

PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 2006-2016

On 5.10.2006 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Programme for Children and Youth 2006–2016. The complete Programme is available on:

http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti_pdf/pom2006_2016_en.pdf

Positions and platforms for activities

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights, the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia,
- A Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Children.

The Programme for Children and Youth 2006-2016 deals with childhood (defined as from birth until 14 years of age) that includes pre-school and primary school periods as well as adolescence that encompasses secondary school youth, aged between 15 and 19 years.

One of basic principles, important from the criminal prevention view is: Children need to be protected from all forms of violence, neglect, abuse and from being exposed to arbitrary or illegal interference in their private lives, family, home or correspondence. Physical punishment or degradation is an unacceptable method of treating a child and unsuitable as a method of upbringing.

In the summaries of the Programme are presented important programming areas and objectives from the criminal prevention view.

Some programming areas and objectives:

1. Health Policy

- o To Create Possibilities for a Healthy Psychosocial Development, to Improve Mental Health and Reduce the Suicide Rate among Children and Youth
- o To Prevent Injuries and Poisonings in Children and Youth
- o To Carry out Measures in Dealing with Violence against Children

2. Education Policies

- o To Guarantee Quality Education of Children for Mutual Tolerance, Reduction of Inequalities in the Society, Respect for Diversity and Human Rights

3. Special Social Care Policy

– Children with Deviant Behaviour

- o To Create Conditions that Allow Children to Gain Knowledge, Experience and Possibilities to Change their Behavioural Patterns and Get Included into Their Peer and Wider Social Environments.
- o To Treat Children in Accordance with Their Situation and the Level of Deviant Behaviour and Respect to the Letter the Integrity of the Child in all Procedures in Front of the Bodies that Deal with the Child.
- o To Reduce the Influence of Various Risk Factors on Deviant Behaviour of Children

4. Policy of Protection From Neglect, Violence and Abuse

– Protection from Neglect and Violence

- o To Prevent all Forms of Violence against Children and to Place Victim Protection as One of the State's Priority Tasks.
- o To Improve Legal Care and Protection of Children
- o To Guarantee Expert (Specialist) Training of all Experts
- *Protection from Violent Sexual Abuse Acts*
 - o To Ensure Programmes for Physical and Mental Recovery of Victims of Sexual Abuse and Their Reintegration as well as Obligatory Therapeutical Treatment of the Perpetrators
 - o To Strengthen Primary Prevention in Cases of Violent Sexual Abuse Acts

5. Illegal Drugs Protection Policy

- o To Decrease the Demand and Disrupt the Supply of Drugs
- o To Achieve a Harmonisation of Various Activities in the Area of Prevention and Protection from Harmful Consequences of Drug Use and Dealing with Addiction
- o To Ensure a Greater Number of Quality Programmes of Addiction Treatment that Will Be Accessible, Connected, Stem from Actual Needs, Guarantee Comprehensive Treatment and Will Be Development Oriented and Evaluated

6. Free Time Activities Policy

- o To Provide to the Highest Extent Possible the Possibilities for Quality Free Time Experiences for all Groups of Children and Youth
- o To draft and Adopt Systemic Solutions for the Functioning of Non-Profitable Organizations
- o To Ensure that in Media Production, Targeted on Children and Youth, the Public is Informed in a Suitable Manner on the Possibilities of Quality and Non-Commercial Free Time Activities
- o Special Stress Will Be Placed on Developing Free Time Activities for Children and Youth with Special Needs, Socially Threatened Children and Youth, Children of Immigrants and Refugees, Unaccompanied Children and Children from Different Cultural and Ethnic Backgrounds