



Strengthening Civil Society Rights by Information Access for European Youth 06.11.2019

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SIA4Y Project Objectives:

- Increase the level of awareness, knowledge and ability to use the right of access to public information and support freedom of information among **youth**.
- Increase the level of understanding and activity of **young citizens** regarding public monitoring of state institutions and local government.

SIA4Y Project Problem Statement in relation to situation in Poland

- The basis of democratic state is transparency → **does all young citizens know that?**
- Citizens participate directly or indirectly demanding accountability from service providers and public officials- **what are the comments after 2 „SIA4Y” meetings in Poland?**
- The solutions for wider use of public information and monitoring **tools should be provided by education and dissemination of relevant methodologies within youth sector.**





the activities of organs of public authority as well as persons performing public functions.

Such right shall also include receipt of information on the activities of self-governing economic or professional organs and other persons or organizational units relating to the field in which they perform the duties of public authorities and manage communal assets or property of the State Treasury.



Polish law

„Each information on public matters constitutes public information in the understanding of the Act and is subject to being made available on the basis of principles and under the provisions defined in this Act. “



Instruments

Direct:

- Access to sessions and proceedings (free)
- Information on activity of public institutions (sometimes paid)
- Copy of documents asked traditionally or on-line (paid)

Indirect:

- Public procurement procedures
- Legislative initiative
- Participatory budget - also in schools/universities!

Youth in Poland







What is the youth population of Poland?

The total number of young people is **7153 794**. According to social policy programmes, youth means people aged from 13 to 30 years of age.

Ratio of young people in the total population (%)



	Age group 15-19	5,2%
	Age group 20-24	6,3%
	Age group 25-29	7,4%
	Other age groups	81,1%

Total number of young people:

7153 794



Does Poland have a youth strategy?

The “State Strategy for Youth for 2003–2012” (Strategia Państwa dla Młodzieży na lata 2003–2012) (Strategy) prepared before Poland’s accession to the EU remains the only document determining the development and directions of Polish youth policy. Currently, there is no strategy in Poland directly devoted to young people. It is impossible to indicate one official document focusing on the needs and rights of young people and regulating issues relating to them (“Youth Law”). However, this does not mean that Polish legislation does not cover young people’s lives, rights and duties. Youth-related regulations are provided in various legal acts.



What is useful?

- Youth Advisory bodies like Youth Councils, Youth Boards in various organizations;
- Erasmus+/Europe for Citizens/EEA grant and other EU-funded projects on FOI and Access to Information aiming youth
- Introducing FOI and right to access to information with on-line tools (also using gamification) and non-formal education.





Thank you!

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STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY RIGHTS BY INFORMATION ACCESS FOR EUROPEAN YOUTH

- 5 countries involved • 9 workshops •
- code of good practice •

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