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# Slovenian YOUTH 2013

Living in times of disillusionment, risk and precarity

First CEPYUS – Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Youth Survey

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Center for the Study of Post-Yugoslav Societies (CEPYUS), Maribor

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# INTRODUCTION AND STUDY OPERATIONALIZATION

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At drafting the Executive Summary, we have attempted to focus on the key findings of the research results, analyzed and presented in 11 chapters of the study of Slovenian youth with particular emphasis on living conditions and socioeconomic situation of youth, employment and mobility, education, leisure and lifestyle, media use, health and health risk behaviors, family, anxieties and aspirations, trust and belonging, policy and democracy and governance and development.

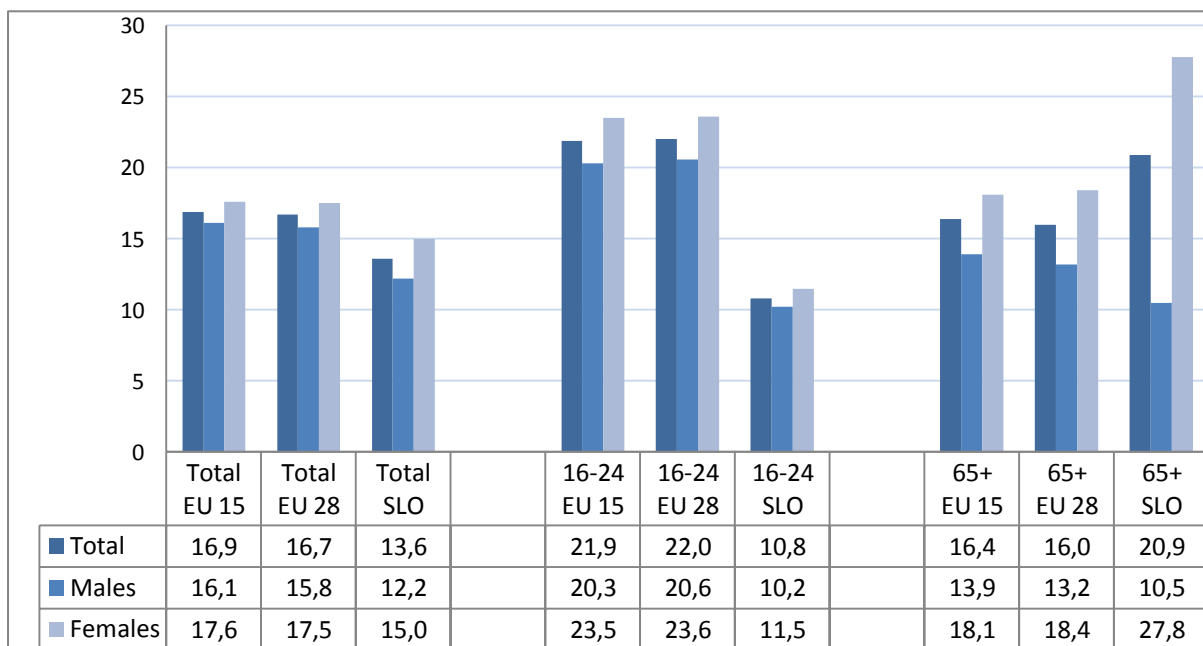
This study comes as one in a series enabling longitudinality and comparability. It comes as a time of long term economic recession in Slovenia, lasting for the sixth year and bringing about an 8.5 % decrease in GDP, presenting the basic economic groundwork for the young people and their integration in 2013.

The target population of this Slovenian youth study consists of all citizens of the Republic of Slovenia between 16 and 27 years of age. According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS 2013), there were altogether  $N = 282.194$  Slovenian citizens in that age group in 2012. To research that target population the sample size of  $n = 900$  respondents has been chosen as sufficiently reliable to draw inferences to the whole population. Data collection took place between May 29<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 by means of personal face-to-face interviewing in the field, mostly in households. The questionnaire consisted of two parts – an oral and a written questionnaire. The oral part of the questionnaire was administered by an interviewer, reading out questions aloud and filling in the answers received from the respondent and later handing out the written part of the questionnaire to the respondent asking him/her to fill in the answers himself/herself. During the fieldwork 1.163 potential respondents were invited to participate in the survey and among them a total of 907 valid interviews have been realized.

## PART I: LIVING CONDITIONS AND SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION OF YOUTH

- When it comes to poverty, young Slovenians are in a relatively good position compared to their European peers. However, this favorable position, which is not objectively detected by the youth, cannot be attributed to the labor market, which is heavily segmented, but primarily to the functioning of an informal support network evident, extending the time young adults live in their original family, and the relatively successful functioning of the social protection system.

*Figure: At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers) by age, sex, and region, 2011*



*Note: The level of poverty risk is expressed as the percentage of persons living in households with disposable equivalent income below the threshold of poverty risk (60 % of median income per equivalent).*

- Eurostat data and results from the current study indicated, that disposable income of young Slovenians is noticeably lower than the EU-15 average, and that the gap that was closing up to the 2009 is growing again.
- Analysis of the estimated total monthly disposable income of young people (16-25) reveals that the average disposable income of young people is much lower than Eurostat data would

suggest and that it has not changed (speaking in real terms) in last 13 years. This should be seen as a consequence of the reduction in the number of young people with steady employment (who are on average higher earners) and an increase in the proportion of contract workers (who are losing constantly due to their increased numbers). Furthermore, detailed analysis indicated that after the 2010, the situation deteriorated for all occupational groups, except for the economically weakest group composed of all those who had no steady employment or were unemployed.

- Official Eurostat data and the current study indicated that economic inequality among youth in Slovenia is on the rise.
- Slovenian youth (16-25) is significantly more pessimistic about the future economic situation of the country than their peers in Croatia and Kosovo peers (although in both youth are socially and economically much worse off). Almost 44 % of Slovenian youth expect that the economic situation in Slovenia in the next ten years will be much or somewhat worse than it is today (for Croatia this percentage stands at around 13 % and for Kosovo at around 8 %). Longitudinal analysis of subjective well-being indicated a negative trend.

*Figure: Mean analysis (ANOVA) of "What will, in your opinion, be economic situation in your country in the next 10 years?", 16-25 yrs., by country*

	Slovenia		Croatia		Kosovo		F	Sig.
	N=677		N=926		N=870			
What will, in your opinion, be economic situation in your country in the next 10 years? (1=will be much worse; 5=will be much better)	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
	<b>2,74<sup>a</sup></b>	1,12	<b>3,44<sup>b</sup></b>	0,89	<b>3,90<sup>c</sup></b>	0,85	284,2	p<0,001

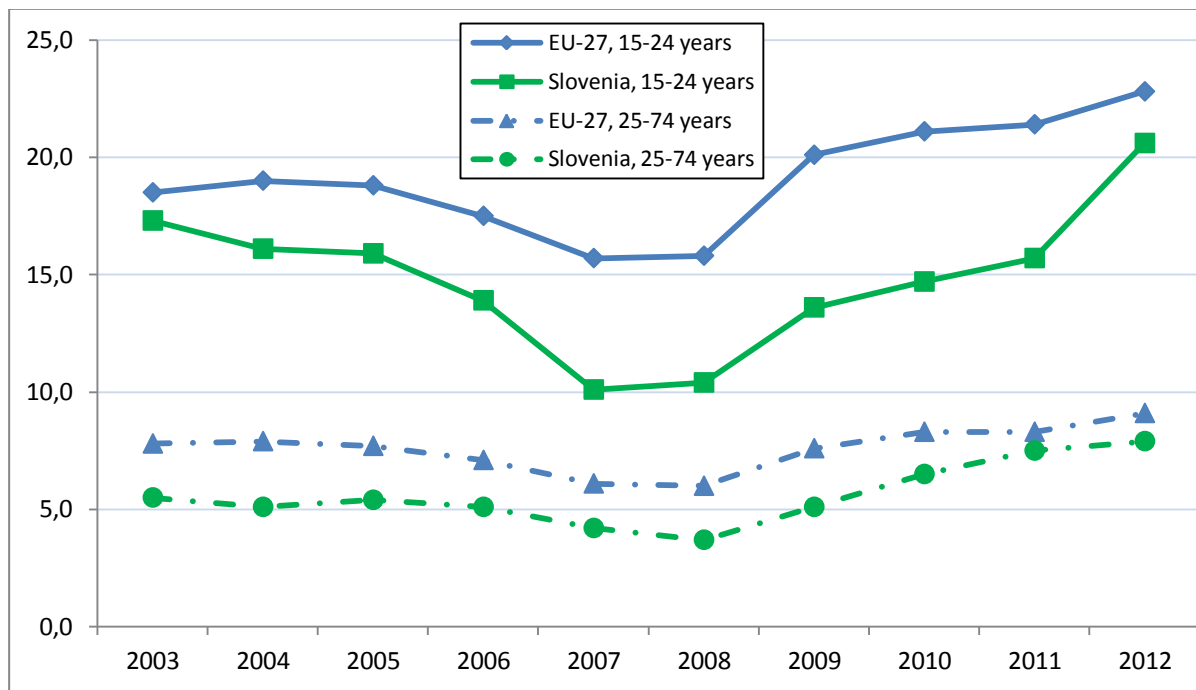
*Note: Means having different superscript letters are significantly different at the p<0,001 based on Tamhane's T2 post hoc comparisons*

- Although young men earn more than young women irrespective of the employment status, the differences continue to fall, putting Slovenia at the bottom when it comes to gender pay gap (i.e., among the countries that have the lowest gender pay gap).
- Slovenian youth mainly lives in relatively small, materially well equipped households (almost all households have a car, a personal computer and access to internet, a mobile phone, etc.),

together with educated parents, but results indicated that "the Mediterranean" pattern continues as the share of youth that is still living with their parents is still above European average. Said this, the results from the current study indicated a break in the trend, i.e., that the share started to decrease. This finding is supported by Eurostat data, according to which Slovenia slipped from second to fifth place in EU 28.

## PART II: EMPLOYMENT AND MOBILITY

Figure: Unemployment rate of the age group 15-25 years and 25-74 years, EU-27 and Slovenia, 2003-2012



Source: Eurostat – Population and social conditions/Employment and unemployment (Labor Force Survey).

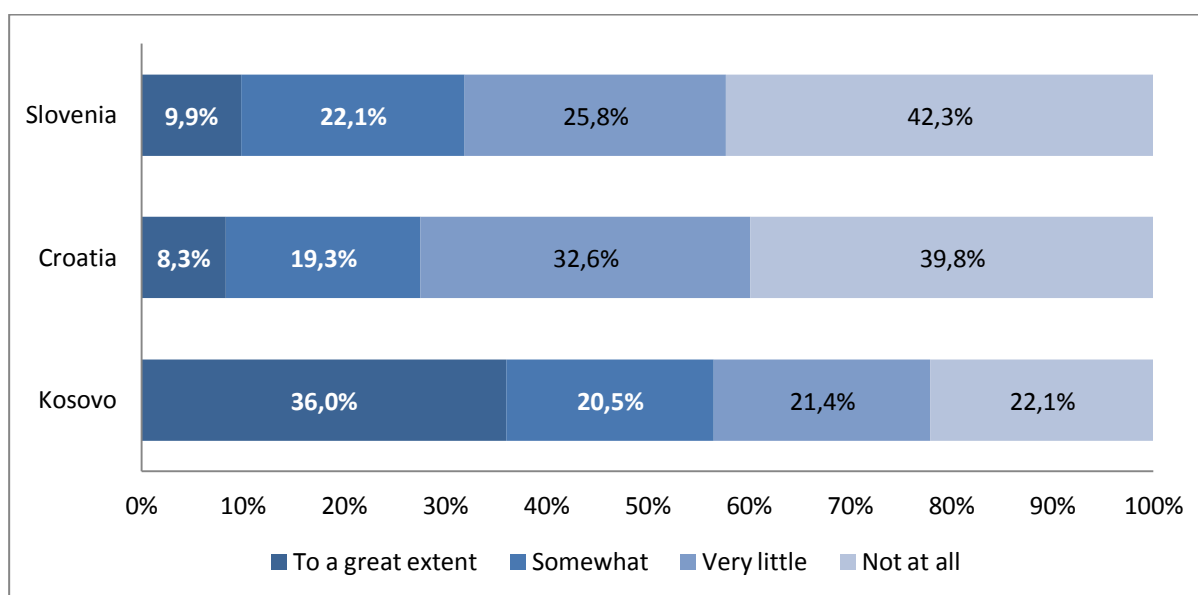
- Since 2007 the youth unemployment rate has risen dramatically and Slovenian youth has lost its favorable position compared to the EU-27 average.
- The high rates of enrolment in education during the past decade prevented the youth unemployment rates from increasing even more.
- Both the age gap and the gender gap regarding the unemployment have substantially increased during the past ten years.
- Whereas in 2000 the labor force participation of men almost equaled that of women, the difference has sharply increased by 2013.

According to the methodological approach of self-perceived unemployment, as much as 36.1 % of young people were unemployed in June 2013, compared to only 24.1 % as reported by Eurostat.

- The inter-group differences in unemployment rates are the sharpest in relation to the achieved educational level, with as much as 50 % of unemployed among those with primary level and only 13 % among those with a tertiary level degree.
- Student work is by far most important form of youth's participation in the labor market representing more than half of all the (taxed) working hours done by youth in Slovenia.
- While only one in four working young women holds a full-time regular job, such position is held by nearly half of working young men. The major reason for this difference lies in a much larger share of women working as students.
- The majority of the employed young people in Slovenia work outside the professional boundaries of their education.
- The declared willingness of young people to take various actions in order to reduce the risk of unemployment has been increasing at least since 2005.
- The relative majority (45 %) of young people in Slovenia prefer employment in private sector. This is very high compared to previous surveys in Slovenia, and compared to recent surveys in Kosovo and Croatia.
- The relatively low emphasis on job security with regards to accepting or declining a job is one of the several indicators pointing to high levels of flexibility of young people in the Slovenian labour market.
- The economic pressures for intra-national migrations of youth in Slovenia appear to be relatively low and only about a quarter of Slovenian youth has the willingness to migrate somewhere else in Slovenia.
- About a third of Slovene young people declare willingness to emigrate. Most preferred destinations are Austria (especially by youth from northern regions), USA and Germany.



Figure: Willingness to emigrate from the home country.



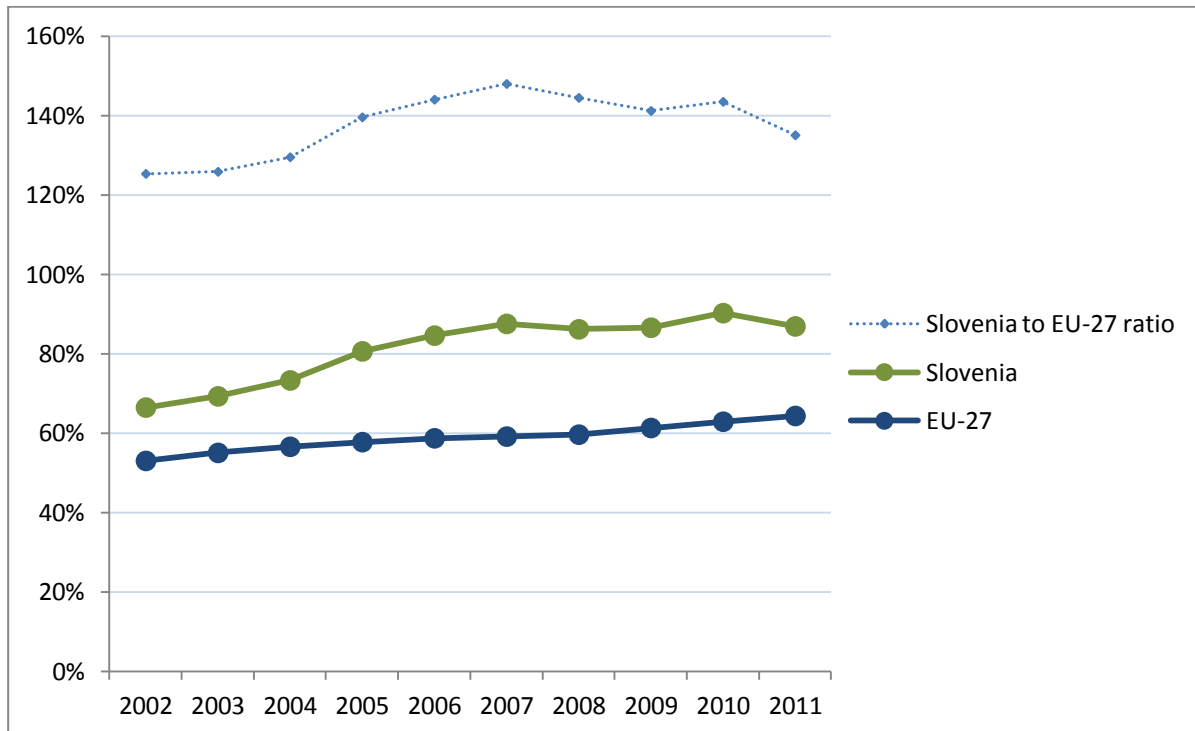
Sources: IDRA-FES Kosovo 2012 Youth Study, IDIZ-FES Croatian 2012 Youth Study, CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study.

- Economic reasons for international mobility are in average substantially more important for males, older age groups and urban youth.

## PART III: EDUCATION

- Higher education growth has been very high in the last two decades, surpassing figures relative to the EU.

*Figure: Tertiary students as percentage of 20-24 age group, Slovenia and EU 27*



Source: Eurostat

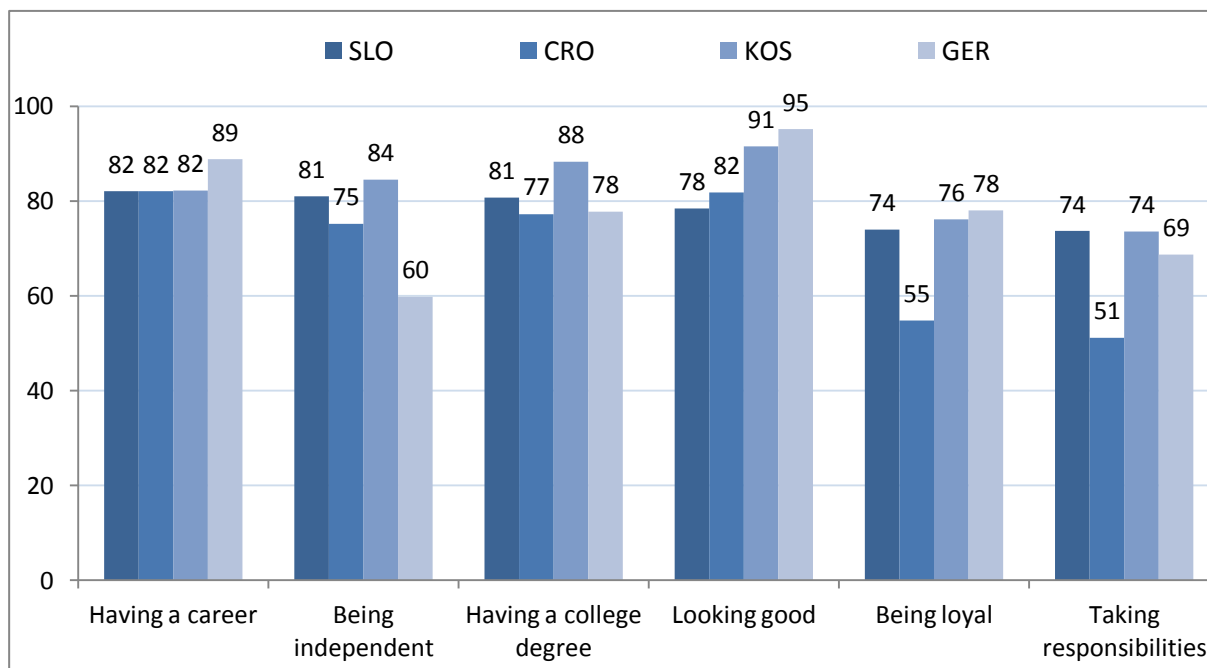
- While elementary and secondary education is funded in Slovenia above OECD average, core higher education is financed substantially below such an average.
- A disproportionate part of funds for higher education is channeled into student welfare.
- Slovenian secondary and higher education is 'friendly' to the student, not very demanding, extending social benefits to the student and only exceptionally demanding tuition from students, and allowing plenty of time for other activities including particularly 'casual' work.

## PART IV: LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

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- Listening to music is the most preferred leisure activity among youth from all three post-Yugoslav societies; 84 % of Slovenian youth frequently listen to music and 54 % frequently watch TV. Almost a half of Slovenian youth frequently do sports and watch movies, while only one fifth read newspapers/magazines in their free time.
- Older youth more frequently read newspapers/magazines, while younger more frequently socialize with friends and listen to music. Women more frequently listen to music and read books and magazines, while men more frequently engage in sport activities. Reading books/magazines and being active in sports is more frequent among young people from urban environments. More educated youth spend more time reading books and magazines, but spend less time socializing with friends.
- 82 % of Slovenian youth believe “having a career” is “in” (i.e. trendy, popular); followed by “being independent” (81 %), “having a college degree” (81 %) and “looking good” (78 %). More educated youth with more educated fathers scored higher on “activism”, and youth with more educated mothers scored lower on “traditionalism”.

Figure: What is “in” among Slovenian, Croatian, Kosovo and German youth (16–25 years).



Note: Respondents were asked “Which from the listed items are in your opinion fashionable (»in«) and which are not fashionable (»out«)?” on a three-point scale (1 = “in”, 2 = “not quite in” and 3 = “out”). Figure presents percentages of answers “in”.

Sources: CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study, IDIZ-FES Croatian 2012 Youth Study, IDRA-FES Kosovo 2012 Youth Study and Shell 2010 German Youth Study.

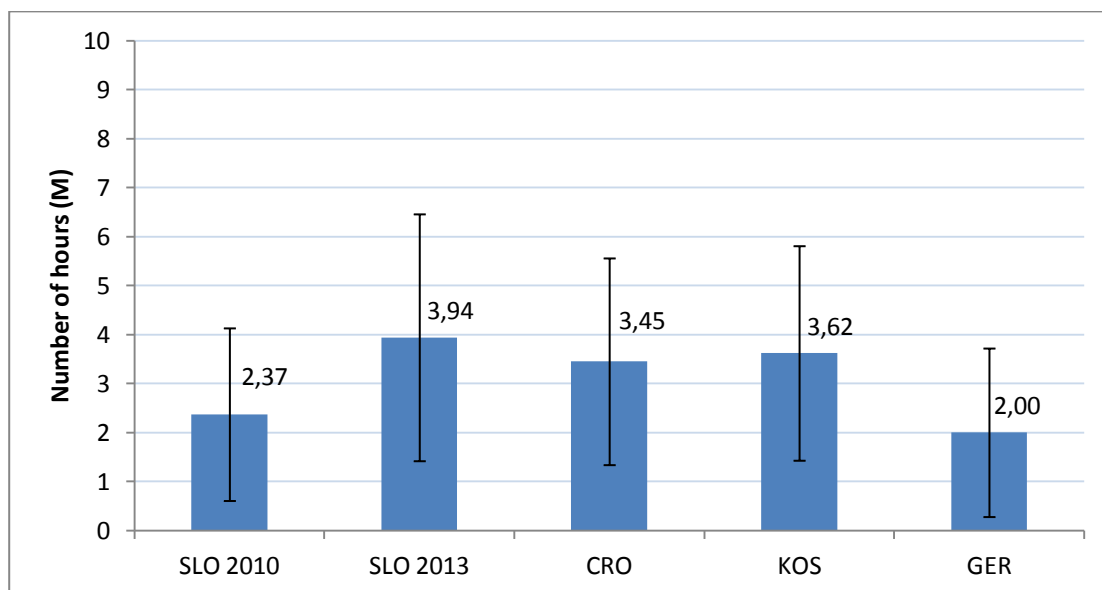
- Slovenian youth spend most of their money on clothes, footwear and fashion accessories (on average 48 EUR per month), followed by expenditure for socializing (going out to coffee bars, clubs and restaurant; 41 EUR). Approximately 25 EUR per month is spent on phone bills. Older Slovenian youth spend more money on phone bills, socializing at coffee bars clubs and restaurants, watching movies and buying books. Men spend more money on going out and socializing, while women spend more money on books. More educated youth spend more money on all domains with the exception of clothing.
- 89 % of Slovenian youth are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their looks; men are significantly more satisfied than women.

## PART V: MEDIA USE

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- Listening to music is the most frequent media use activity among youth from Slovenia (84 %), Croatia and Kosovo. The least popular activity is reading; only 20 % of Slovenian youth frequently read books/newspapers. Reading is more frequent among women, more educated, older Slovenian youth and those from larger residential settlements.
- The Internet is among Slovenian youth the primary source of information on political events with 82 % of respondent picking the Internet as a political information source.
- Compared to Croatia and Kosovo the highest proportion of youth with Internet access is in Slovenia (> 99 %).
- In 2012, 76 % of EU-27, 74 % of Slovenian and 66 % of Croatian households had access to the Internet.
- In 2004–2010 period Slovenia had the highest percentage of households accessing Internet through mobile phones compared to EU-27 and Croatia.
- In 2010 Slovenian youth spent 2.37 hours using the Internet, while in 2013 they spend 3.94 hours using the Internet, which is a substantial increase of 1.75 hours a day. 2013 survey data also indicate that 44.5 % of Slovenian youth are “heavy” Internet users.
- Slovenian youth spend more time using the Internet per day than Croatian, Kosovo or German youth.

*Figure: Average hours (M) per day spent using the Internet, including standard deviations (SD), among Slovenian, Croatian, Kosovo and German youth (16–25 years).*



*Note:* Respondents were asked “What is the average amount of time you spend daily using the Internet?”. German respondents were asked “What is the average amount of time you spend weekly using the Internet?”, which precludes full comparability of results, despite recoded values. Lines in the columns present standard deviations.

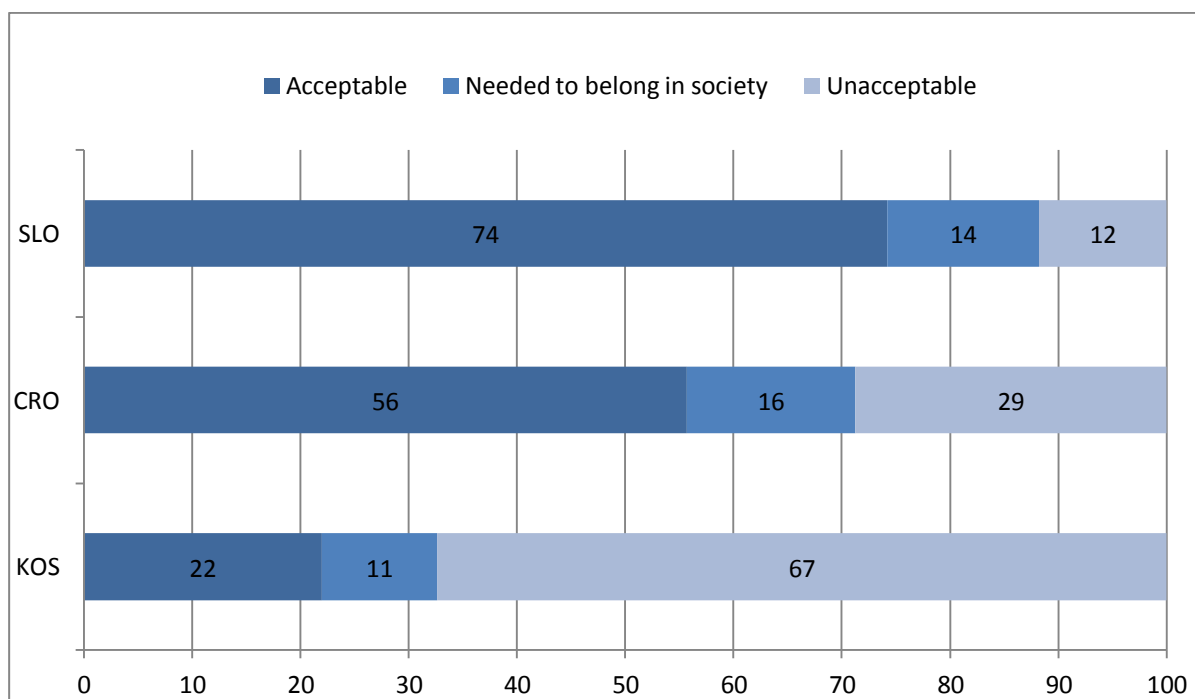
*Sources:* CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study, IDIZ-FES Croatian 2012 Youth Study, IDRA-FES Kosovo 2012 Youth Study and Shell 2010 German Youth Study.

- Communication with friends and other people is the most frequent Internet activity (86 %), closely followed by the use of online social networks (85 %).
- Slovenian youth spend almost 2 hours per day watching television, which is approximately two hours less than using the Internet.
- Slovenian young people most frequently watch comedies (72 %), followed by serials/series (63 %) and foreign action films (61 %).
- Entertainment TV contents are substantially more frequently viewed by women, younger youth and those with lower monthly income. Watching informative TV contents is associated with higher age and higher educational level, with male gender, lower subjective family material status, higher monthly income and larger residential settlement.
- Compared to Croatia and Kosovo, Slovenian youth express the lowest trust in the media, with 36 % reporting having “little” trust in the media. Relatively low levels of trust in the media should be understood in the context of the general criticism of politics, institutions and democracy in the past several years.

## PART VI: HEALTH AND HEALTH RISK BEHAVIORS

- Self-rated health (SRH) levels among Slovenian youth are similar to youth populations from other countries. 16.8 % of Slovenian youngsters rate their health as “excellent”, 36.1 % as “very good” and 35.5 % as “good”. Only 0.4 % of respondents rated their health as “poor” and 11.1 % as “fair”.
- SRH is significantly higher among men. SES as measured by parental education proved significant correlate of SRH only for mother’s education, though the correlation was small.
- In 2013 2 % of Slovenian youth report consuming alcohol “regularly/daily”, which is a drop from 2010, when there were 4 % of “daily” drinkers. 50 % “rarely” or “never” drank alcohol in 2013, an increase in non-drinking population from 2010 (47 %). Alcohol is more frequently consumed among men and those with parents with higher educational levels.
- 74 % of Slovenian youth believe alcohol is “acceptable”, compared to 56 % in Croatia and only 22 % in Kosovo.

*Figure: Attitudes toward alcohol consumption among Slovenian, Croatian and Kosovo youth (16-25 years).*



*Note: Figure presents percentages.*

*Sources: CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study, IDIZ-FES Croatian 2012 Youth Study and IDRA-FES Kosovo 2012 Youth Study.*

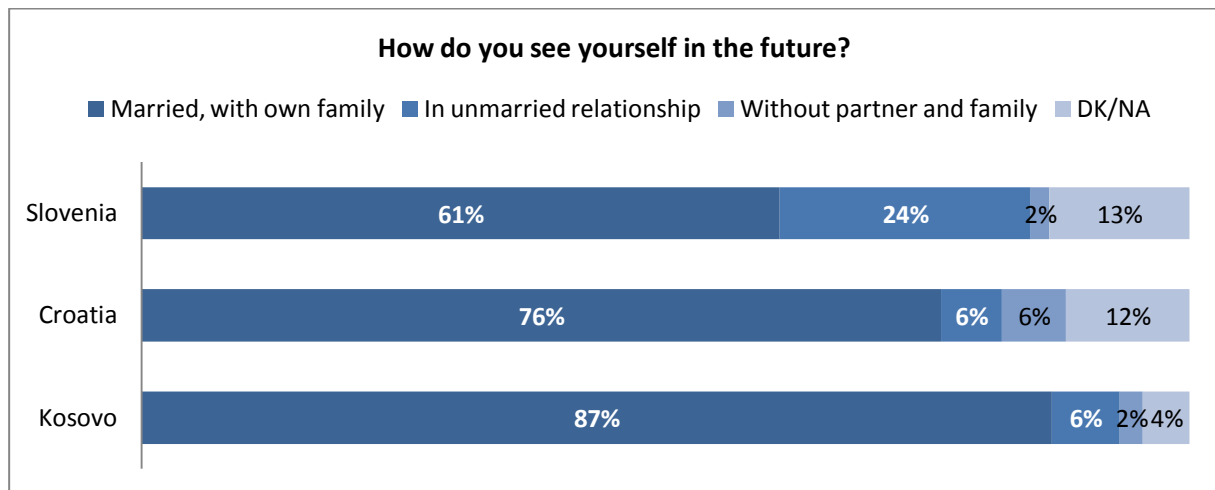
- Compared to 2010 the proportion of “regular” smokers remained rather stable in 2013, while the percentage of “non-smokers” increased (from 54 % to 60 %). 4 out of 10 Slovenian youngsters smoke tobacco at least “occasionally” or more frequently. Men, young people not enrolled in school and those with higher parental education levels (father’s education) are more frequent tobacco smokers.
- From 2010 to 2013 the proportion of obese youth remained practically the same, the proportion of overweight increased minimally by 1.3 % percentage points (19.1 %), while the proportion of underweight youth increased by 1.2 % percentage points (from 3.8 % to 5.0 %).
- Youth who smoke also consume alcohol more frequently. Smoking is not significantly associated with the risk of being overweight/obese, while being overweight/obese is associated with alcohol use.



## PART VII: THE FAMILY

- Relations of Slovenian young people with their parents are predominantly good.
- LAT befits Slovenian youth due to its precarious work situation, extended education situation, generous family household situation and predominantly harmonious relations with parents.
- Individualisation of personal life has progressed in Slovenia, indicated by almost two fifths not opting for marriage as their future and by envisaging marriage ever later. Furthermore, the share of those living with a partner has been declining at least since 2008.

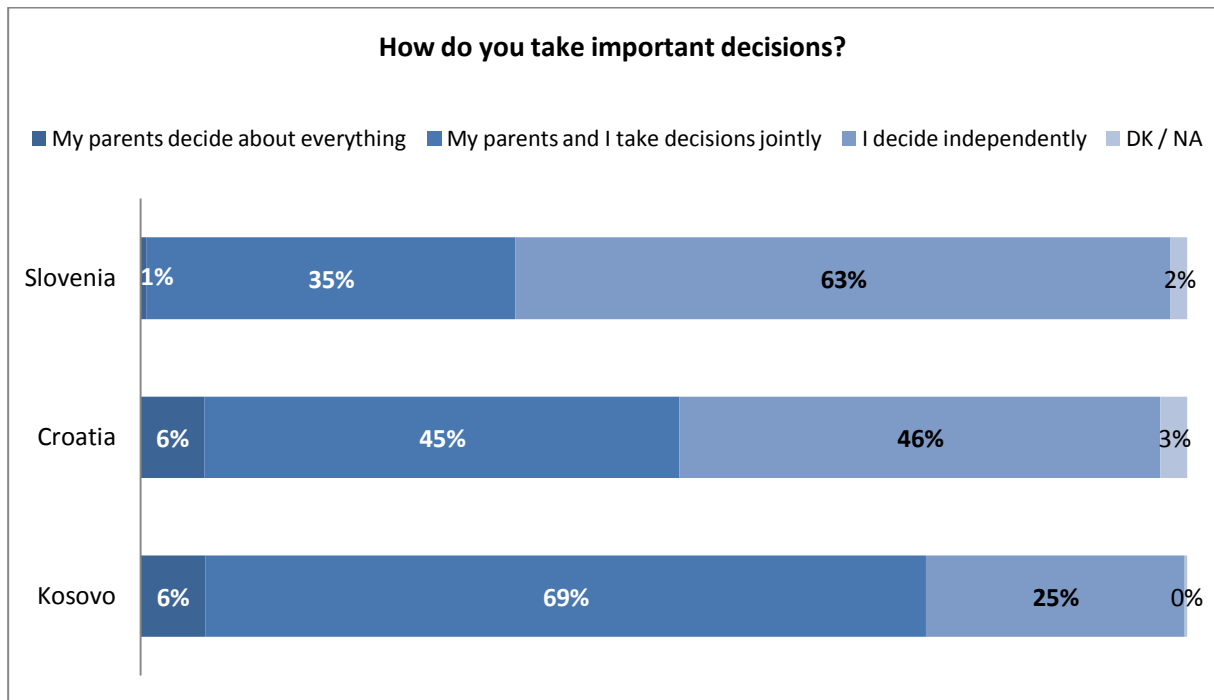
*Figure: Visions of future partnership*



Sources: CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study, IDIZ-FES Croatian 2012 Youth Survey, IDRA-FES Kosovo 2012 Youth Study.

- Slovenian young people predominantly express independent decision making (emancipated from parents), also indicative of individualisation of personal and private life.

Figure: Perceived influence of parents on young people's decisions



Sources: CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study, IDIZ-FES Croatian 2012 Youth Study, IDRA-FES Kosovo 2012 Youth Study.

## PART VIII: ANXIETIES AND ASPIRATIONS

- Value orientations of Slovenian youth are on the track of individualization, as much as can be discerned from the indicators applied, although less than among Croatian counterparts.

*Table: First rated values, by share of youth in percents, by country*

<i>The percentage of those who expressed that listed value is most important for them (among all offered)</i>		<b>Slovenian Youth</b>	<b>Croatian Youth</b>
1.	Personal dignity (identity / education)	33,8	42,8
2.	Social prestige (social status, social standing)	4,8	8,8
3.	Altruism (commitment, helping others)	7,1	11,7
4.	Material wealth	2,2	4,3
5.	Tolerance (acceptance and respect for different opinions)	7,8	8,3
6.	Fighting spirit (fighting to achieve a goal)	7,9	12,5
7.	Correctness	31,0	8,5
8.	Innovativeness of spirit (creating ideas, acceptance of ideas of others)	3,8	2,7
9.	Don't know / No answer	1,4	0,3

*Source: IDIZ-FES Croatian Youth 2012 Study; CEPYUS-FES Slovenian Youth 2013 Study.*

- The Slovenian youth is life satisfied, optimistic, worries and frustrations are rather rare. This is to be expected in view of other findings indicating youth is satisfied as long as it is not lonely, and we may add, as long as it is not afflicted by scarcity. More specific economic conditions have little influence on life satisfaction. The societal difficulties in integrating youth into adulthood, particularly as to employment, also seem to have little effect (at the personal level), possibly youth having accepted the situation of casual work within relatively opulent conditions. – Assessments at the societal level and as to politics differ.
- Possible effects of an unfavourable societal situation can be discerned in a diminishing future orientation noted, in comparison with 2010.
- Experiences of discrimination are relatively rare, whereas social distance is notable only with respect to Romanians.

*Table: Feelings about hypothetical situation where families belonging to a certain minority or foreign group would move in youth's neighborhood*

	Mean	SD
Roma family	<b>2,38</b>	0,9
Homosexual/lesbian family	3,00	1,1
Group of students	3,66	0,9
Retired couple	3,54	0,9
Family from other part of Slovenia	3,72	0,8
Family from Western Europe (France etc.)	<b>3,73</b>	0,8
Family from USA	3,68	0,9
Family from some Balkan country (Albania, Bosnia, etc.)	3,19	1,0

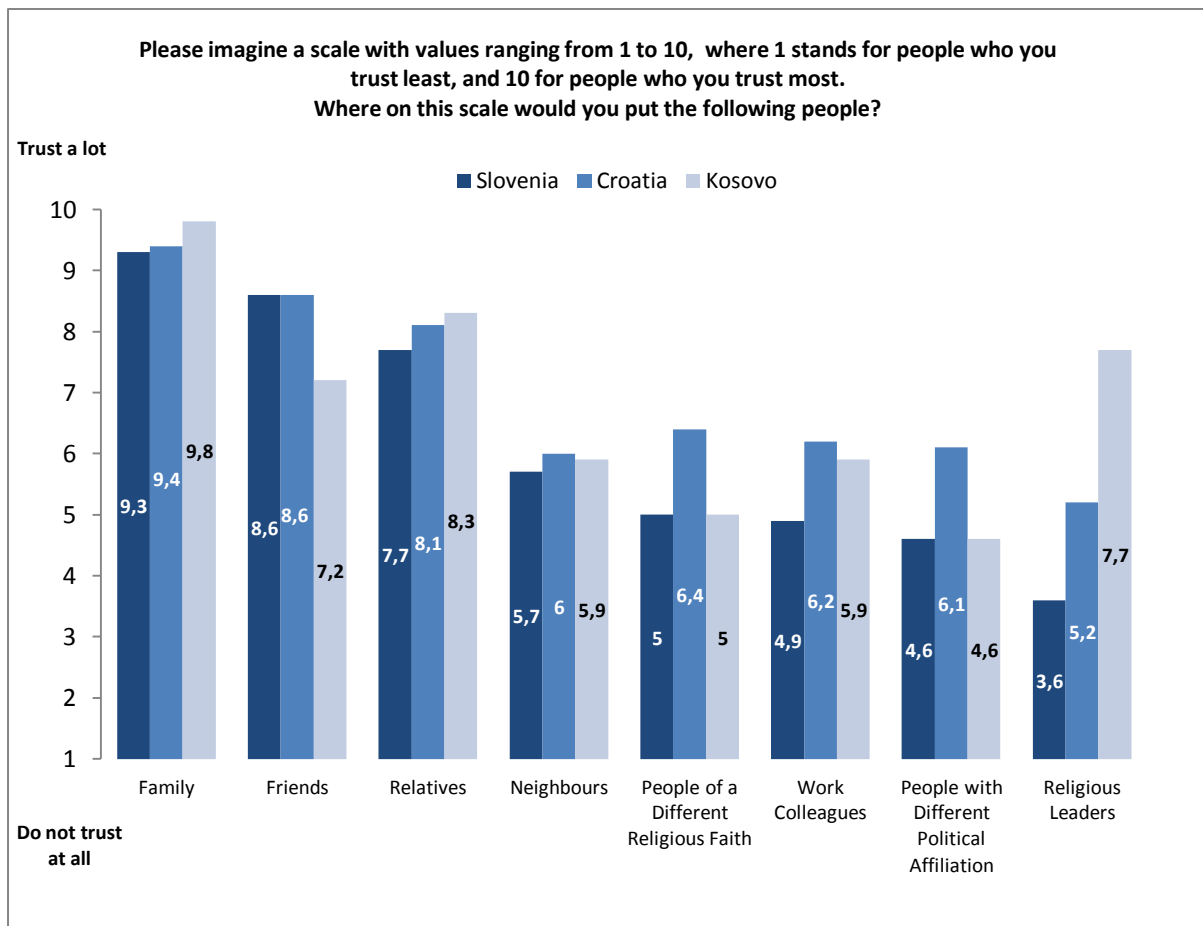
*Note: 1=it would be very bad, 5=it would be very good*

*Sources: CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study.*

## PART IX: TRUST AND BELONGING

- Slovenian youth expresses relatively low levels of trust in different social groups.

*Figure: Trust toward main social groups; average on a 1 to 10 scale.*



Sources: CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study, IDIZ-FES Croatian 2012 Youth Study, IDRA-FES Kosovo 2012 Youth Study.

- Most obvious explanation for the generally low levels of social trust among Slovenian youth appears to be in the traditionally low levels of generalized trust in Slovenia as a whole.
- About two thirds of young people declare adherence to the Roman Catholic faith. Yet only about a third of the declared young Catholics report that God is important in their lives.

Figure: Importance of God, Youth 2000, Youth 2010 and Youth 2013



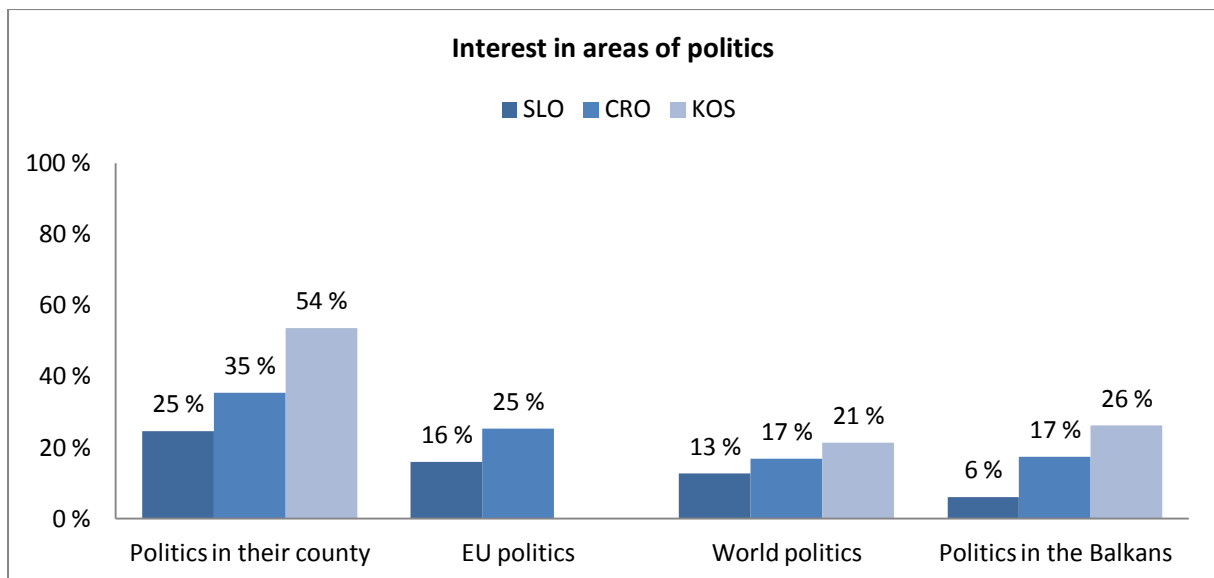
Sources: World values survey, Youth 2010 and CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study.

- In only three years, the proportion of young people who attend church at least several times a year fell from 37 % to only 23 %.

## PART X: POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY

- 28 % of Slovenian youth believe participating in civic actions and initiatives is popular, yet only 10 % say that being active in politics is popular.
- Slovenian youth express low levels of interest in politics. Taking this into account, out of all the areas of political interest, they are the most interested in politics in Slovenia. More educated, older youth, whose fathers and mothers have higher educational levels and youth who live in larger size settlements, are more interested in politics.

*Figure: Percentages of “interested/very interested” in national politics, EU politics, world politics and politics in the Balkans among Slovenian, Croatian and Kosovo youth (16–25 years).*

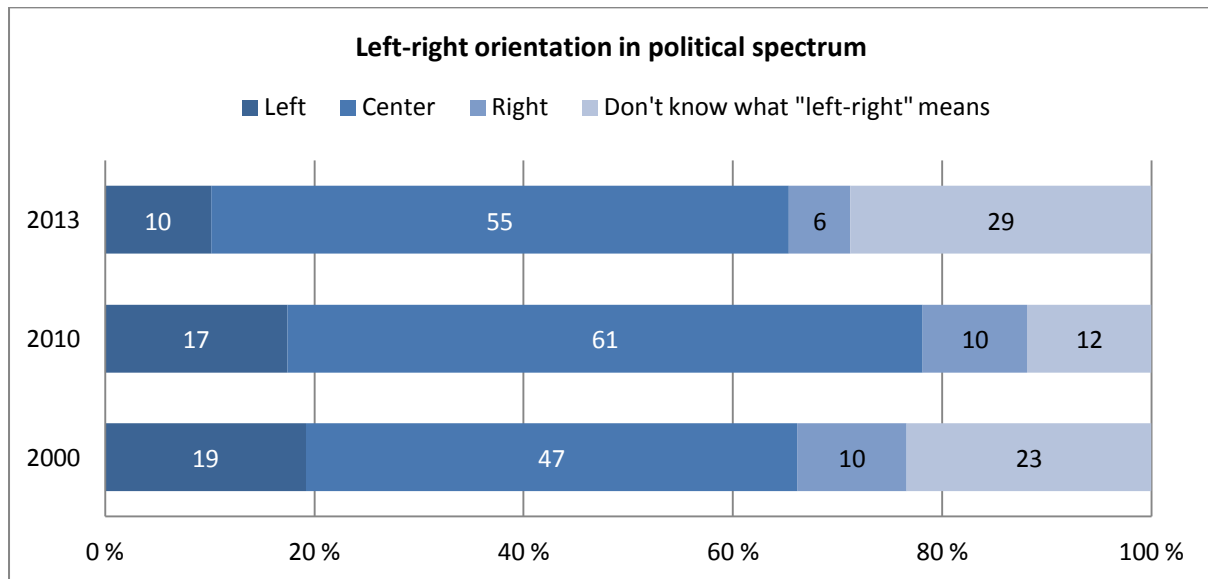


*Note: Political interest items were scored on a five point scale. Percentages for each country represent the sum of “interested” and “very interested” youth.*

*Sources: CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study, IDIZ-FES Croatian 2012 Youth Study, IDRA-FES Kosovo 2012 Youth Study*

- 29 % of Slovenian youth are not familiar with the left-right ideological distinction. The proportion of left- and right-oriented Slovenian youth is declining, while they are increasingly becoming more center-oriented.

*Figure: Percentages of left, right and centrist political-ideological orientations of Slovenian youth (16-27 years) in 2000, 2010 and 2013, including "don't knows".*



*Note: Respondents were asked to position themselves on 1–10 left-right scale (in 2013) and 0–10 left-right scale (in 2010 and 2000). For the purpose of comparison of results in different years we recoded both original scales into three categories; 1–3 (0–3 in 2000 and 2010) as "left", 4–7 (4–6 in 2000 and 2010) as "center" and 8–10 (7–10) as "right". Percentages for each category are shown in the figure.*

- The frequency of participating in elections is increasing with young person's higher educational level.
- Only 32.2 % of Slovenian youth (18-27 years) would attend parliamentary elections if they were held tomorrow, which presents a serious problem for a democracy as a system of government, especially with regard to its legitimacy.
- Satisfaction with democracy has been decreasing in 2000–2013 period. Young people (20–27, but not 18–19 year-olds) who are more satisfied with democracy participate in elections more frequently.
- A half of Slovenian youth do "not feel represented at all" by young people who are active in politics.
- Only 15 % of youth say that they have "a lot/some" influence on national institutions and 25 % of youth believe that they have "a lot/some" influence on the local institutions. Slovenian youth are more likely vote if they believe that they have more influence on national institutions or on local institutions.

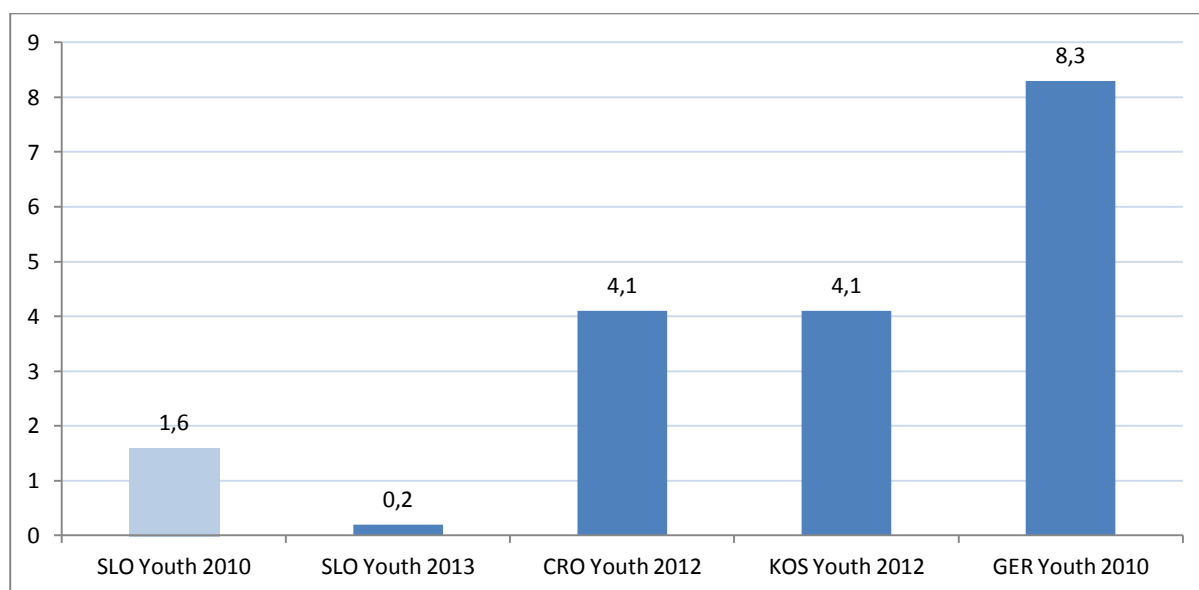


- Youth who are more trustful of political parties are more likely to participate in elections; in Slovenia 0 % of young people expressed having “very much” trust in political parties.
- 81 % of Slovenian youth (age 16–25) acquire information about politics from the Internet.
- 62 % of youth never watch political debates on television, though the frequency of watching TV political debates increases with age.
- Almost a half of young people (49 %) say that their political beliefs to some extent match those of their parents.
- Youth who assess their parents as more interested in politics, are more likely to watch political debates on TV.
- 86 % of Slovenian youth believe that reduction of unemployment is a “very important” objective that Slovenian government should focus on, followed by economic growth and development, and social justice and security.

## PART XI: GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- The perception of youth, in terms of how democracy functions in Slovenia, has deteriorated further (from already high levels recorded in 2010). A big part of this can be explained by poor system performance in general (which makes the past regime more appealing) and pessimistic outlook of the future.

*Figure: Percentage of those who are completely satisfied with the state of democracy, Youth 16-25, by country*



*Sources: Youth 2010 Study, CEPYUS-FES Slovenian 2013 Youth Study, IDIZ-FES 2012 Croatian Youth Study, IDRA-FES 2012 Kosovo Youth Study.*

- Problems that seem most alarming to Slovenian youth are poverty, unemployment, job (in)security, and laws not being implemented properly. Issues related to environment and to physical security and well-being are mainly perceived as not alarming/slightly alarming.
- Although in 2003 81 % of Slovenians (18-30) thought that joining EU will benefit Slovenia as a whole, ten years later, almost half (45 %) of the youth (16-27) think that Slovenia should drop the Euro (and reintroduce national currency) and leave European Union altogether.
- More than 65 % see the European integration as something that has a negative effect on both the economic (66 %) and the political system (67 %). This is in sharp contrast to what youth expected from the integration processes in year 2000 when only 19 % thought that the economic conditions would be worse if Slovenia would join EU.