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Y Youth Councils Yet Coming

STUDY ON YOUTH COUNCILS AND YOUTH PARLIAMENTS

2020-1-SK02-KA205-002449



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. ABOUT THE PROJECT	3-4
2.1 Background information	3
2.2 Main issues	3
2.3 Project objectives	3
2.4 Target groups	3
2.5 Expected outputs	3
2.6 Expected results	4
2.7 Project partners	4
3. KEY COMPARISONS	5
3.1 Final report of the youth council/parliament questionnaire survey – Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Republic of Poland	6-11
4. RESEARCH	12
4.1 Results of the online survey among RMaMP members in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland	13-42
4.2 Results from focus group meetings with RMaMP members in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland	43-46
4.3 Results from the survey of RMaMP coordinators in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland	47-49
4.4 Results from the survey of representatives of local authorities where RMaMPs are active in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland	50-52
5. CONCLUSION	53

1. INTRODUCTION

This study describes and compares the activities, structure, strengths and needs of youth councils and youth parliaments (hereinafter referred to as RMaMPs) in Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

It is based on the outputs of a questionnaire survey of RMaMP members and coordinators, local government representatives and the outcomes of focus group meetings of RMaMP members.

The core of the publication consists of conclusions and main findings comparing the situation in each country, focusing on the activities, structure, strengths, weaknesses, needs, purpose, relationships, influence and competences of youth parliaments.

The first annex provides an analysis of a questionnaire survey of RMaMP members, which involved 220 respondents. Representatives from 63 RMaMPs expressed their views in the online survey. (SK25,CZ18, PL20).

The second annex contains the outputs of the focus group meetings of RMaMP members that took place in 15 towns and villages.

In the third annex you will find the summarised outputs of the questionnaire survey aimed at RMaMP coordinators.

The fourth annex summarises the results of the questionnaire survey for local government representatives.

The whole process of developing the output of the Study was led by the partner organisation Petrklíč Help (CZ).

2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

2.1 Project background information

The YC2 – Youth Councils Yet Coming project has been implemented thanks to the support of the ERASMUS+ programme for the period 2020–2022.

2.2 The main problems addressed by the project are:

- RMaMP members and coordinators do not have methodological support;
- RMaMP's hard work is not recognised in society;
- RMaMP lacks a tool to share experiences and resources and to build its own specific network.

2.3 Objectives of the project

- To increase methodological support to RMaMP members and coordinators.
- To raise awareness in society (municipal leaders, NGOs, policy makers) about the mission, role and activities of the RMaMP.
- Improve opportunities for networking, sharing of resources and experiences among RMaMPs.

2.4 Target groups of the project

- The primary target group of the project is RMaMP members – young people and their coordinators.
- The secondary target group is local government representatives, NGOs working in the field of youth participation, policy makers.

2.5 Expected intellectual outputs of the project

- RMaMP Study;
- Training methodology for RMaMP members;
- Digital guide for RMaMP and web platform.

The project activities included a training activity: a pilot training for RMaMP members and a multiplier event – a final conference.



2.6 Expected results of the project

- The users of the study (local authorities, NGO representatives) will increase their awareness and knowledge about RMaMP, its mission, tasks and activities.
- RMaMP coordinators and youth workers will gain knowledge on how to develop personal, professional and social competences of RMaMP members.
- Participants of the pilot training for RMaMP will increase their competences in the field of communication, teamwork, motivation.
- Users of the Digital Handbook (direct RMaMP members or ad hoc guests) will gain a better understanding of the work of the RMaMP.
- RMaMP members will get the opportunity to network with other youth councils and share their experiences.

In the long term, this project is expected to contribute to a greater recognition of the work of the RMaMP, to a higher level of participation and involvement of youth in the life of the local community, to their participation and to increase the effectiveness and quality of the work of the RMaMP.

2.7 Project partners



- Žilinský samosprávny kraj (SK)
www.zilinskazupa.sk



- Rada mládeže Žilinského kraja (SK)
www.rmzk.sk



- Petrklíč Help (CZ)
<https://petrklíchelp.cz>



- Fundacja CiviS Polonus (PL)
<http://civispolonus.org.pl>



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3. KEY COMPARISONS

These findings include conclusions drawn from comparative states of RMaMP life and activity in Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland, focusing on the activities, structure, strengths, weaknesses, needs, purpose, relationships, influence and competences of RMaMPs.



3.1 Final report from the questionnaire survey youth councils and parliaments

**Czech Republic
Slovak Republic
Republic of Poland**



ACTIVITIES:

Czech members are most active in self-education. Rather, Polish members want to help young people find important information for them. Slovak members mainly enjoy entertainment in the council/parliament and take it as a hobby. All countries are very similar in activities, they differ only in prioritization, some of them.



- **Result**

Czech members are active mainly in relation to each other and are engaged in self-education, Polish members actively represent the interests of young people and Slovak members are actively involved in events.

STRUCTURE:

Clearly a common first principle of councils/parliaments is self-education, and the second principle is to represent young people. In other principles, the countries differ slightly. Czech members and Slovak members generally meet in person, where they want to pass on information. Polish members are more politically and administratively oriented. The last principle is the same for all countries, and that is to participate in the preparation of the agenda of the Council/Parliament meeting.



- **Result**

All countries have almost the same structure of councils/parliaments. They all focus on self-education, representing young people and creating a meeting program.

STRENGTHS:

Common strengths are the focus on education and future leadership. A common strength is also high activity but investing in various activities. Slovak and Czech members in councils/parliaments persevere for a longer period and are more focused on membership.



- **Result**

The strengths of all countries are high activity, a focus on education and future leadership.

OTHERS:

Each country has its specific needs. Councils/parliaments are usually motivated in different ways. Czech members need a good and reliable leader, Polish members need to be involved in various events organized by the city or another organization, and Slovak members need support from the city and the city council. The negative finding is that all countries have problems in recruiting new members. In all countries, there is a lack of motivation for young people to join the Youth Council/Parliament. Most of the time, however, this is due to a lack of information on youth councils/parliaments or the ignorance that something like this exists. Lack of information often leads to uncertainty and fear of the unknown, and therefore they do not want to join the Council/Parliament.

PILLARS

STRUCTURE

- **Czech Republic**

The structure does not differ from the questionnaire survey. The councils operate based on their statutes, conduct their activities, and set the agenda for their meetings. Leader is very important for advice.

- **Poland**

The work of the coordinator was not considered so important in the questionnaire survey, but the cooperation with the city was, although it was often questioned. The questionnaire survey also suggested that many young people do not have enough information about counselling and their activities.

- **Slovakia**

The structure is identical to the results of the questionnaire survey, however, cooperation with cities was not very well evaluated, although it is very important.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF YOUTH COUNCIL

- **Czech Republic**

Strengths and weaknesses coincide with the questionnaire survey. Members want to be educated and involved in the events of the city and other organizations. The city's support is diverse, and financial support is provided to councils when the city so decides.

- **Poland**

Frequent turnover and less stability of members coincides with the results of the questionnaire survey.

- **Slovakia**

Lack of facilities for their activities and insufficient awareness of activities coincides with the results of the questionnaire survey.

NEEDS

- **Czech Republic**

As the questionnaire survey showed, Czech board members are strongly focused on self-education and their needs. The difference is the desire for a good leader, which is not mentioned here.

- **Poland**

Insufficient adaptation of the new members coincides with the statement of the coordinators from the questionnaire survey.

- **Slovakia**

The need for a coordinator proved to be a secondary need in the investigation. Involvement in activities proved to be just as important.

PURPOSE

- **Czech Republic**

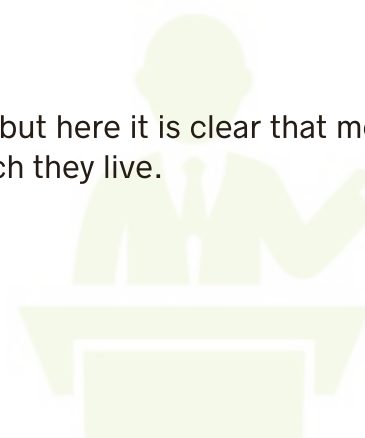
The questionnaire survey tended to focus on itself, but here it is clear that members want to help other young people and the city in which they live.

- **Poland**

This were not part of the questionnaire survey.

- **Slovakia**

This were not part of the questionnaire survey.



RELATIONSHIPS

- **Czech Republic**

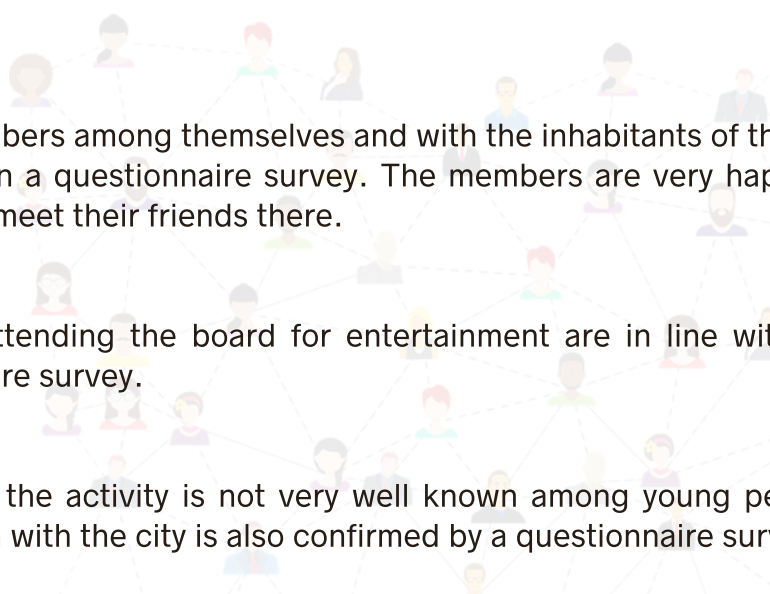
The cohesion of the members among themselves and with the inhabitants of the city was also demonstrated in a questionnaire survey. The members are very happy to visit the council, as they meet their friends there.

- **Poland**

Friendly relations and attending the board for entertainment are in line with the results of the questionnaire survey.

- **Slovakia**

The survey showed that the activity is not very well known among young people. The need for cooperation with the city is also confirmed by a questionnaire survey.



INFLUENCE

- **Czech Republic**

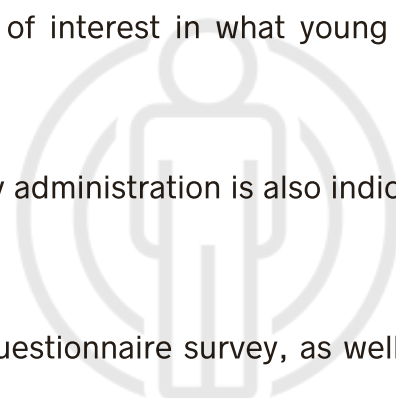
The questionnaire survey rather showed a lack of interest in what young people thought.

- **Poland**

The close connection of the councils with the city administration is also indicated in the questionnaire survey.

- **Slovakia**

The activity of the members is confirmed by a questionnaire survey, as well as the need for education.



COMPETENCES

- **Czech Republic**

The questionnaire survey showed that members gain contacts with useful people who may be useful in the future.

- **Poland**

Self-education and development was demonstrated, as a large part of council membership, also in a questionnaire survey.

- **Slovakia**

Active involvement in activities and interest in education is confirmed by a questionnaire survey.

4. RESEARCH

4.1 Results of the online survey among RMaMP members in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland

4.2 Results from focus group meetings with RMaMP members in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland

4.3 Results from the survey of RMaMP coordinators in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland

4.4 Results from the survey of representatives of local authorities where RMaMPs are active in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland

4.1 Results of the online survey among RMaMP members

**in Slovakia, Czech Republic
and Poland**



QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

MEMBERS OF YOUTH COUNCILS AND YOUTH PARLIAMENTS

The number of respondents: 220

Further information

Prepared by: Petra Krejčí
Contact: petra.krejci@centrum.cz
Collaboration: Lukáš Kiswa, Zuzana Palová
Expert guarantor: Petr Kantor

EVALUATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY:

The questionnaire developed for the questionnaire survey dedicated to the youth council and youth parliament members, contained a total of 14 questions. All the questions have been processed as part of this evaluation and the results are presented below.

The first question focused on the municipality, town or city in which the respondent serves on the youth council or youth parliament. As the survey was conducted in the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Poland, different municipalities and towns within the three countries appear. The cities include:

Poland:

Jastrzębie Zdrój, Kłodzka, Dolnośląskie Voivodeship, Rybnik, Tychy, Iława, Warszawa, Nowe Miasto lubawskie, Gdynia, Świeciechowa, Łosice, Olsztynek, Lublin, Szydłowiec, Wojnicz, Karczew, Polkowice, Michałowice, Elbląg, Łódzkie Voivodeship.

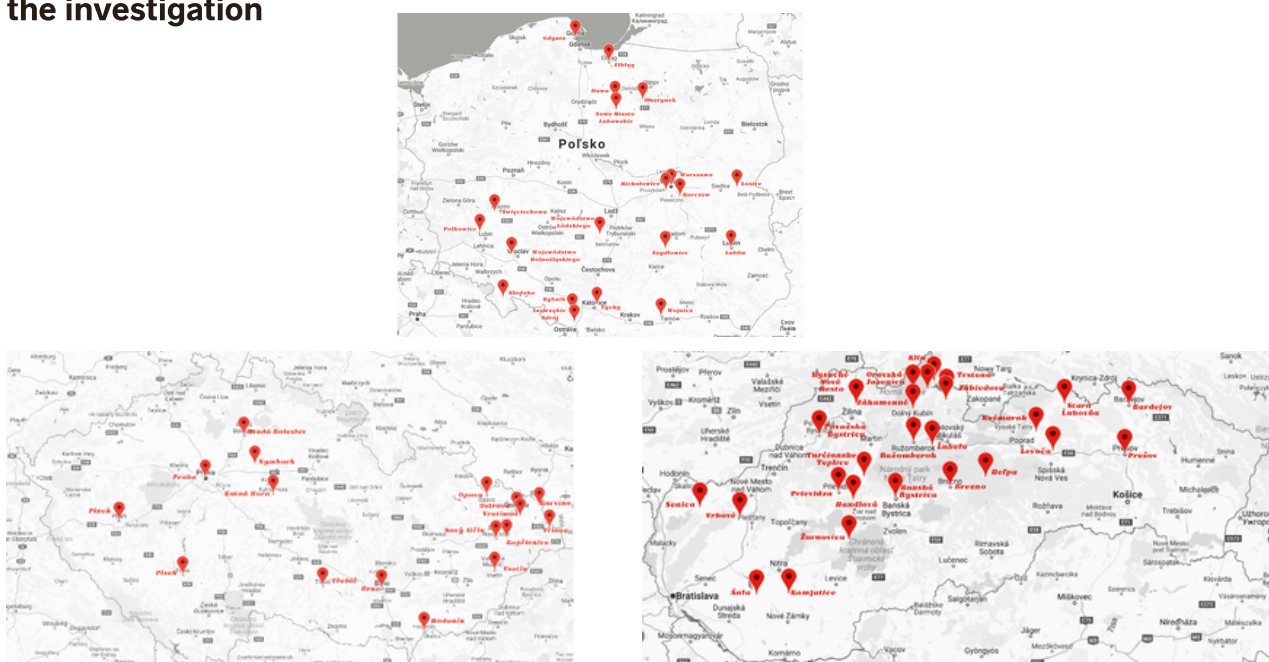
Czech Republic:

Třinec, Plzeň, Prague, Vsetín, Hodonín, Brno, Písek, Třebíč, Mladá Boleslav, Nový Jičín, Kopřivnice, Brno, Ostrava, Kutná Hora, Nymburk, Vratimov, Karviná and Opava.

Slovakia:

Levoča, Prešov, Banská Bystrica, Komjatice, Stará Ľubovňa, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Považská Bystrica, Turčianske Teplice, Zákamenné, Oravská Jasenica, Kežmarok, Prievidza, Vrbové, Bardejov, Brezno, Zábiedovo, Šal'a, Trstená, Žarnovica, Heľpa, Ľubel'a, Ružomberok, Senica, Handlová, Klin.

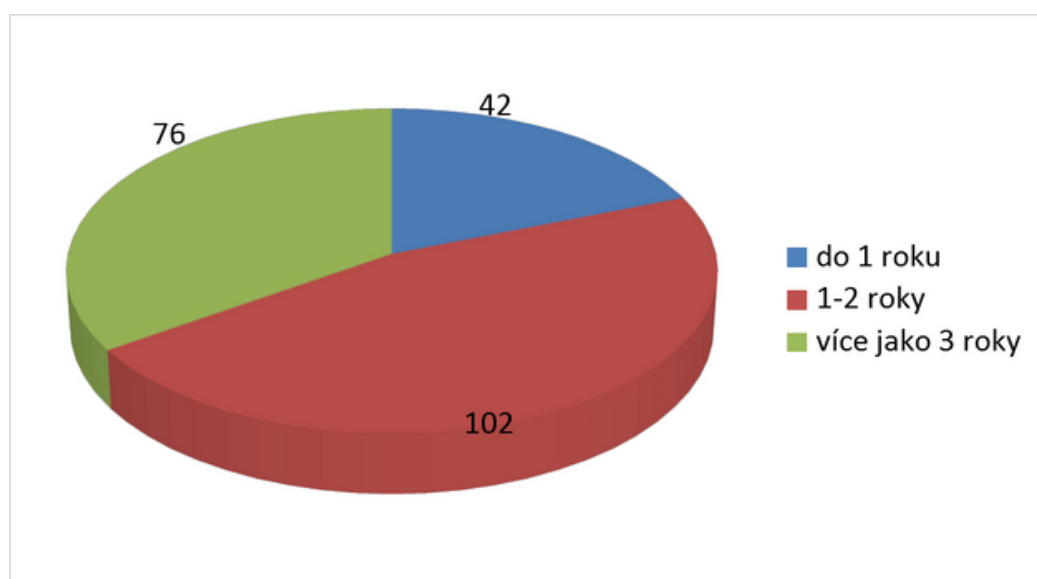
Figure 1 Map of villages and towns from which RMaMP members participated in the investigation



The second question is: 'How long have you served on the youth council/parliament?'

The question was closed and only one answer could be given. All 220 respondents answered the question in total. The fewest respondents have been on the council or parliament for up to one year. Percentage-wise, this is 19% of all responses. Most members have been on the council or parliament for roughly between 1 and 2 years. Percentage-wise this is 46% of all responses. In the period of 3 years or more, the percentage of those who have been in the council or parliament is within 35% of the respondents.

Figure 2 Length of service on the Youth Council/Parliament



Source: own elaboration; number of respondents: 220; the numbers in the graph represent the number of ticked responses of the respondents.

Interpretation:

This information may indicate that members who remain on the council or parliament for more than one year continue to remain for subsequent years. 76% of respondents have been on the council or parliament for more than one year. This may indicate an increasing interest in council or parliament activities and the persistence of young people in this type of activity.

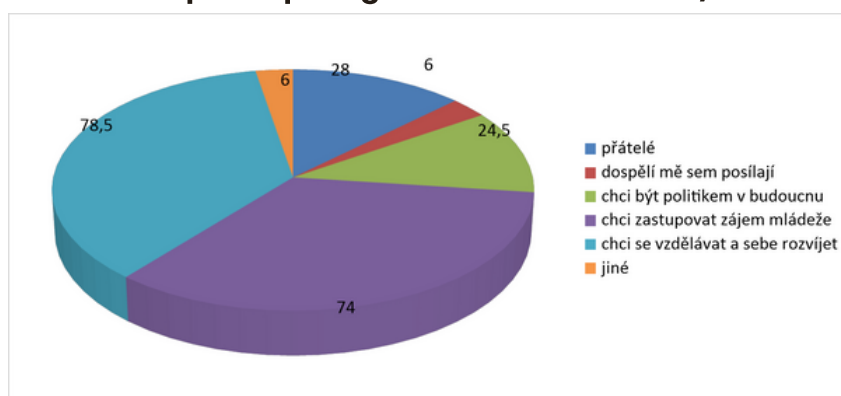
Summary regarding the educational activities of the project:

With regard to learning activities, we can say that we are treating more the needs of those members who are established in the council, understand the processes and know their learning needs with regard to performing the function of a youth council/parliament member.

The third question is: 'What is the main motivation for participating in the youth council/parliament?'

The question was partially open-ended. Each respondent could tick only one answer. The last answer option, was the "other" box. If the respondent selected this box, he/she was free to write a different answer than the one listed. The least number of respondents selected that their motivation for participating in the council/parliament was the adults who send them there. In percentage terms, this was 3%. The answer, I want to be a politician in the future, was ticked by 11% of respondents and 13% of respondents ticked that they are on the council/parliament because they have friends there. Most of the respondents are in the council/parliament because they want to represent the interest of the youth and want to educate and develop themselves. In percentage terms, 34% of respondents want to represent the interest of the youth and 36% of respondents want to educate and develop themselves.

Figure 3 Motivation for participating in the Youth Council/Youth Parliament



Source: own elaboration; number of respondents: 217 out of 220; the numbers in the graph represent the number of ticked responses of the respondents.

Respondents were also given the option to tick the answer 'other' as indicated in the text above. These respondents were 3% of the respondents. For example, the following responses appeared in the area of other reasons why members are on the board/parliament:

- Informal learning, educational development. *(Added to the answer: I want to learn and develop myself)*
- I have no idea, I'm probably bored.
- This is a great opportunity to do something for young people and show them ways to get involved and motivate them to be active citizens. *(Added to answer: I want to represent the interest of youth)*
- I want to set an example in ethical behavior for young people.
- Nice people, I am the only one from my school who wants to be involved in parliament at the moment.
- I was elected by my class, but I don't plan anything in the future, I'm not enjoying it.

- I'm developing myself and at the same time I can bring things to the city that other cities have, because it's better to do something than to wait for it to come to us. *(Added to answer: I want to educate and develop myself)*
- I want to be both a competent politician in the future and, above all, to represent the voice of young people. *(Added to the following answers: I want to be a politician in the future and I want to represent the interest of young people)*
- I want to act socially, maybe get involved politically. Moreover, it is very nice to be active in schools and locally, to be able to represent the voice of young people. All of this is an opportunity to develop and gain knowledge of local law and what running a small community looks like, and to have a say in what the young people here have to say. *(Assigned to these answers: I want to educate and develop myself and I want to represent the interest of the youth)*
- At school the teacher asked if anyone would be willing to join the youth council, I didn't know what it was, I originally thought it would be something like volunteering. *(Assigned to these answers: adults send me here)*

Most students wanted to add that this is an opportunity to develop themselves or their surroundings. The prevailing thought was to develop one's own community and one's own life. Some members are also involved here because of the political direction for the future. Exceptionally, there were some members who did not actually know why they were on the council, or were pushed to be on the council by adults or by their class or school.

Interpretation:

The above shows that 1/3 of the youth are in the youth council/parliament for education and self-development and to represent the interests of the youth. There are also young people who are on the council more for friends and perhaps related entertainment. Some young people are in the Youth Council/Parliament because they want to be politicians in the future. Conversely, a very small number are in the youth council/parliament because adults force them to be. From the survey it can be clearly concluded that the motivation of young people is to help young people, to learn and to develop.

Summary regarding the learning activities of the project:

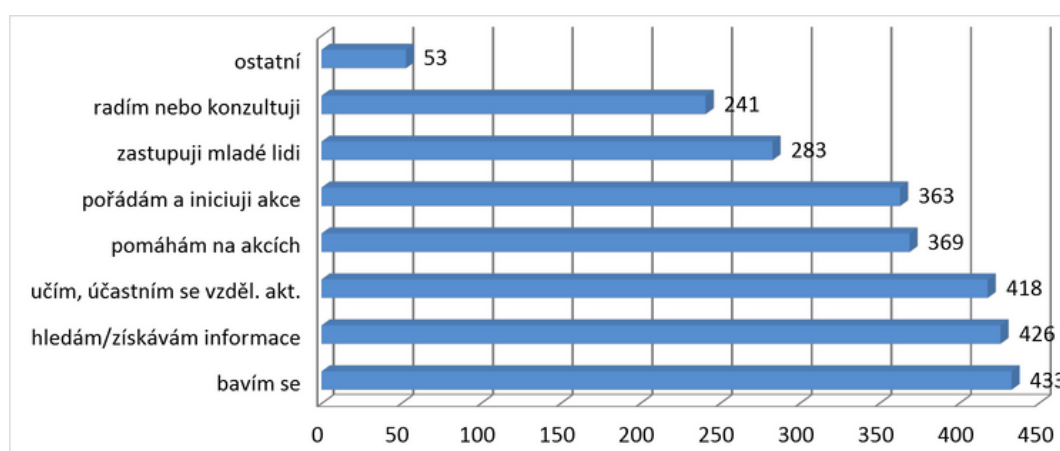
The learning activities in the youth councils/parliaments are meaningful. Members want to develop themselves. Activities need to be planned in the field of education to strengthen competences in advocacy and representation of young people's interests in relation to city officials.

The fourth question is, 'What do I do in the Youth Council/Parliament?'

The question was closed in the survey. It contained eight activities where it was necessary to choose how often, this activity is implemented by the respondent. For each activity it was possible to choose either that the respondent performs it very often, often, sometimes or never. Each of these options was scored as part of the evaluation. Very often was scored 3, often was scored 2, sometimes was scored 1, and never was scored zero.

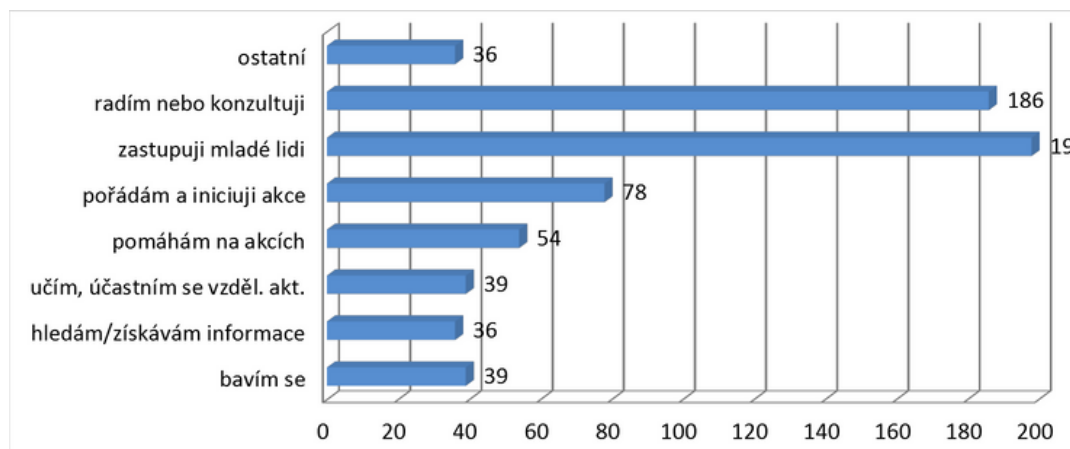
Thus, each activity could score a minimum of 0 points and a maximum of 660 points. The scoring can be seen below in Figure 4. Between 3 and 7 respondents did not answer each of the questions.

Figure 4 What do I do in the youth council/parliament?



Source: own elaboration; the numbers in the graph represent the number of points obtained when the respondent marked up to 3 options; the maximum number of points obtained is 660.

Figure 5 What I never do in the Youth Council / Youth Parliament



Source: Own elaboration; the numbers in the graph represent the number of points obtained for the answer "never" indicated by the respondents; the maximum number of points obtained is 660.

The question included the following activities:

- (1) other,
- (2) looking for/getting information relevant to youth,
- (3) I learn or participate in educational activities,
- (4) I help out at community events or other organizations,
- (5) I organize and initiate cultural, sporting and social events,
- (6) I represent young people in – commissions, regional parliament of children and youth, national parliament of children and youth, etc.,
- (7) I advise or consult – the representatives of the municipality ask me for my opinion
- (8) I have fun – I do fun and social activities.

Figure 5 above shows the number of responses in the "never" section. The data is presented here in the form of a score. In this case, the term "never" is scaled by the number 3. Thus, it is an equality between the terms very often and never (very often = never). Figure 5 shows that less than 1/3 of the respondents (66 respondents) do not represent young people in commissions, regional children and youth parliaments or national children and youth parliaments. Furthermore, it is important to mention that 62 out of 220 respondents never consult or consult with community representatives.

The other question was open-ended and each respondent was free to write down what else the unnamed council/parliament does. Answers included the following:

- I'm meeting new people, discovering new ideas, creating new things.
- My main task is editing texts for youth in Prague, which are published on the Council's Facebook page. Their aim is to activate young people to action. I always emphasize social issues to inform young people about the fate of others and motivate them to cooperate and empathize. In this way, I also try to develop their sense of community.
- I deal with organizational and logistical problems.
- I am creating my own youth centre – a clubhouse. (*Added to answer: I represent young people*)
- I do charity work, activities promoting the idea of youth councils, investment projects.
- I come up with activities for the youth. (*Added to answer: I represent young people*)
- I create new and original things to represent our school.
- Ensuring the running of the association, project management, organising events, fundraising. (*Added to answer: I organize and initiate events*)
- I invent new cultural events. (*Added to answer: I organize and initiate events*)
- I try to gain experience and help others in the city parliament. (*Added to answer: I organise and initiate events*)
- I contribute financially.
- I delegate tasks, check what stage we are at and evaluate.
- We vote on amendments within the GJP parliament organization.

- I do incentive weekend events for reps. *(Added to answer: I organize and initiate events)*
- I do promotional activities, manage Facebook and website pages, and possibly Instagram pages as well. *(Added to answer: I represent young people)*
- Organise events in the town for local people. *(Added to answer: I represent young people)*

Interpretation:

The most preferred and almost comparable responses were: having fun, seeking/getting information and learning, participating in educational activities. Thus, it is mainly about having fun, seeking or getting information for young people and learning or education in various activities. Helping at events and organising and initiating events is also important to them. It is also important to keep track of what they are not doing at all, and here there is a significant group of respondents who are not involved at all in representing young people in the youth council/parliament and in consultation or advice.

This suggests that respondents place an emphasis on activities that bring young people together for fun and social contact, where the organiser is having fun too. From the graphical outputs, it is clear that respondents and councils/parliaments, in addition to seeking information that enriches young people's lives, like to organise and initiate cultural, sporting and social activities in which they acquire different skills. An important result is that a certain number of respondents do not represent young people in municipal commissions and do not consult their views with municipal officials.

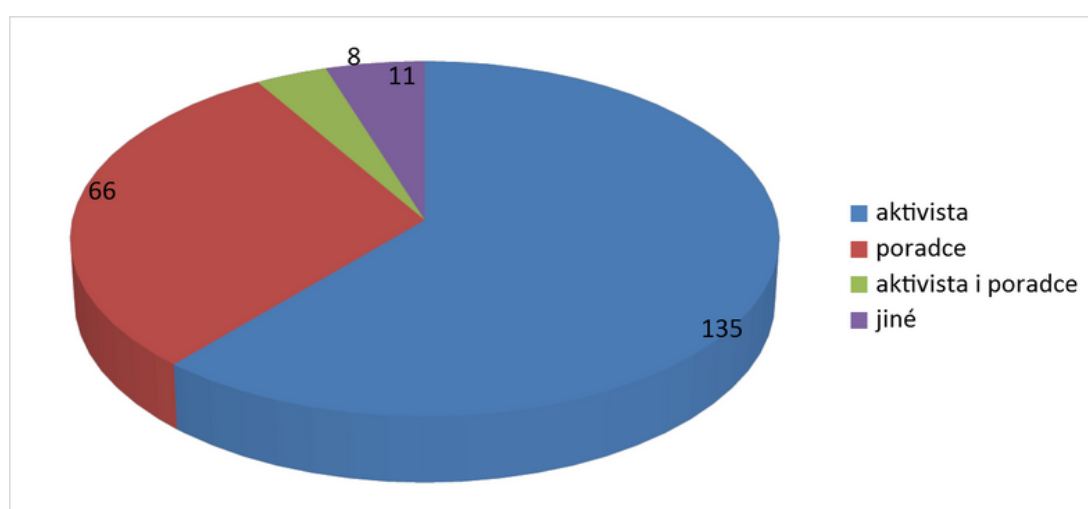
Summary of the project's educational activities:

In terms of training, it makes sense to strengthen team building competences, organisational competences and self-learning in the context of the activities carried out. We also need to strengthen the proactivity of young people to try to represent young people and to understand this role. Local authorities need to be supported to systematically create space for young people's participation.

The fifth question is: *'Do you perceive your activity in the youth council/parliament more in an activist role (I organize events, initiate activities) or in an advisory role (I provide my opinion to the city/municipality representatives)?'*

It was a partially open question. Each respondent could tick only one answer. The last answer referred to the possibility to write one's own perceived role in the council/parliament. The overwhelming majority felt they had an activist role. In percentage terms this is 61% of respondents. Half as many respondents feel they are in an advisor role, with a percentage of 30%. 4% of respondents feel they are in both roles. Some respondents felt themselves to be in a different role altogether or in both of the roles mentioned and so chose the other response. In percentage terms this was 5% of respondents.

Figure 6 Role in the Council/Parliament



Source: own elaboration; number of respondents: 220; the numbers in the graph represent the number of ticked answers of the respondents.

The question was open-ended and each respondent was free to write down what role they felt they were in. Answers included the following:

- Auxiliary force, they pull things through.
- Observer.
- For now, I'm just part of the Youth Parliament preparatory team.
- Rather, helping out at events.
- I'm in another city more of the time at the moment, I'm not quite as active and don't always get a chance to be involved in everything, but I'm generating new ideas and always working on giving different perspectives on the topics and ideas discussed.
- Listener
- Additional Board Member
- I just represent our class in Parliament and I am part of the curriculum committee where we think of viable ways that could help students in their education.

- Mostly I just vote and take care of part of one project.
- Listening to the voice of young people and implementing their demands and coming up with my own ideas to activate and encourage youth to take action all the time.
- Chairperson
- In addition to my role as an activist, I try to be a member who has ideas and presents them and proposes their implementation. *(Added to answer: activist)*

I would probably describe myself more as someone who helps, organizes, but stands more in the background. I organize, I help, I promote. *(Added to answer: activist)*

Interpretation:

Thus, the vast majority of members feel they are mainly activists. The role of advisor is not negligible and is clearly perceived by some members of councils and parliament. Some councillors/parliamentarians feel they are both activists and advisors.

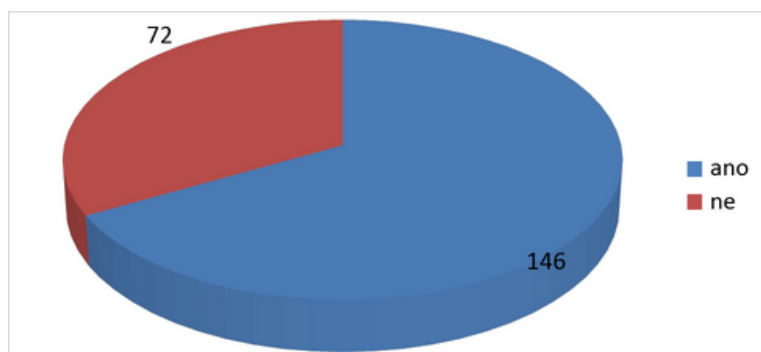
Summary of the project's educational activities:

In terms of training, it makes sense to develop competences in organising activities and to prepare members to be able to pass on their experience to new members.

The sixth question is: *"I am involved in the preparation of the agenda for the youth council/parliament meeting."*

This was a closed-ended response for which either a "yes" or "no" answer could be ticked. Two respondents did not answer the question. The survey was dominated by a "yes" response. In percentage terms, this was 67% of all responses. The answer "no" was indicated by 33% of the respondents. The evaluation shows that councillors/parliamentarians are more likely to be involved in the preparation of the agenda for their meetings.

Figure 7 Contributing to the preparation of the Youth Council/Youth Parliament agenda



Source: own elaboration; number of respondents: 218 out of 220; the numbers in the graph represent the number of ticked responses of the respondents.

Interpretation:

Figure 7 shows that the majority of young people want to participate in the preparation of the agenda for youth council/parliament meetings. They want to have an overview of the topics to be addressed. Alternatively, they want to add topics to the agenda that they consider key and important. This result is also related to the results of the previous question, which showed that approximately the same percentage of respondents are activists who are likely to be involved in the preparation of the agenda for council/parliament meetings.

Summary regarding the educational activities of the project:

It makes sense to focus on running meetings, moderating and facilitating meetings.

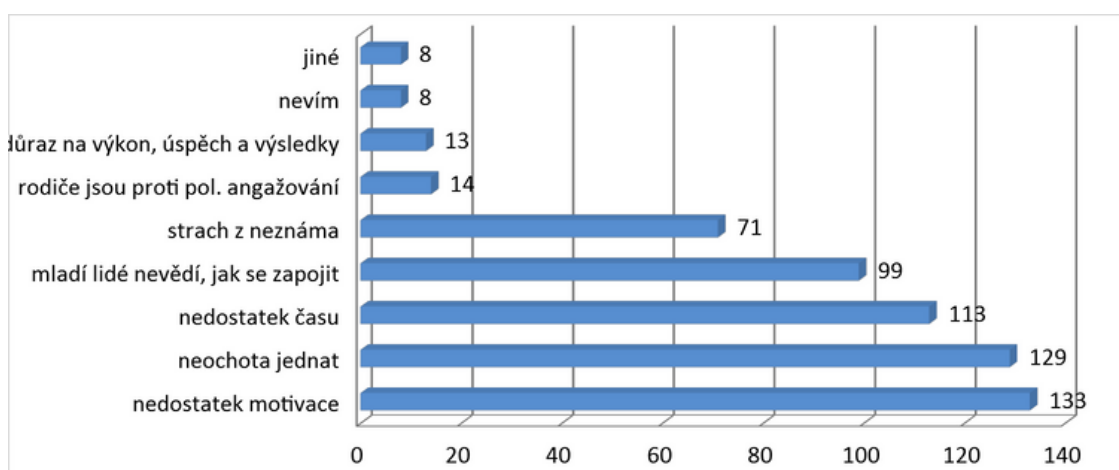
The seventh question was, 'What do you think are the barriers that cause the lack of community and social activity among young people in the city/village?'

The question was partially open-ended. It was a list of barriers from which respondents could choose up to three options. One of the three options was also to answer other. Within this last answer, respondents were free to list any other barrier they considered important. Due to the nature of the question, Figure 8 below, shows the frequency of responses.

The question contained the following responses:

- (1) other,
- (2) don't know,
- (3) too much emphasis on performance, achievement and results,
- (4) parents are against social political involvement,
- (5) fear of the unknown,
- (6) young people don't know how to get involved - lack of information, lack of awareness,
- (7) lack of time - e.g. lots of responsibilities at school or involvement in other activities,
- (8) reluctance to take action - for example, not interested, not wanting to go the extra mile, and
- (9) lack of motivation - not seeing the benefit of being actively involved.

Figure 8 Barriers that cause the lack of community and social activities of young people in the city/village



Source: Own elaboration; number of respondents: 220; numbers in the graph represent the number of ticked responses of respondents.

The biggest barriers, according to respondents, are lack of motivation, unwillingness to act and lack of time. There is also a significant response rate for young people's lack of information on how to get involved and fear of the unknown. The 'other' question was open-ended and each respondent was free to add what else not listed that they considered to be a barrier. Responses included the following:

- I think young people are often unaware of the existence of youth councils. Youth government has no "tradition" of functioning. There is a painful lack of cooperation between councils (between district councils) and equally at different levels of district and city councils. The lack of information, thoughts, reflections, ideas associated with school councils is also a problem. An important objective should be to strengthen direct contact with young people themselves. *(responses related to the following: young people don't know how to get involved – lack of information, lack of awareness)*
- Behaviour of some local authorities and lack of funding for actions.
- Cases of passive acceptance of information – life online.
- Human laziness, many people would rather turn on a video game, be on the computer or go out with friends than do something like that. *(Added to answer: reluctance to act – e.g. not interested, don't want to do something extra)*
- A city council that is gridlocked and frozen.
- Finance.
- Politicization of youth council circles that doesn't necessarily align with their own intentions. Our community is functioning very well.
- For one thing, they have no motivation, they don't see any profit in it, and it's hard to create space in the city with authority figures to develop and organize something. *(Added to answer: lack of motivation)*
- Our community works very well.

Interpretation:

The above shows that young people mainly consider lack of motivation, reluctance to act, lack of time, lack of information and fear of the unknown as reasons for lack of community and social activity. In this case, the reasons may be related. Lack of motivation, reluctance to act and fear of the unknown may be strongly linked to young people's lack of awareness of the Youth Council/Parliament. That is, about what the council/parliament does, why they should join it in the first place, what work awaits them there, whether it is not just a meaningless activity. Young people may think that the older people on the council won't even listen to them and won't want to hear their opinion.

Lack of time may be related to an inability to prioritize extracurricular activities. Students sometimes take on too much and then don't have a chance to keep up. It can also be related to the need to spend more time learning.

The two biggest barriers are related. Reluctance to do something extra stems from a lack of motivation. The challenge for youth parliaments is how to 'sell themselves' and how to show young people the importance and benefits of their participation in society.

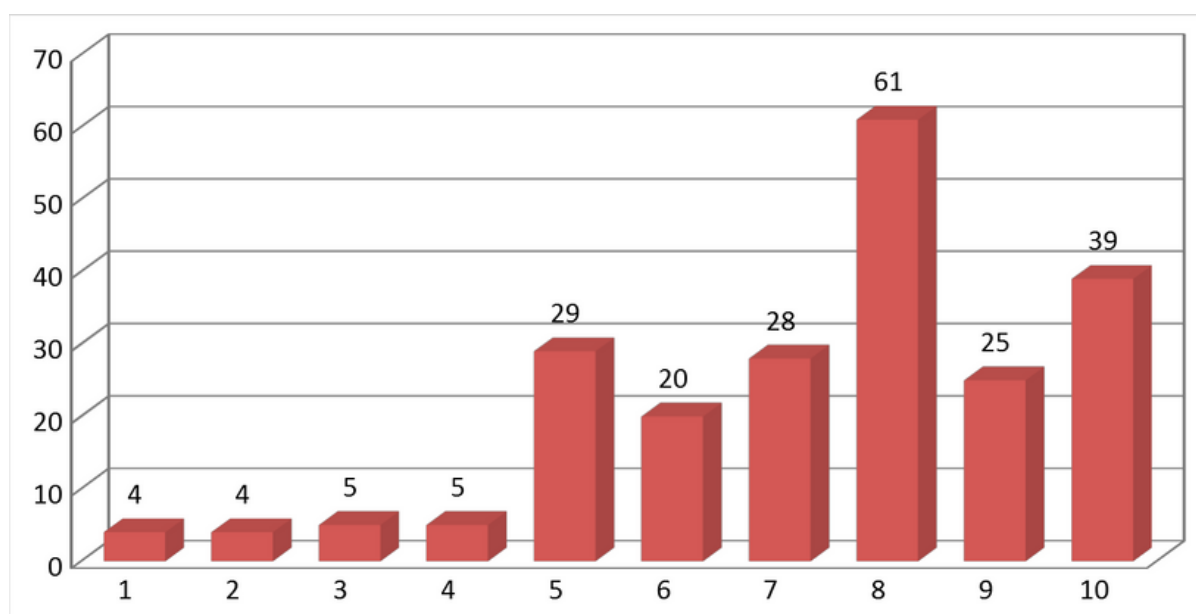
Summary of the project's educational activities:

Training on presentation and team management.

The eighth question was, 'How important to you is support (personal, financial, material, advice) from city/municipal representatives (officials or council members)?'

The question was constructed in the form of a scoring system. Each respondent was asked to choose a number from 1 to 10, where 1 means that help is not important at all and 10 means that help is very important. Figure 9 shown below shows the frequency of responses for each number. The average importance of support from city/municipality representatives is 7.3 after calculating from the responses below.

Figure 9 Importance of support from city/municipality representatives



Source: own elaboration; number of respondents: 220; numbers in the graph represent the number of ticked answers of respondents; average of all answers = 7.3.

Interpretation:

Figure 9 clearly shows that respondents are more likely to seek support from community representatives. For some respondents, support from local government representatives is very important. This shows that support from local government representatives is an indisputable motivating factor for the activities of councillors and youth parliament members.

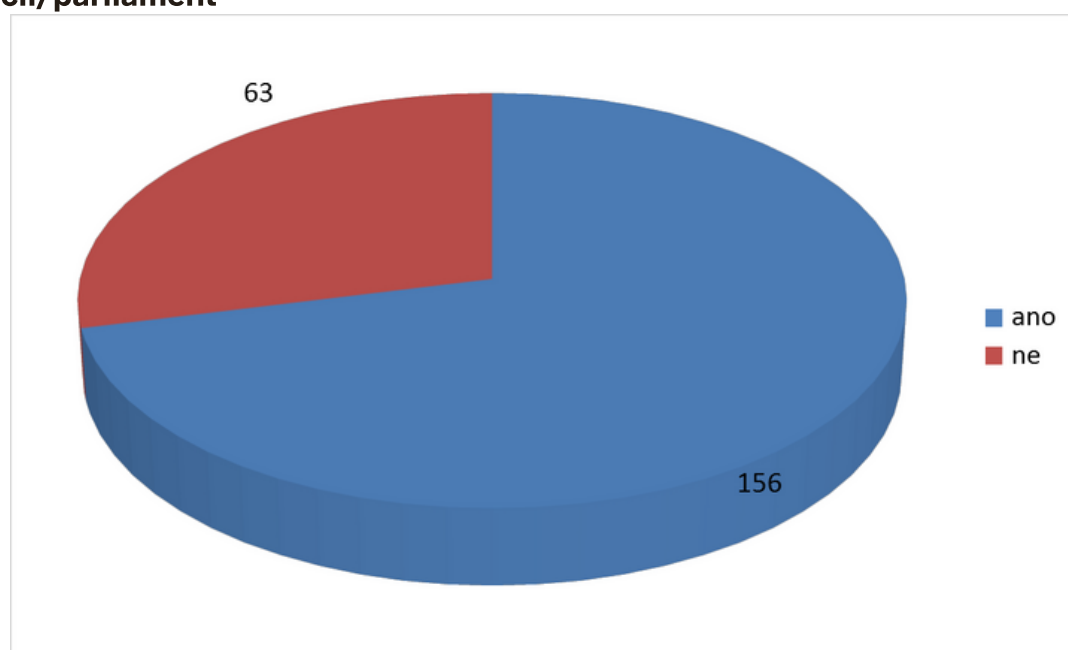
Summary of the project's training activities:

Education on how the municipality can support youth council members.

The ninth question is: *'Are you interested in being / or already in the leadership of a youth council / parliament?'*

This was a closed-ended response, for which either a "yes" or "no" answer could be ticked. One respondent did not answer the question. The survey was dominated by the answer "yes". In percentage terms, this was 71% of all responses. The answer "no" was marked by 29% of respondents. Figure 10 below shows the frequency of each response. The evaluation shows that respondents are more likely to be interested in being/ or already in the leadership of the youth council/parliament.

Figure 10 Interest to be / or members already in the leadership of the youth council/parliament



Source: own elaboration; number of respondents: 219 out of 220; numbers in the graph represent the number of responses checked by respondents

interpretation:

The above shows that in almost 2/3 of the cases, youth council/parliament members aspire to be in the leadership of the youth council/parliament. They want to be part of what is happening and to have the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making activities of the leadership.

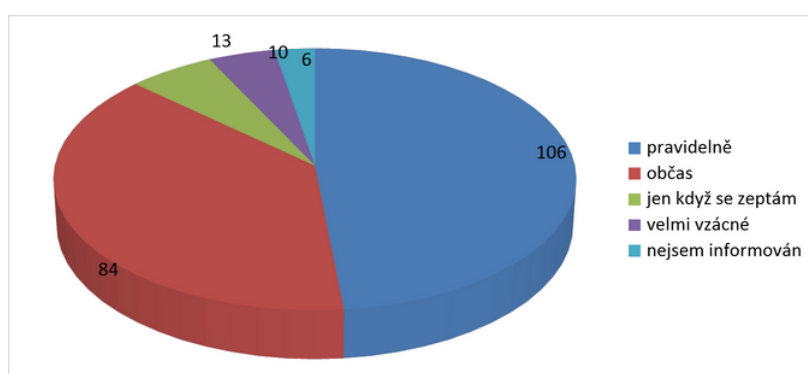
Summary with regard to the educational activities of the project:

Educational topics such as leadership, team leadership, goal setting.

The tenth question is: *'As part of my work on the youth council/parliament, I am informed about what is happening in the city/municipality.'*

It was a closed answer. Each respondent could tick only one answer. One respondent did not answer the question. There were five responses. The majority of respondents indicated that they are kept informed of what is happening in the community either regularly or occasionally as part of their service on the youth council/parliament. In percentage terms, this was 48 respondents for the regular response and 38% of respondents for the occasional response.

Figure 11 Awareness of councillors/youth parliament members about what is happening in the city/municipality



Source: own elaboration; number of respondents: 219 out of 220; numbers in the graph represent the number of responses checked by respondents

Only rarely did respondents indicate the answer: only when asked, very rarely or not informed. In percentage terms, 6% of respondents are informed only when asked, 5% of respondents are very rarely informed and 3% of respondents are not informed at all.

Interpretation:

Figure 11 shows that councillors are regularly or occasionally informed about what is happening in the city/municipality. This means that young people are sufficiently informed about what is happening in their city/municipality and can therefore respond effectively to situations as they arise. Another positive aspect is the high number of people, up to 190 respondents, who are informed and interested in what is happening in their city/municipality.

Summary with regard to the educational activities of the project:

How to become a multiplier of the information I learn from the city/municipality. How to disseminate information.

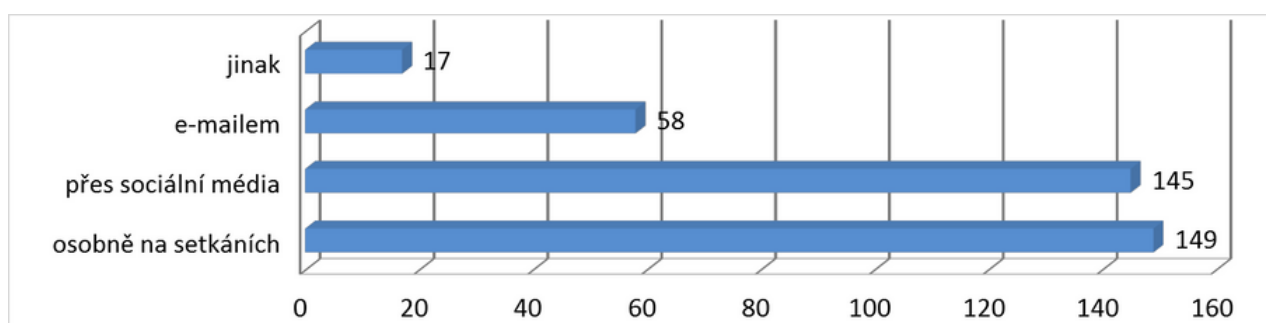
The eleventh question is: 'I am kept informed about what is happening in the city/community through the youth council/parliament.'

It was a partially open answer. The respondent had four answers. By ticking, he could give one to all of the answers. If the respondent chose to check the "other" response, he or she was free to write in the form in which he or she is informed about what is happening in the community. Due to the nature of the question, Figure 12 below, shows the frequency of responses.

The question included the following answers:

- (1) or else,
- (2) by e-mail,
- (3) through a private group on social media and
- (4) in person at youth council/parliament meetings.

Figure 12 Form of informing the councillor/youth parliament about what is happening in the city/municipality



Source: own elaboration; number of respondents: 217 out of 220; numbers in the graph represent the number of responses checked by respondents

The "other" question was open-ended, and each respondent was free to add what else not listed that he or she considered to be a means to inform. Responses included the following:

- Only on the city's Facebook page.
- Sometimes I am informed randomly by people outside the council.
- Through interviews with activists in my city.
- By meeting members, or people in the clubhouse, or people on the committee.
- I'm not informed at all.
- From administrators and social activists.
- I'm in the school parliament, it's not so much to do with the municipality.
- From the mayor himself.

- We operate within the school, we have nothing to do with the municipality.
- By phone.
- I'm doing my own research.
- Through meeting on social networks and from friends.
- Parliament's website or Facebook profile.
- Social networks such as Facebook or Instagram.

The most frequently repeated response in the 'other' area was that respondents were not informed at all. Alternatively, they are informed through Facebook or Instagram, where they meet different people. Equally recurrent was that they get information from friends or by chance.

Interpretation:

Figure 12 shows that respondents are most often informed about what is happening in the community either through a private social media group or in person at youth council/parliament meetings. Subsequently, email is a less frequent means of informing council/youth parliament members about what is happening in the municipality. The preferred form of information is therefore mainly personal contact. The fact that face-to-face meetings are the preferred communication channel among young people is somewhat surprising in the current digital age. On the other hand, it speaks volumes about the system of functioning and conducting youth parliament meetings. It is important to add that it is the information given in person that has the greatest effect and does not get lost among the many other electronic messages. Due to the fact that there is a council/parliament in the city/municipality young people can be informed about what is happening in the city or in the representative bodies of the city.

At the moment, given the situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is certainly appropriate and preferred to inform via a private group on social media or on social networks in general.

Summary with regard to the educational activities of the project:

At present, given the situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is certainly appropriate to focus on education in digital dissemination of city information and functional control of social media or social networking sites.

The twelfth question is: *"I am consulted by city representatives on decisions concerning young people and city/community life. Please indicate what was the topic of the consultation you participated in?"*

The question was closed in the survey. It contained eight topics for which the respondent had to choose how often he/she performed this activity. For each activity it was possible to choose either that the respondent performs it very often, often, sometimes or never. Each option was scored as part of the evaluation. Very often was scored 3, often was scored 2, sometimes was scored 1 and never was scored zero.

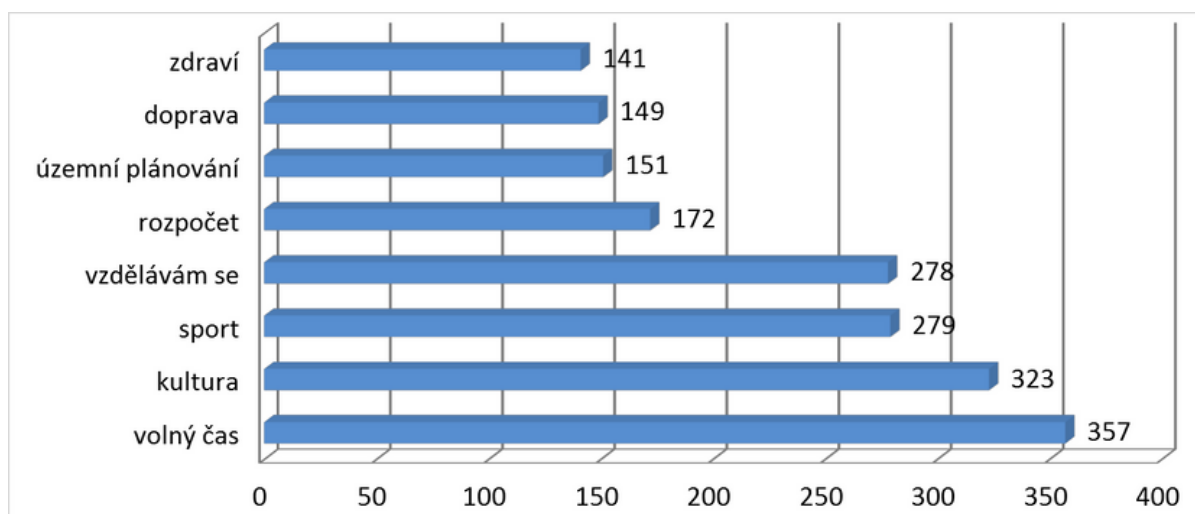
Each activity could therefore score a minimum of 0 points and a maximum of 660 points. The scores can be seen below in Figure 11. Between 8 and 16 respondents did not answer each of the questions.

The question included the following topics:

1. Health,
2. Right,
3. spatial planning,
4. Budget,
5. I'm educating myself,
6. sport,
7. culture and
8. leisure

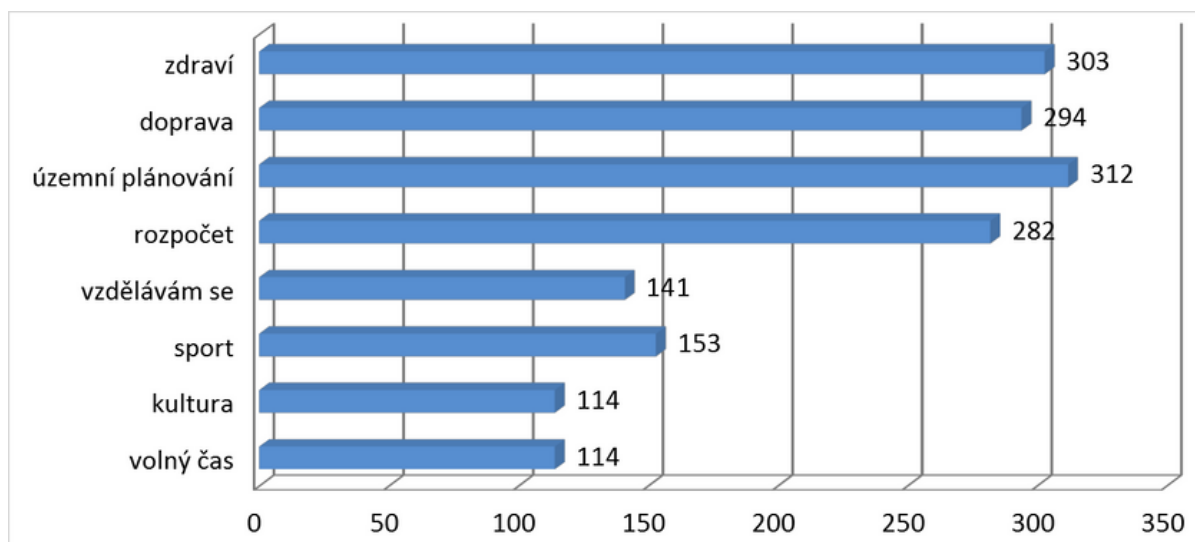
Figure 14 below shows the number of responses in the "never" section. The data is presented here in the form of a score. In this case, the term 'never' is scored as 3. This is therefore an equality between very often and never (very often = never).

Figure 13 Most frequently consulted topics related to young people and city/community life



Source: own elaboration; the numbers in the graph represent the number of points obtained when the respondent ticked up to 3 options; the maximum number of points obtained is 660

Figure 14 What topics related to young people and city/community life are never consulted



Source: own elaboration; the numbers in the graph represent the number of points obtained for the answer 'never', which respondents ticked; the maximum number of points obtained is 660

Figure 14 shows that almost half of the respondents (104 respondents) never consult on topics related to spatial planning. Topics related to health are also not consulted in almost half of the cases (101 respondents). Transport and budget are also frequently not consulted topics. These topics are not consulted in more than 1/3 of cases. For transport this is the case for 98 respondents out of 220 and for budget this is the case for 94 respondents out of 220.

Interpretation:

Figure 13 shows that leisure and culture are among the most consulted topics. Other frequently consulted topics are comparatively sport and education. Conversely, spatial planning and health are among the topics not consulted almost half the time, as shown in Figure 14. Thus, young people are mainly interested in leisure and culture, which can also be part of their leisure time. In today's technical age, sport is a refreshing topic. But young people also have a relationship with education, which should certainly be related, in this case, to their membership of the youth council/parliament.

This also shows that local governments also perceive young people mainly through leisure (which in a way includes sport and culture). Involvement in budget and planning consultations is minimal. It should also be added that these are often challenging and less attractive topics for young people, and involving young people here requires a lot of creativity and systematic work.

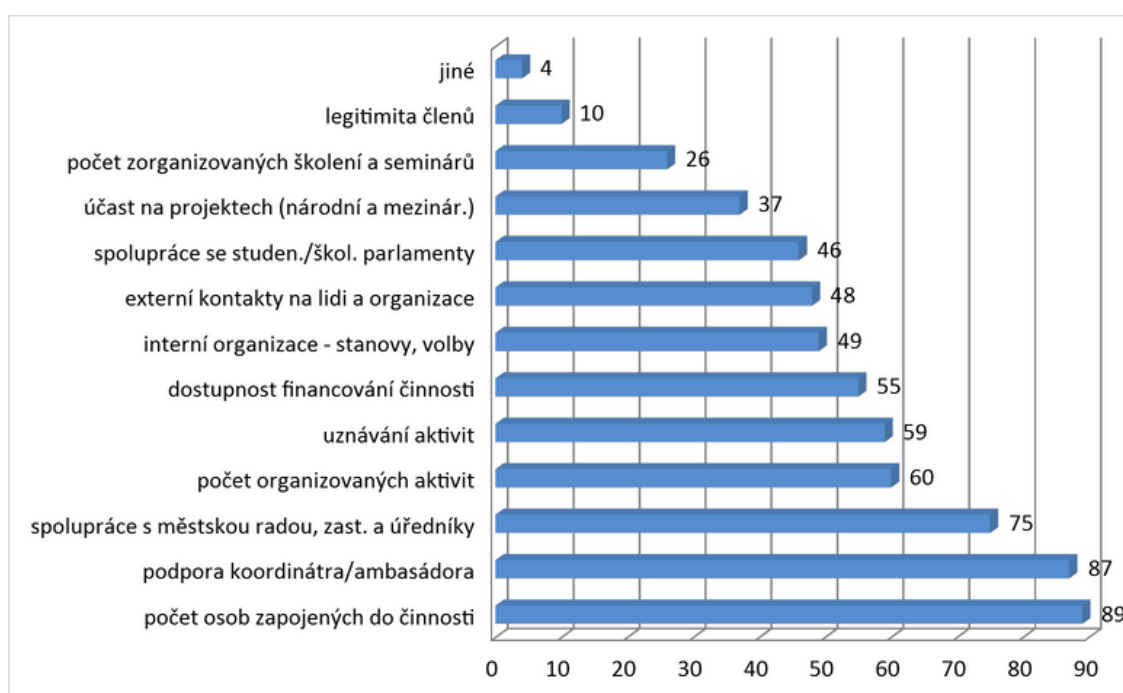
Summary with regard to the educational activities of the project

City economy. How local government works.

The thirteenth question is: *'Of the following criteria for the effective functioning of a youth council/parliament, please select the three most important in your opinion. "*

The question was partially open. It was a list of criteria for the effective functioning of a youth council/parliament, from which respondents could choose up to three options. One of the three options was also a different answer. Within this last answer, respondents were free to list any other criterion they considered important. Due to the nature of the question, Figure 15 below, shows the frequency of responses.

Figure 15 Criteria for the effective functioning of a youth council/parliament



Source: own elaboration; number of respondents: 219 out of 220; numbers in the graph represent the number of responses checked by respondents

The question included the following answers:

1. Other,
2. Legitimacy of youth council/parliament members – members have a certificate or other proof of membership,
3. Number of training courses and seminars organised for council/parliament members,
4. participation in projects at national and international level,
5. cooperation with student/school parliaments,
6. external contacts of the Youth Council/Parliament with people and organisations,
7. internal organisation of the youth council/parliament – statutes, elections,
8. the availability of funding for the Council's activities,
9. Recognition of Youth Council/Youth Parliament members' activities in schools – excusing them from class, recognizing their work, etc,
10. number of organised activities,
11. working with the city council, councillors and officers,
12. Support from the adult coordinator/youth council/parliament ambassador and
13. the number of people involved in the activities of the youth council/parliament.

The "other" question was open-ended, and each respondent was free to add what else not listed as a barrier. Responses included the following:

- I would like to add that the availability of funding for the council's activities and the number of people involved in the youth council's activities are also necessary. *(Matched to the following answers: availability of funding for the council's activities and the number of people involved in the council's/youth council's activities)*
- Support from students in terms of getting involved in projects organised by us.
- Adequate selection of people in the MRM. *(Assigned to these answers: legitimacy of youth council/parliament members – members have a certificate or other document to prove they are members)*
- A capable, persistent, patient, helpful and kind leader.

Interpretation:

The most important criteria for the effective functioning of a youth council/parliament, according to the respondents, are: support from the adult coordinator/ambassador of the youth council/parliament and the number of people involved in the activities of the youth council/parliament. Significant frequency of responses also emerged for collaboration with the city council, councillors and officials, number of activities organised, recognition of council/youth parliament members' activities in schools - excused from class, recognition of work etc. and availability of funding for council activities. It also emerged that respondents did not find their potential legitimacy on the youth council/parliament or their official membership to be at all important.

Summary with regard to the educational activities of the project:

Communication with officials. Communication with the coordinator. Recruitment of councillors and parliamentarians.

The fourteenth question was, "Is there anything else you would like to add to the topic of the Youth Council/Parliament that we have not asked."

Question 14 was a supplementary open question. Each respondent could write anything else they wanted to add. This question involved 12 respondents who wanted to share additional thoughts.

The first respondent commented,

"I would just like to add that many people are not aware of the potential of these organisations, which have personally opened my eyes a lot and helped me to develop. We definitely need to support these organisations financially and motivate young people to join. Thank you."

The second respondent expressed himself as follows:

"It is good for everyone to have the same voice, regardless of age and position. It is not easy to get new people excited about working in the council/parliament. During the covid period, youth activism is increasingly declining – students don't see each other, they are completely unmotivated."

A third respondent commented,

"I believe that youth councils should be built up as strong bodies that young people trust, that are easily accessible and that really help. I also see the role of councils as important educational and preparatory bodies for people who want to get involved in politics, local government and social activism in general in the future."

A fourth respondent commented,

"I believe that sometimes the biggest problem in the functioning of the Youth Council is the lack of a supportive guardian."

A fifth respondent commented,

"The Authority should provide more support to youth councils, but it is not happening."

The sixth respondent commented,

"It should be developed, valuing examples of good practice (continued), creating new training for voluntary or professional youth workers (youth agenda, youth policy, citizenship and communication, etc.)."

The seventh respondent commented,

"Everything works well for us, but everything is without the support of the city. We have rented premises from the city, where the city pays our utilities, but the rest is up to us."

An eighth respondent commented,

"I think it is unnecessary to have a meeting at the school level for every amendment, debate it for an hour and write an amendment for another hour, in my opinion it would be enough to meet once a month, vote on a project by a show of hands and not have to write useless things like amendments. I suppose it is not superfluous when you are voting on big things, but when we have to write pages and pages of text for every piece of crap, it is superfluous at best. PS I filled out the questionnaire as I saw fit, I enjoyed being in parliament a year ago, I represented our class there, but after the big changes that have taken place, I definitely won't be signing up next school year."

A ninth respondent commented,

"I believe this project should be implemented and expanded to include new towns and cities."

The tenth respondent said,

"Motivation is important!"

The eleventh respondent commented,

"Unfortunately, I see almost no support from the city for our youth parliament. I believe this will change soon, maybe with a second term."

The twelfth respondent commented,

"It is important to promote youth organisations and to develop awareness and motivation among other young people, otherwise these organisations may disappear."

As part of the overall summary of the respondents' additional statements, it should be noted that these are contradictory positions. Some respondents consider the youth council/parliament to be important, indispensable and developing. On the other hand, there are those who are either demotivated by the restructuring of their councils/parliaments or demotivated by the passive attitude of the municipality or the leader in charge.

FINAL INTERPRETATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

The final interpretation of the research results is a summary of all the results in a document. It is a highlighting of the key results. Alternatively, results for questions that may be related to other questions are highlighted. The interpretation of the results also offers a deeper insight into a significant issue and attempts to locate, through reflection, the issues that the problem may raise.

Interpretation:

The final evaluation shows that the cooperation between municipalities and youth councils and parliaments needs to be improved in many ways. This aspect is definitely financial support and more interest in the organisation's activities. Furthermore, there is a need to focus on the leaders who guide these young people. Research shows that their support and interest is very important for the members. Youth councils and youth parliaments therefore need to have such leaders. Alternatively, these people need to be further trained in youth work and motivation. In terms of recruiting new members, there is a need to focus on motivating them and increasing their interest in issues related to their lives in the community.

Lack of time also emerged, as a blocking component, in the decision to join the council or youth parliament. In this area, there is a need to focus more on members or prospective members who need more time for study or leisure activities. How to facilitate or help them with their other responsibilities outside the youth council and youth parliament. The survey also shows that youth are not well informed about these activities, which is clearly related to their fear of what awaits them in the council/parliament. There is therefore a need to inform potential members sufficiently and in detail about the activities of the council/parliament so that they can decide whether or not to apply without fear of the unknown.

Summary with regard to the educational activities of the project:

Youth Parliaments need to develop cooperation with local government. They are aware of the importance of support from the local government, but on the other hand they often do not feel this support. Through training activities, members of youth parliaments should improve their competences in these areas:

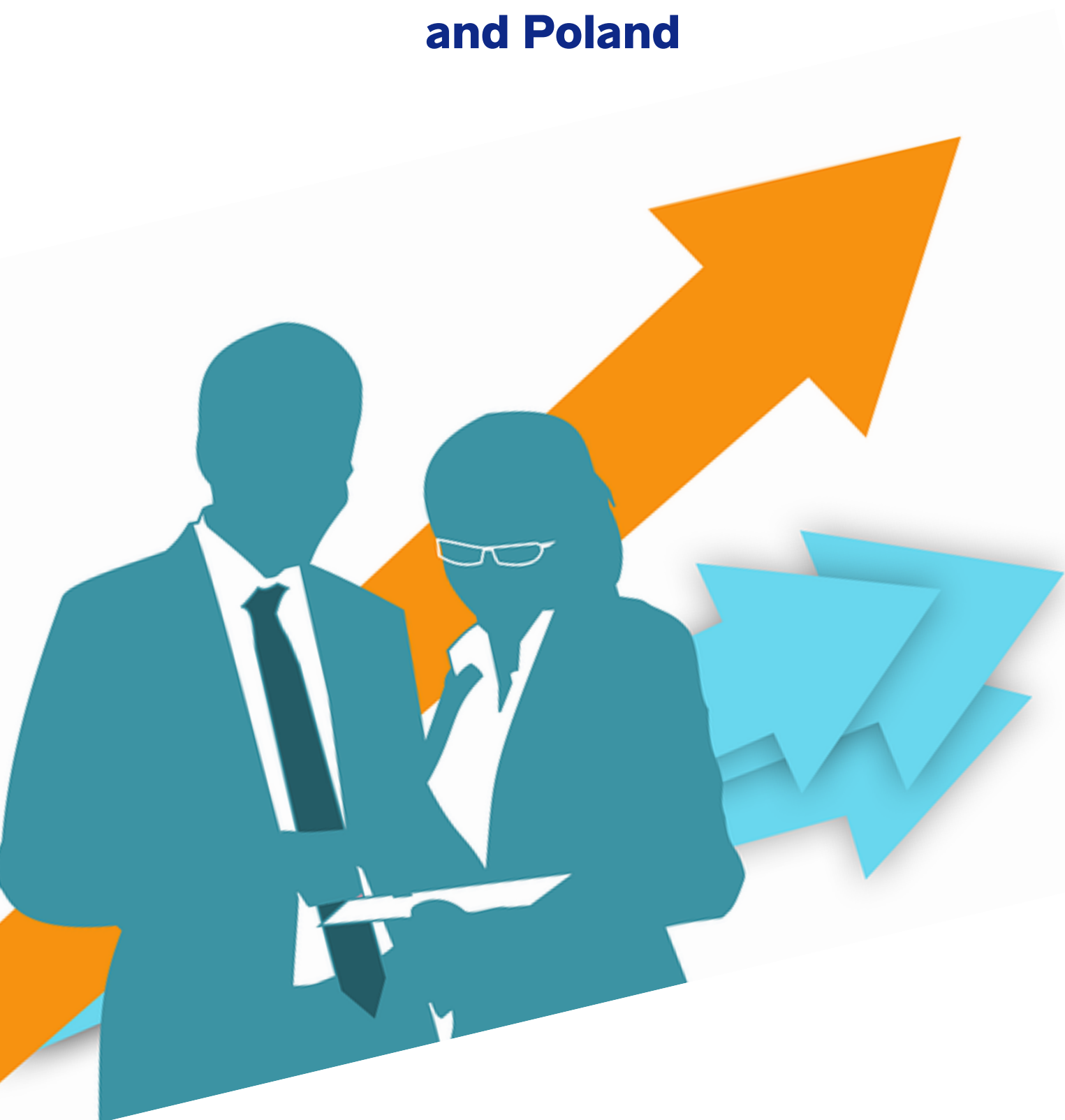


- systematic cooperation with local government representatives
- a decent and data-driven presentation of their needs and the needs of the young people they represent
- knowledge of local government competences
- negotiation skills
- presentation and promotion of activities
- strategic planning.

In terms of barriers to the implementation of community and social activities in the city/village, youth parliament members need training activities in these areas:

- motivating young people
- time-management
- self-development and development of others
- teambuilding members of parliaments/councils.

4.2 Results from focus group meetings with RMaMP members in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland



I. Structure

The structure of the Youth council (YC) is usually clearly defined. Members meet regularly and are officially elected. YC is part of the city council in most cities.

An important role in YC is played by the coordinator, who has a more formal character in Poland than in CZ and SK. Poland also has a greater history and a deeper connection between YC and the city's activities than in CZ and SK. YC communicates its activities both on a personal level and through the media and social networks.



II. Strengths and Weaknesses of youth council

YC members are very proud of their ability to engage the public with their activities and for personal growth and contribution to the development of the cities where they live.

YCs perceive the need to maintain and develop the motivation of their members for active participation. In some cases, the technical background for meetings and financial support of the city is not resolved, which greatly inhibits further development of the activities. The one-year term of membership also appears to be limited. Some YCs face a lack of recognition and even neglect by the city.

MOTIVATION



III. Needs

The main need is the possibility of personal development, contribution to the public good and the possibility of learning new things, gaining valuable practical experience in the implementation of events and projects. The role of the coordinator and his leadership and motivation for activities is very important. Polish YCs perceive the need for lower administrative (bureaucratic) burdens. All YCs would appreciate more training and practical exercises and preparation in the field of soft and management skills, which will help them implement the planned activities with higher efficiency and ease. Not all YCs have a budget supported by the City. Some YCs are not officially recognized as a valid advisory body to the city. There is a lack of more clearly defined motivation for active involvement in YC work (financial, verbalized learned skills, abilities and gains).

IV. Purpose



The purpose of YC's activities is primarily to bring quality leisure time for Youth, strive to bring more interest and active citizenship into young people's lives and enable young people to participate in the development of the city in which they live. To feel, that they are heard, helping their city and being a valid part of society. On a personal level, the purpose is primarily in gaining experience and skills, personal growth and establishing new contacts.

V. Relationships

The internal relations at YC are very good, friendly and open. Relations with the city are usually very good and formal. Only in some cases is the presence of YC in the city overlooked. Due to the age range, there is sometimes a mutual misunderstanding in the Czech Republic between primary school pupils and almost adult youth. Contact with the public is maintained through the media and social networks and implemented activities. In the current pandemic, personal contact is very limited and also the activities of individual YCs.



VI. Influence

Being a valid member of the YC primarily means being active, communicative, creative and responsible. The members are equal and everyone has same degree of opportunity to influence the running and activities of the YC.



Main influence of the YC is applied in the youth affairs. YCs are ready to participate in solving problems and development of the city and they are usually an official part of the city council – as an advisory body. Thanks to YC membership, YC members are very interested in personal development and sharing their experience with younger members.

Due to Pandemic is the influence of the YCs activities very limited.

VII. Competences

To be a valid member of the YC is to be active, to communicate and invent new activities and to help others and actively seek solutions, to be responsible.

Most new members have low competencies and skills, and YC helps them discover and develop them. Training trips and youth congresses are very valuable. Therefore, it is very important to be able to learn in practical workshops and gain the education and skills needed to implement projects. The training offer should be fun, practical and regular, with a clear structure so that all members of the YC can gradually learn and grow.



4.3 Results from the survey of RMaMP coordinators

**in Slovakia, Czech Republic
and Poland**



The final interpretation of the research results is a summary of the results of the questionnaire among the representatives of the municipalities. This is an emphasis on key results. Where appropriate, the results are highlighted for questions that may be related to other issues. The interpretation of the results also offers a deeper insight into important issues and attempts to look for problems that can be a problem. The final evaluation shows that cooperation with youth councils / parliaments is rather in its infancy.

More respondents mentioned shorter periods of cooperation, so there is still time to gather experience not only from young people, but also from municipalities cooperating with them. The choice of rather personal contact with members of youth councils / parliaments can be considered positive. It promotes good relationships and teaches young people not to be afraid to express their views in person. It also creates more trust between these parties.



Municipalities rarely personally participate in the recruitment of new members of youth councils / parliaments. A large part of municipalities are rather passive about this activity, using intermediaries. The question is whether it is bad or good. Perhaps this attitude of municipalities is rather positive, as it does not interfere in any way with the type of addressed persons with whom they will communicate in the future. Thus, they cannot, in this way, influence young people who are suitable for their needs.



The question of the strengths and weaknesses of councils / parliaments has become very contradictory. The municipalities consider the small weakness of the members of youth councils / parliaments to be the biggest weakness. Thus, young people are not sufficiently involved in public or other events. On the other hand, they consider social commitment, enthusiasm and determination to be the strengths of the municipality.

In most cases, these strengths are reflected in the activity and willingness to engage in events, whether organized by a public institution or by themselves.

The question is whether the respondents reporting low activity mentioned social commitment, enthusiasm and support in the following question. It is possible that these were conflicting opinions of two groups of respondents.

This weakness in the form of insufficient activity of young people may also be related to the possibilities of their involvement in the city. Research shows that municipalities most often involve young people in events through public events. However, the problem may be that young people would be more eager to get involved in the community, through their own ideas and actions. It is just a matter of considering the issue of strengths and the issue of involving young people in the city.



In question number 10, however, it can be seen that in half of the cases, young people have the opportunity to submit their own projects. However, these are people under the age of 18. If there are more young groups (under 15) in youth councils / parliaments, this may cause them to have little activity. The young team usually needs an older implementer who will guide them and help motivate them to be more active.

This is also what the municipalities state in question number 13, where they consider the support from the adult coordinator to be the most effective for the functioning of the youth council / parliament. One of the problems is the obstacles related to the cause of insufficient community and social activity of young people.

Municipalities reported a lack of time, lack of information and lack of motivation. Lack of motivation is very often associated with a lack of information. The consequent lack of motivation also supports the reluctance to act, which is also based on ignorance of how to act. The key to solving these problems may be a change in the transmission of information and possibly greater involvement of municipalities in this activity.

Lack of time is often related to the inability of young people to properly organize the time they devote to their interests and school. Alternatively, it may also be related to young people's reluctance to reduce their interests. Likewise, the amount of time devoted to study appears to be a problem, which is different for each young person.



More than half of the municipalities have developed strategic documents addressing youth. This is related to the issue of budget allocation, where an equal number of municipalities have indicated that they are budgeting for the activities of the Youth Council / Parliament. This fact testifies to the clear connection between the creation of strategic documents and the allocation of the budget.

4.4 Results from the survey of representatives of local authorities where RMaMPs are active

**in Slovakia, Czech Republic
and Poland**



The final interpretation of the research results is a summary of all the results of the questionnaire survey among the coordinators. This is an emphasis on key results. Where appropriate, the results are highlighted for questions that may be related to other issues. The interpretation of the results also offers a deeper insight into important issues and attempts to look for problems that can be a problem.

In the final evaluation, it can be noted that the coordinators mostly cooperate with youth councils / parliaments over a longer period of time. It can be seen that they are



close to this role, they like to perform it and it seems fulfilling and meaningful to them. This is evidenced by their motivation to help the youth council / parliament to grow and prosper, in many cases at the expense of their free time or financial rewards. Within the evaluation, these are various conditions.

Some coordinators have a full-time role, others are employed on a contract basis and are paid a maximum of 20 hours per month. Not surprisingly, feedback on the functioning of the Youth Council / Parliament comes mainly from deputies, city representatives, city leaders, members and chairmen of councils / parliaments. They are in close contact with youth councils / parliaments and receive direct information.

However, it is positive that in some cases the feedback is obtained from the public. This indicates the interest of the public in the city / municipality in this organization. It is good that people in the city / municipality are not indifferent to what young people think, what they fight for, what they support and how they work within the council / parliament. Regarding the involvement of new members in the activities of the Youth Council / Parliament, this is rather a more individual area. Coordinators use different ways of involving new members.



Most often, it is about engaging in events that is important, but it is worth wondering if it is enough for a young person to engage in an activity they have never done before and have no idea about the functioning of youth councils / parliaments and their actions.

Patriots are also more often used. This way of engaging in activities is certainly good, but here it depends on the willingness and ability of individual patriots to effectively involve newcomers in activities.

Problems can occur with reluctant patriots who do not support the novice and do nothing to help him. Less used, but perhaps better used in the future, can be forms such as passing on the necessary information, first teambuildings, coordination of activities, training and the already mentioned guardianship (patriots).





A combination of participation in events and guardianship might also seem appropriate. When would a newcomer participate in an event and have a patriot (guardian) on hand to support him or her and point out the various contexts and work that needs to be done and how it needs to be done. The research coordinators pointed out the very good strengths that support the work of members of councils / parliament. These included mainly unity, cohesion, cooperation, determination, enthusiasm and a willingness to act.

These strengths may be related to forms of relationship support. In this case, regular teambuildings, regular meetings, organizing events, informal meetings and joint development are most often used. These activities clearly support the development of the already mentioned strengths and motivate members to continue their activities. On the contrary, coordinators consider time to be the most problematic for young people.

More precisely, his lack, which results in a reluctance to act, a lack of motivation and an inability to persevere in activity for a long time. The lack of time stems from young people's inability to set priorities. Young people want to be active and take on too many activities in one year. They are then unable to devote themselves sufficiently to all their activities, including membership of the Youth Council / Parliament.



Here is a possible discussion on this topic and finding out why young people engage in so many activities, or to explain to them that setting priorities is difficult in life, but very important. The survey also shows that coordinators would welcome training they do not receive. Training is important to them and they are happy to broaden their horizons.



As already mentioned by one of the respondents, a regular meeting of coordinators might be considered, where they could pass on the necessary information and learn something new. Their meetings could help the future direction of youth councils / parliaments towards development and cooperation between cities / municipalities.



CONCLUSION

Partner organisations in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland that work on RMaMP in those countries collaborated on the study outputs. The results of the study will inform the development of the RMaMP Member Training Methodology, which will be the next output of this project.

Thank you to all the young people involved and the RMaMP coordinators and members of the local authorities for their help in gathering views on the activities and functioning of RMaMPs in each country.



Youth Councils Yet Coming

2021