spiritual and moral force. The mission of the YMCA is to care for the physical, mental, spiritual and moral development of its young members. It also influences non-organized or differently focused young people through educational programs, education to democracy, tolerance, humanitarian and charitable activities and intensive international contacts.



YMCA na Slovensku
Šancova 13
811 05 Bratislava
TEL:
+421-2-5262 6241
E-MAIL:
ymca@ymca.sk
WEB: www.ymca.sk

4.17

4.19



The Hungarian Scouts Association in Slovakia

The mission and aim of the Union of Scouts of Hungarian Nationality is to train children and youth of Hungarian nationality in Slovakia in line with the principles of the Scout movement, to develop their religious-moral efficiency and physical and mental gifts. The training is based on religious-moral principles, co-operation amongst scouting organizations, a respect for the traditions and folk culture of the Hungarian national minority in Slovakia. The principal remit is in maintaining honor, understanding, tolerance and the scouting ideas of Baden Powell, as well as scout laws. The Union is an independent apolitical and voluntary organization.

Zväz skautov maďarskej národnosti
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+421-31-5527 121
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+421-31-5521 042
E-MAIL:
scouting@szmcs.sk
WEB: www.szmcs.sk

Young Social Democrats

It is an independent youth association networking people in the age group from 14. The basic principles of the association are solidarity, social justice, equity, tolerance and ecology. Its goal is to enforce respect for human rights, contribute to creation of a better and socially more just future for all people regardless of nationality, race, religion, sex, and other differences. Its activities are focused on young people, young families, and children – on advocating for their civil, political, and social rights and involving them into active life in society. The organization fulfills its mission through organizing campaigns, leisure-time activities, lectures, trainings, seminars, conferences, as well as through educational activities. The organization presents its opinions especially through internet, media, publications, and magazines. The YDL co-operates with other youth organizations and political parties. It is a member of The International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY). IUSY is at the same time partner of Socialistic International (SI). This organization is a full member of European Committee of Socialist Youth (ECOSY) that associates European social-democratic and socialistic youth organizations and at the same time it is a political partner of Party of European Socialists (PES).



4.20

Mladí sociální demokrati

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WEB:
www.mladi.sk

Observers of the Youth Council of Slovakia

5.



AIIESEC Slovensko

AIIESEC is the biggest educational student-run organization that is represented worldwide at colleges and universities in 87 countries. For more than 50 years it has been providing core training for personal development.

This organization has been providing internships – it is offering the advantages of pre-screened foreign students to Slovak companies and providing foreign internships to Slovak university students after their successful completion of language tests and personal interviews. The organization implements this activity by means of its network of local committees at universities in 85 countries worldwide. At present, the organization cooperates with many Slovak and international companies in various areas, such as internships, job fairs, company presentations at universities, seminars, international projects, promotion, and financial and material support. The goal of the broad spectrum of its activities, of which the exchange program is the central activity, is to develop educated individuals – students with a proactive approach towards society, to provide them with practical experience, and most of all to contribute to intercultural understanding and tolerance.

5.1

Aiesec Slovensko

Železničarska 6
811 04 Bratislava
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+421-2-5245 0228
FAX:
+421-2/5245 0228
E-MAIL:
aiesec@aiesec.sk
WEB:
www.aiesec.sk

Civic-Democratic Youth

The Civic-Democratic Youth is a liberal-conservative youth organization established in 1991. It brings together young people from throughout Slovakia, who appreciate values such as parliamentary democracy, legal state, open society, freedom, tolerance, and personal responsibility of the individual, patriotism, and family.

The CDY aims to help and support the creation of a new generation of educated young people and their integration into society as active citizens. It also develops international contacts with partner organizations in EU countries and Visegrad group countries, supports the integration of the Slovak Republic into the EU and NATO and the completion of the Slovak Republic's transformation towards democracy and the open market. By virtue of the ratification of November 11, 1997 the Democratic Party is a senior partner organization of The CDY. The CDY is a member of many international organizations, most significantly The Young European Conservatives (EYC) and The European Democratic Students (EDS).

5.2

Občiansko- -demokratická mládež

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+421-2-5249 1184
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vvodm@pobox.sk
WEB:
www.odm.sk

5.3

ELSA Bratislava – the European Law Students' Association

It is an independent apolitical civic association of students of law and young lawyers. It is connected to the international organization of ELSA International – local groups exist in 40 countries of Europe. It is also the only organization of this kind in Europe. It represents a place, where students cross the borders of merely attending a school and are encouraged to develop their personal qualities and gain a better professional review.

The association facilitates educational, professional activities in line with the interests of students from the Faculty of Law at The Comenius University and the members of the association and also supports the development of contacts among law students and young lawyers in Europe and throughout the world.

Európske združenie študentov práva Bratislava

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+421-2-5296 4401
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elsa.slovakia@
caramil.com
WEB: www.elsa.sk

5.4



Montessori Centrum (an association for the complete integration of disabled children, youth and adults)

The aim of the civic association is to support a complete integration of disabled pre-school, school age children and adults in everyday life in society. It focuses on spreading pedagogical, psychological, and social and other professional concepts oriented on the improvement of upbringing and education of disabled children, youth and adults in the integrated groups, later on finding employment and on improving the quality of their life in a natural environment. The Montessori center is a poly-functional workplace aimed at the needs of development of children and youth with special needs in regard with social, cognitive and emotional part of life. It is the workplace that successfully uses the knowledge of the Kinderzentrum in Munich for the integration of disabled children, starting at the pre-school age, continuing through puberty and adolescence, together with taking care of adults. The Munich integration model confirmed the value of work with disabled children and their families in sense of integration, considering social prevention and counseling, pre-school and elementary school education. The Montessori center is attended by mentally and physically disabled children or children with sensual perception and speech disabilities. There are also children with combined development handicaps, with diagnoses such as poliomyelitis, autism, Down-syndrome, etc.

Montessori centrum

Drocárov park 2a
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+421-55-645 2664
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zpki@mail.viapvt.sk
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www.zpki.viapvt.sk

Outward Bound Slovensko

Studio of Experience-Outward Bound Slovakia is an organization aimed at personal development. We help people find new sources for further personal development and to understand their place in society. A key tool for reaching these objectives is education through outdoor experience. Placed in an unusual, inspiring, and emotively strong environment, our programs encourage self-esteem, responsibility, cooperation, empathy, tolerance, and a sense of community.

Outward Bound offers a dynamic program in the outdoors. It puts seemingly unsolvable obstacles in front of us, offers opportunities to step beyond our limits, and encourages creative thinking and the ability to accept other viewpoints. It creates an atmosphere of trust and sincerity. The intensity of the experience can bring a real and long lasting change in life attitudes. Every program is composed of a balance of physical and mental challenges, starting with easy problem-solving activities and leading up to more difficult challenges which can broaden a person's comfort zone. Outward Bound is for everybody who wants to acquire self-confidence, who wishes to look at themselves from a different perspective, who wants to improve their teamwork skills, and who hopes to communicate more efficiently and discover their own creativity.

The most valuable outcome of every course is learning for further life. A student is open to revalue one's hierarchy of life values and is open to change.



OUTWARD BOUND
ŠTÚDIO ZÁŽITKU

Štúdio zážitku – Outward Bound @ Slovensko

Prokopa Veľkého 20
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+421-2-5477 6440
E-MAIL:
zazitok@
outwardbound.sk
WEB:
www.outwardbound.sk

5.5

5.7



Samaritán

Samaritan is an apolitical non-governmental civic association active nationwide. The activities of the association are concerned with disabled young people, especially those who have nobody to help them or belong to marginalized groups of society.

The activity aims to accept disability and suffering as a gift and together with Jesus to bear the everyday „cross“ and to help others in the light of belief. One of the tasks of the association is to help to find or create work opportunities for disabled youth.

All members of the Samaritan are volunteers, who with love and sacrifice give their leisure time to those who need them.

Samaritán

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841 07 Bratislava 49
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+421-2-6477 6452
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samaritan@
ba.sknet.sk
WEB:
www.samaritan.
mladez.sk

OZVENA – the Girls' Choir (ECHO)

ECHO – the Girls' Choir is an association of choirs in Vranov nad Topľou established in March 1994. It consists of five choirs with about 130 junior members, children and youth from primary and secondary schools in Vranov nad Topľou. The association is an independent body and one of the organizers of The Vranov's Choir Festival.

ECHO – The Girl's Choir is the oldest choir of the association and was established in March 1980. The other choir of the association is The Children's Choir Echo. Since 1994 there has also existed the ECHO chamber choir, featuring the older girls of the association. Since 1996 there has been a mixed choir and preparatory children choir.

The association co-operates with choir schools and youth orchestras, especially from abroad (Austria, Latvia, Holland). ECHO is a member of The Association of Choirs in Slovakia.



Združenie speváckych zborov OZVENA

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875/200
093 01 Vranov nad
Topľou
TEL/FAX:
+421-57-4422 849
E-MAIL:
vilma.krauspe@
gmx.net

5.6

5.8



Trencin Student's House

This is a non-governmental organization established jointly by students of The City University, The Trencin University and the town of Trencin. The main objective of the association is to support and develop a student community in Trencin. Moreover, the organization provides job opportunities for students, exhibitions of artwork by students as well as by well-known artists. The majority of the projects of the organization are based on voluntary work of secondary school or university students in Trencin.

Trenčiansky študentský dom

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sic@cutn.sk

Young Christian Workers

A priest Joseph Cardijn established the organization in 1925 in Belgium. It brings together young workers, and unemployed young people or students. The objective of the organization is to help young people to find their individual values, educate and coach them, lead them to the Gospel and responsibility and help them to become activists. The process of education and evangelization of members is divided into individual stages: to learn about young people and their way of life, to create a community, to organize actions, meetings and compare their life with the Word of God and to participate in work within the organization, and take on responsibilities according to their own interest in becoming an activist of the organization. The activity is based on regular meetings where young people can discuss their problems and delights (work, leisure time, school, unemployment, relationships with parents, friends, partners). The Young Christian Workers organize various weekend activities, summer camps, and New Year parties. The organization also works at the international level at the international co-ordination JOC.



5.9

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Partners

6.



The Student Council of Higher Education Institutions of Slovak Republic

The Student Council of Higher Education Institutions of Slovak Republic (hereafter SC HEI) is in accordance with the Higher Education Act No. 131/2002 and in later amendments, represents the higher education students in Slovakia. The SC HEI started to function in March 1997 when it forged the following goals: to represent higher education students to the state authorities and to protect their rights and freedom. The SC HEI has active members from all the higher education institutions in Slovak Republic.

In 1997 and 1998 the SC HEI had to fight for its survival with an authoritarian government.



After the elections in 1998 the SC HEI was recognized as a partner for the Ministry of Education in the field of higher education students. During the fall of 1999 and spring 2000 SC HEI cooperated with the Ministry of Education and higher education institutions representatives on preparation of the proposal of the new conception of Higher Education in Slovakia. The new conception was meant to reflect new European trends in higher education. The Govern-

ment of Slovak Republic adopted the new conception in August 2000. During fall 2000 SC HEI participated in the preparation of a proposal of The Ministry of a Education of new Act on Higher Education.

This organization in cooperation with the Slovak Ministry of Education, Slovak Rector Conference, and the Universities Council aims to find practice and tools for implementation of philosophy of reform of higher education in Slovakia into practice. Through its members on individual universities, the organizations motivate the rest of the university students so that they demand changes especially in the area of education and student self-government.

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6.1

6.2

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic

The goal of the Department of Children and Youth at the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic is to execute the state administration in the area of children and youth. The Department is responsible for development of personal, technical, economical, and legislative conditions in the area of state policy of children and youth. In this regard the Department develop conceptual, program, and legal documents which concern the area of children and youth; create adequate conditions for meaningful free time activities of children and youth; and support activities of children and youth associations and other entities working with children and youth in their free time. The Department is cooperating with other state institutions, county and district offices, as well with various NGOs at the development and implementation of state policies related to children and youth. With scope of its activities the department is governing in a methodical way activity of Iuventa (utility of Slovak Ministry of Education for leisure-time activities of children, youth, and adults) that is a research center for state policy in the sphere of youth. It is also governing activities of leisure-time centers and school centers of spare-time activities, it is recommending focus of research in the area of children and youth, it is cooperating with civic associations of children and youth, it is supporting youth mobility and it is



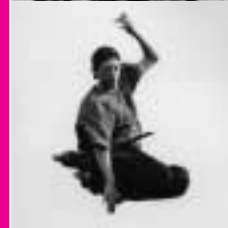
participating in international cooperation in this field. Together with YCS and University Student Council is a founder of the Slovak Youth Foundation and has its representation in its Board of Directors.

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Regional Youth Councils

7.



In the recent years we have noticed a considerable increase of the activities in the non-governmental children and youth organizations sector, either inside the big organizations or in the establishment of new ambitious associations at the regional level. A Regional Youth Council enables participation also to these small organizations. The YCS under rules approves the status for these organizations as observers. On the other hand, the Youth Council of Slovakia from its position as a center cannot expressively help these subjects at the local or regional level in their activities.

The second significant factor of the development of the regions was the governmental plan of the decentralization of the state administration. The process of the distribution of competence, the distribution of financial resources will also bring more benefits to the non-profit sector. The position of the center in this field will weaken and the competence of the representatives of the regions will grow. They decide about the development of their region according its needs.

These two factors lead the organizations of the YCS to start the project of the regional youth councils. The main objective of the regional youth councils is to support the work with children and youth in the region, to enable the participation of local organizations in the decision-making processes, in the control of the children and youth policy in the region, to represent the interests of children and youth in the region, to help to develop the region and at the same time to enable the participation of the region in the activities of the YCS. At the November General Assembly



in 1999 the conception of the regional youth councils and the projects for their establishment were ratified. In the year 2002, regional youth councils were founded in all eight counties. The regional youth councils associate the local children and youth organizations in every region, working at the regional level as an individual subject. The regional youth councils protect the interests of associated organizations; provide services for them (training, introduction of the organizations, distribution of actual information about the youth activities, about non-profit sector in regard with children and youth) and the development of the international co-operation. The YCS accept them as a partner in the decision-making processes concerning the regional grants and provide know-how (training, education...) for them.

The aim of the Regional Youth Councils is to associate children and youth organizations working in the individual areas and to help to create suitable conditions for full development of children and youth.

The objectives of the activity of the Regional Youth Councils are:

- a) According to the legislative, influence the policy of the state to create conditions for full, free, and democratic development of children and youth in the name of realization of their legitimate interests and to contribute to the development of state regional policy towards the youth,
- b) To contribute to the creation of conditions for activities of children and youth organizations and for coordinated emphasizing of their common interests,
- c) To cooperate actively with domestic and foreign partner organizations, with international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, which develop activities with benefits for children and youth,
- d) To cooperate with state institutions and civic associations active in the field of interests of the Regional Youth Council,
- e) To provide counseling, methodical, and information services for member organizations,
- f) To cooperate in the establishment of financial resources for activities of children and youth organizations...

Regional Youth Councils are independent subjects and their priority is to develop work and cooperation of regional councils, cooperation of regional councils with the Youth Council of Slovakia, and to improve cooperation with the state administration and VUC (Higher-Tier Territorial Units) to become partners in solving issues related to children and youth in specific regions.

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7.1

7.2

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Photo: The Youth Council of Slovakia, Scouting Slovakia. Design: Emil Jakubík – 2nd sight.