

Outcomes of national debates Youth Council of Slovakia

We have successfully organized two regional debates and 15 young people have joined our essay competition. Here are the outcomes.

1. The future of the Constitutional Treaty

- o EU needs treaty drafted by representatives of member states & also some youth parliaments should be involved.
- o It should give the possibility for each EU member to outline and put effective their own criminal and civic laws. It should also respect national legal systems without artificial strengthening of competencies of European structures.
- o The future of Europe is not in creation of pseudo European identity, but building of identity on principles of respect and uniqueness of its members.
- o There has to be simplified and more efficient system of functioning of European structures and decision-making process.
- o The treaty should not force the EU members to acknowledge homosexual partnership, nor acknowledge or prefer judicially the families without marriage.
- o Institutional reform is necessary for higher participation of European citizens and strengthening of real European identity.

2. The social and economic model

- o Fragile position of youth can be efficiently improved by prevention starting much earlier- i.e. support birth of 2nd+3rd child, support part time work for mothers, support parents - possibilities for free of charge consultants centers.

3. Sustainable Development

- o Key policy changes that should be used in order to achieve sustainability:
 1. energy policy using of solar energy support to maxim. possible extent
 2. agricultural policy
 3. environment policy
 4. transport policy
 5. economic policies

4. Youth and Education

- o EU should support education and national awareness/local patriotism. There should not exist universal European book of history .
- o Concerning teachers - upgrade teachers salaries, offer them 1 year "working holiday" as it is in Finland .
- o EU policies should targeting youth focus specifically on
 1. Education free of charge

2. Scholarships for minorities and socially disadvantaged children/youth