



# RURAL NEETS IN SLOVAKIA



2009/2019  
**OVERVIEW**

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Image by Pech Frantisek from Pixabay

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the situation of rural Youths Neither in Employment, nor in Education or Training (NEET) aged between 15–34 years old, over the last decade (2009–2019) in Slovakia. To achieve this goal, the report utilised indicators of youth population, youth employment and unemployment, education and NEETs distribution and amount of ESLET in Slovakia according to different level of urbanisation (cities, towns and suburbs and towns). There are more male than females living in Slovakia. However, there are more females living in rural areas. Youth unemployment has been rising every year since 2009, peaking in 2012/2013, and after this peak it has decreased gradually leading to the lowest unemployment rate in a decade for the age category 15–39 in 2018–2019. Since the year 2010 the employment rate has been gradually increasing in all degrees of urbanisation. In last decade (2009–2019), the population aged 15–24 years old in Slovakia has become more educated. The highest increase was in last decade at level ISCED 5–8 in rural areas. ESLET has gradually increased in Slovakia nationwide. Between the years 2009–2019, there were an increased number of ESLET females in rural areas. The share of NEETs has slightly decreased in last decade in Slovakia.

## ZHRNUTIE

Správa popisuje situáciu NEETov (t.j. vidieckych mladých ľudí, ktorí nepracujú, nevzdelávajú sa a ani nie sú súčasťou odbornej prípravy) vo veku 15 až 34 rokov za poslednú dekádu (2009 – 2019) na Slovensku. Správa prezentuje štatistické údaje o mládeži, a to populáciu, zamestnanosť/nezamestnanosť, úroveň vzdelania mladých, NEETov a podiel mladých ľudí, ktorí predčasne ukončili školskú dochádzku a odbornú prípravu na Slovensku podľa úrovne urbanizácie. Na Slovensku žije viac mladých mužov ako žien, avšak vo vidieckych oblastiach žije viac mladých žien. Nezamestnanosť mladých vrcholila v rokoch 2012 – 2013 a postupne sa znižovala. Od roku 2010 sa miera zamestnanosti postupne zvyšovala na všetkých úrovniach urbanizácie. V rokoch 2018 – 2019 bola vo vekovej kategórii 15 až 39 rokov najnižšia miera nezamestnanosti za poslednú dekádu.

Medzi rokmi 2009 – 2019 sa zvýšila na Slovensku úroveň vzdelania populácie vo veku 15 až 24 rokov. Najvyšší nárast bol za posledné desaťročie na úrovni vzdelania ISCED 5 – 8 vo vidieckych oblastiach. Počet NEETov sa na Slovensku za posledné desaťročie mierne znížil. Avšak množstvo mladých ľudí, ktorí predčasne ukončili školskú dochádzku a odbornú prípravu sa postupne zvýšilo na všetkých úrovniach urbanizácie. Za poslednú dekádu sa najviac zvýšil počet žien, ktoré predčasne ukončili školskú dochádzku zo vzdelávania a odbornej prípravy vo vidieckych oblastiach.

## INTRODUCTION

This report contains three main parts. An introductory contextualisation part with the most relevant information about the Slovak social, economic and political situation in the last decades (2009–2019) and key youth policies based on relevant literature. A methodological note explains the database used and the statistical operations carried out. The analytical part focus on young people, by degree of urbanisation, concerning four main topics: population, employment, education and NEETs.



## 1. CONTEXTUALIZATION

Slovakia (Slovak Republic) is a landlocked country in Central Europe and it is a parliamentary representative democratic republic, with a multi-party system. The current government of the Slovak Republic was created on the basis of elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic, which took place on 29th February 2020. The participation rate in election was quite high (67.47%), and was the consequence of major political turbulence.

Slovakia joined European Union in 2004 and Euro zone on the 1st January 2009.

Slovakia has been divided into a number of “Regions”, along with the capital city Bratislava. There are currently eight regions and 79 districts in Slovakia. Regions are territorial-statistical units corresponding to the NUTS II and NUTS III level, according to the Eurostat classification. The total number of all municipalities are 2.927 (Villages, Towns/suburbs and Cities). Of this amount, there are 2.749 villages – rural areas. The total number of Towns and Cities are 141 (Bačík, 2020).

According to findings from additional analyses of the Surveys in 7th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue, 45.60% of youth in Slovakia identify themselves as living in the rural areas. The census population of The Slovak Republic, as of the 31st December 2017 stood at 5.443.120 inhabitants, of which 1.931.633 people were at the age of 30 or below. This accounted for 35.50% of the population (Slovak Statistics Office). According to the latest figures, the number of young people since 2013 has decreased by 2.85% (Youth Report, 2018). Legal adulthood in Slovakia is 18 years and according to the Act on Youth Work Support persons are youth in Slovakia from the age 0 up to age 30. Legal age for entry into the labour market is 15. Between the ages of 15 and 18 a “juvenile employee” has to work under special conditions as defined in the Labour Code.

Citizens of Slovakia are provided with universal health care, education and a comprehensive social security system. Slovakia is, in general, perceived as a high-income advanced economy that has a comprehensive social security system. Significant changes during the



past 10 years which influenced economy of Slovakia were associated with the European debt crisis, which has been taking place in the EU since the end of the year 2009. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic crisis (which appeared after the March 2020) has also impacted upon the economy significantly.

Full entry of Slovakia to the EU brought many opportunities, which affected the youth sector, employment of youth and opportunities for development of crucial skills of youth which led to extensions of opportunities for them in labour market. One example is the implementation of National Projects financed through the European Social Fund (hereafter referred to as “ESF NP”) and the implementation of grant programs such as Erasmus+ (since January 2014) and the European Solidarity Corps program (since 2018), previously the European Voluntary Service. Youth work through EU funding was also an effective platform for the development of innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly through the activities of the ESF NP ‘KOMPRAX – Competences for Practice’ (IUVENTA, 2011–2015) and the NP of the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. The ESF NP ‘Practice to Employment’ offers a mentoring program and practical training delivered to young people younger than 29. The ESF NP ‘Graduate Practice Starts a Career’ program is aimed at creating opportunities for practical training and employment of long-term unemployed young people under 29 years old. Also, the NP ‘Successful on the labour market’ program supports self-employment and entrepreneurship of NEETs.

Education is provided free of charge in Slovakia via public schools (primary, lower secondary education and upper secondary education). Higher education and universities are free for full-time students also. The central public administration authority for education is responsible for the development of the content, goals and methods of education. The implementation of state policy on youth is undertaken via the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (hereafter referred to as “MINEDU”). The pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education is provided by Municipalities and regional governance is responsible for upper secondary education. Compulsory school attendance in Slovakia is ten years long, starting at the age of 6 and lasting up to end of the school year in which the pupil reaches the age of 16 (according the “Educational Act”). Many disadvantaged children and children with special needs are attending special schools or classes.





In Slovakia, the number of children in pre-school education is much lower than the EU average. Early childhood care from the age of 6 months to 3 years is provided at facilities providing care for children up to 3 years of age (nurseries). Pre-primary education in Slovakia is provided at institutions called kindergartens. For 5-year-old children, attendance at kindergarten is compulsory (Eurydice, 2020). However, the offer of pre-school education does not cover to demand within society. Upper secondary education is divided into General, Vocational and Conservatories (Arts education). General secondary education is provided by four, five or eight-year Gymnasia (gymnázia) for ages 11-18 and is highly selective. The System of Vocational Education and Training has recently undergone significant changes (Eurydice, 2018/19). The Vocation Act of 1st September 2015 for Vocational Education and Training established a system of dual Education and Training. It is a model of vocational Education and training which attains the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for a profession, a group of occupations or various professional activities. MINEDU also covers Adult and Non-formal education, which is done through formal and non-formal education and informal learning.

The implementation of the state's policy towards children and youth, resulting from the Strategy of Slovak Republic for Youth for the years 2014-2020 (hereafter referred to as "Strategy") was allotted to IUVENTA – the Slovak Youth Institute as a directly managed organisation of the MINEDU. "Strategy" defines strategic objectives of the policy towards youth, and it reflects youth's needs particularly in the fields of young people's education, employment, creativity and entrepreneurship, participation, health and wellbeing, their relation to nature, global topics, social inclusion and volunteering. In 2020 IUVENTA and MINEDU started a participatory process in Slovakia of preparation of the Strategy of Slovak Republic for Youth for the years 2021-2028. However, it was cancelled by the new management of MINEDU, whom show no interest in developing youth policy. The stakeholders involved in the process are not only Youth Organisations and NGOs working with youth, but also different ministerial resorts and sectors. Important stakeholders in Youth sectors are NGOs working with Youth or national or regional umbrella organisations covering youth organisations, e.g., The Youth Council of Slovakia. Other organisations also play an important role in non-formal education, especially in the development of entrepreneurial skills acceleration and mentoring programmes (e.g., the National Business Centre and the Rural Parliament in Slovakia, which is focused upon the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas and supports rural initiatives in rural development).



Non-formal education is defined in Slovakia within the framework of the Act No. 282/2008 on Youth Work Support, which was amended in October 2019. The “Act” was amended after 11 years of its existence and the changes were based on the needs of the practice.

In 2019, the Slovak Youth Council organised “European Youth Dialog” (further to ESD), and concentrated its attention on the topics of employment, education and the lives of youth in rural areas. The main goal was to understand some aspects of employment of young people in Slovakia. The results of the survey shows how youth in Slovakia perceive opportunities for decent employment and employment conditions. The biggest problem they perceive is fairness in the labour market. They wish to have fair access to develop the skills they will need to enter into the labour market. Once they have access to the world of work, they wish to be treated fairly. Only 18% of young people agree with the statement that they face a fair approach and equal conditions in the labour market. 28% of youth believe that young people in Slovakia have equal access to good quality jobs that guarantee them fair working conditions.

Only 18% of youth in Slovakia believe that their country provides good opportunities for work in rural areas. Some of the measures which could help with youth unemployment and satisfaction of youth in rural areas are the promotion of the availability of jobs and the opportunities for employment in general. To support interesting job opportunities for young people, mentoring programmes for youth exist which will help them with employment or starting their own business. Conditions in Slovakia have gradually become better because of such systematic support and initiatives. However, it seems there should be more concentration paid to supporting conditions in rural areas. In particular, providing support incentives and a mentoring programme to help young people become involved in the agriculture sector and initiatives that help small businesses in the tourism sector. According to the ESD, youth in rural areas of Slovakia would also benefit from involvement in Traineeships programmes, engagement in the projects and/or volunteer work in Slovakia or around Europe.

One of the main problems from the point of young people in rural areas is access to good quality education with connection to the real needs of the labour market. It is also necessary to promote lifelong learning and non-formal learning by employers in order to connect formal education with the labour market. It is also important to support youth initiatives related to environmental protection and rural development.



## 2. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The Slovak national report uses information gathered by the National Reports Editorial Team of the Rural NEET Youth Network in the Eurostat platform. The main data presented and analysed in this report are from the following Eurostat database:

- Population Statistics: [yth\_demo\_O20]
- EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS): [lfst\_r\_pgauwsc]; [lfst\_r\_ergau]; [lfst\_r\_urgau]; [edat\_lfs\_9913]; [edat\_lfse\_30]; [edat\_lfse\_29]

Selected indicators were extracted from the different databases according to two criteria:

- Time range: the previous decade (2009–2019) in order to have a sufficiently long period of time to capture the main changes and continuities in young people's trajectories in education, training and employment. The analysis mainly covered 3 dates – 2009–2013–2019 – in order to capture the impact of the economic and financial crisis that hit Europe and that, in most countries, reached its peak in 2012/2013.
- Age group: age group range varies accordingly to the data available in each indicator (15–24; 15–29; 15–34; and 15–39). Whenever possible, age range also covered young adult's data (30–34 and 35–39) in order to capture the extent of crisis impact on these age groups.

In addition to a descriptive analysis, in order to compare data main changes and continuities in different time periods, absolute and relative change were calculate considering the three main time points that were selected – 2009, 2013 and 2019. Absolute change refers to the simple difference in the indicator over two periods in time and is expressed in percentage points (pp); relative change expresses the change of a value of an indicator in an earlier period and is expressed in percentage terms.



## 3. DATA ANALYSIS

### 3. 1. Population and youth population

The census population of The Slovak Republic, as of the 31st December 2019 stood at 5,457.873 inhabitants, of which 2,665.350 people were male and 2,792.523 female. As of the 31st December 2009, it stood at 5,424.925 inhabitants. During the past 10 years, the number of people in Slovakia has increased by 0.60% (Slovak Statistics Office). The surface of the territory is 49,034.066.178 km<sup>2</sup>. The density of population is 111.23 people/km<sup>2</sup>. (People with permanent resident status per square kilometre was 30.6/km<sup>2</sup> (1.7.2019). In Rural areas the density is 60.98 people/km<sup>2</sup> (Density of population, 2019).

#### 3. 1. 1. Youth population

For the needs of the Report, we understand Youth as a socio-demographic group of the population aged 15–34. However, in Slovakia according to the Act No. 282/2008 on youth work support, a youth in Slovakia is a person who is up to 30 years old. Therefore for some aspects of the report we will focus on the age group 15–30 age range.

Currently, there are 1,864.982 (31.12.2019) people at the age of 30 or below (0–30) living in Slovakia (Slovak Statistics Office, 2019). Young people represent 34.17% of the total population. Slovakia, unlike other European Union countries, does not face the lack of young people, yet Chart 1 indicates that the youth population in Slovakia is gradually decreasing.

As of the 31st December 2009, the population of youth (15–29 years) was 1,241.021 and (15–34 years) was 1,713.937. In 2019, youth population (15–29 years) declined to 947.400 and (15–34 years) likewise to 1,367.400. During the previous decade, the number of youth in the age category 15–29 years decreased by – 23.65%; in age category 15–34, by – 20.21%. The distribution of young people by age categories in Slovakia in the annual population count is: 4.8% (15–19); 5.4% (20–24) and, 8.2% (25–30), (Slovak Statistics Office, 2019).



*Young people represent 34.17% of the total population. Slovakia does not face a lack of young people, however, the population of youth is decreasing gradually.*

*43.0% (588.000) of youth live in rural areas.*

*The highest decline of youth population is in rural areas - 32.41pp (- 282.000), especially for youth age 15-24 years.*

Chart 1 indicates the redistribution of youth population 2010-2019 in Slovakia and all degrees of urbanisation according to age categories 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34. Chart 1 represents a gradual decline of youth in all age categories since 2009. The highest decrease in total (Table 2) was in age category 15-19 years old (- 28.70 pp; - 106.8%) and 20-24 years old (- 28.40 pp; -119.6%). The highest decrease was in the cities (- 45.50 pp; - 41.6%) for those aged 20-24 years old and for 15-19 years old (- 37.20 pp; - 26.8%). In rural areas the numbers were (- 38.50 pp; - 76.9%) for those age 15-19 years old and (- 37.60 pp; - 83.9%) for 20-24 years old. In towns and suburbs there was an increased amount of youth aged 25-34 in 2013, but afterwards it started decreasing.

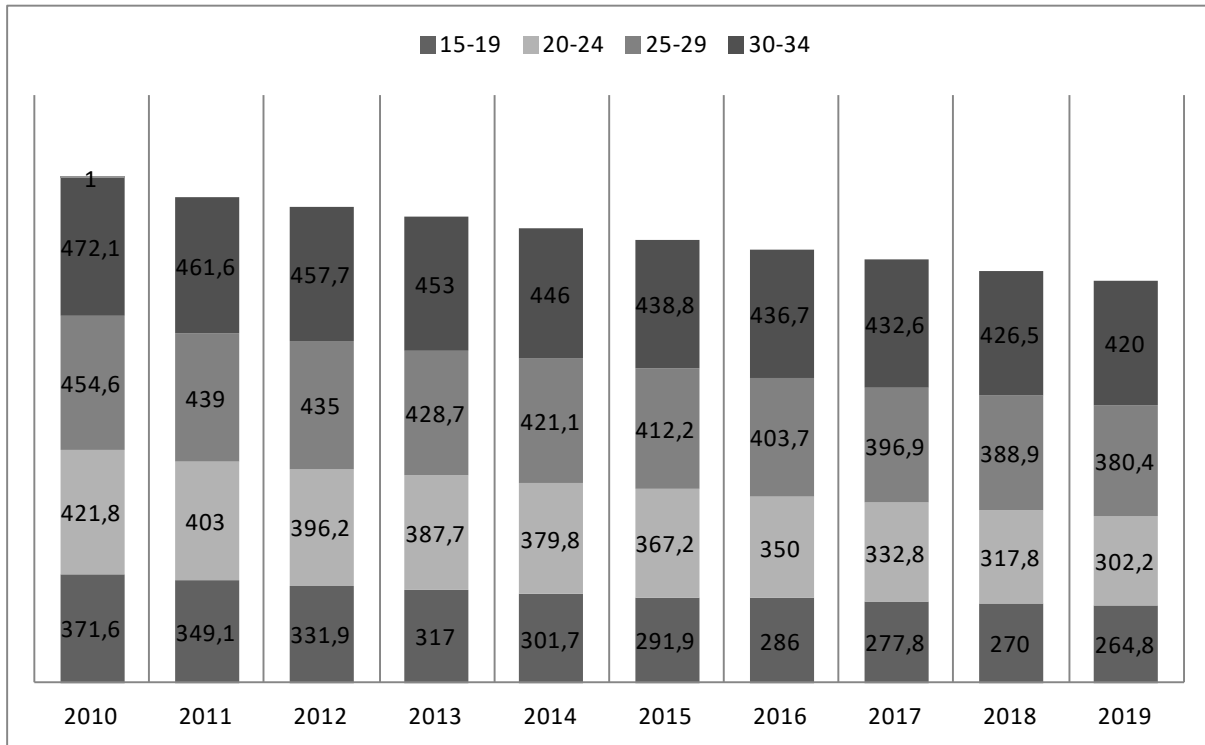
**Table 1. Annual population by sex, age, degree of urbanisation and labour status (1 000) in Slovakia, sex: Total, (2010-2019)**

GEO/TIME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
15-19	371.6	349.1	331.9	317.0	301.7	291.9	286.0	277.8	270.0	264.8
20-24	421.8	403.0	396.2	387.7	379.8	367.2	350.0	332.8	317.8	302.2
25-29	454.6	439.0	435.0	428.7	421.1	412.2	403.7	396.9	388.9	380.4
30-34	472.1	461.6	457.7	453.0	446.0	438.8	436.7	432.6	426.5	420.0
Total	1720.1	1652.7	1620.8	1586.4	1548.6	1510.1	1476.4	1440.1	1403.2	1367.4

Source: Eurostat (lfsa\_pgauws) - extracted on 12.5.2020



Chart 1. Annual population by degree of urbanisation (1 000) in Slovakia, (2010–2019)



Source: Eurostat (lfsa\_pgauws) – extracted on 12.5.2020



**Table 2. Annual population by sex, age, degree of urbanisation and labour status (1 000) in Slovakia, including absolute and relative change (2010–2013, 2013–2010, 2010–2019)**

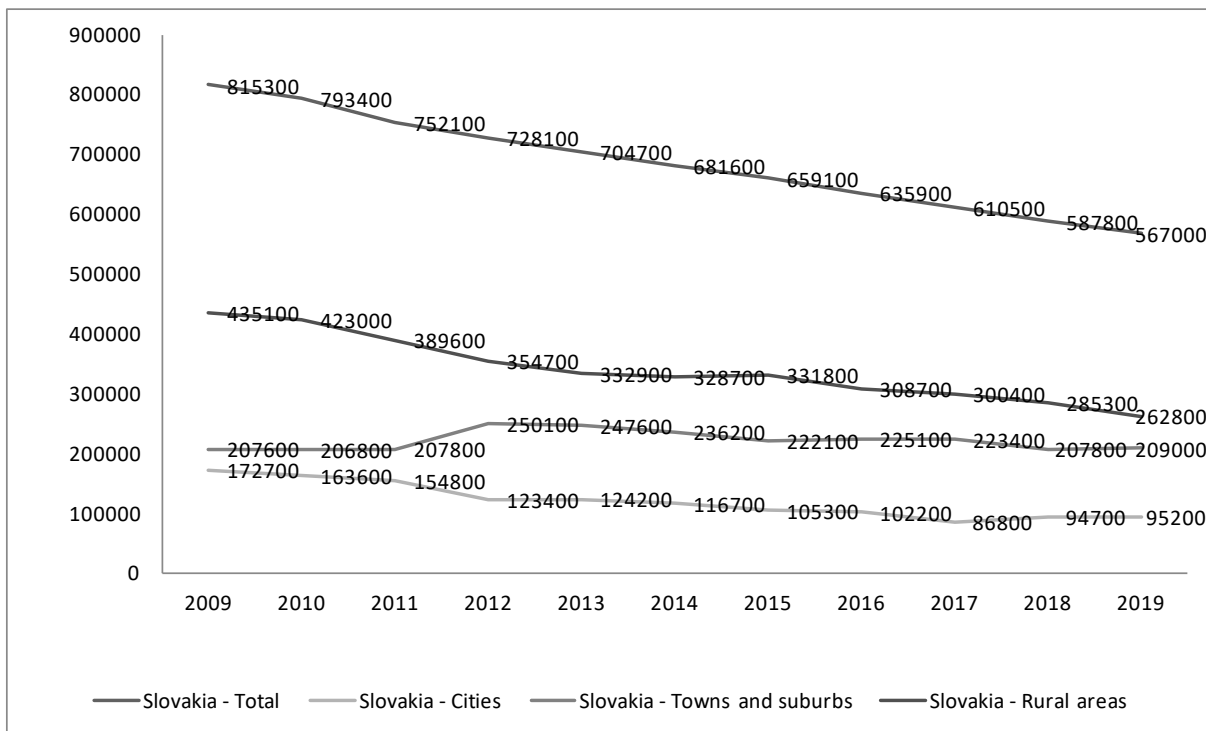
	2010	2013	2019	Absolute change 2010–2013 (Relative change 2010–2013 )	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019 )	Absolute change 2010–2019 (Relative change 2010–2019 )
<b>Country</b>						
Overall	1720	1586	1367	7.80 pp (-134.000)	- 13.80 (- 219.000)	- 20.52 (- 353.000)
15–19	3716	3170	264.8	- 14.70 pp (- 54.6%)	- 16.50 pp (- 52.2%)	- 28.70 pp (-106.8%)
20–24	4218	3877	302.2	- 8.10 pp (- 34.1%)	- 22.10 pp (- 85.5%)	- 28.40 pp (- 119.6%)
25–29	454.6	428.7	380.4	- 5.70 pp (- 25.9%)	- 11.30 pp (- 48.3%)	- 16.30 pp (- 74.2%)
30–34	472.1	453.0	420.0	- 4.00 pp (- 19.1%)	- 7.30 pp (- 33.0%)	- 11.00 pp (- 52.1%)
<b>Cities</b>						
Overall	401.0	313.0	274.0	- 21.94 pp (- 88)	- 12.46 pp (- 39)	- 31.67 pp (- 127)
15–19	72.1	51.4	45.3	- 28.70 pp (- 20.7%)	- 12.00 pp (- 6.1%)	- 37.20 pp (- 26.8%)
20–24	91.5	72.8	49.9	- 20.40 pp (- 18.7%)	- 31.50 pp (- 22.9%)	- 45.50 pp (- 41.6%)
25–29	114.7	88.0	74.3	- 23.30 pp (- 26.7%)	- 15.60 pp (- 13.7%)	- 35.00 pp (- 40.4%)
30–34	122.3	100.8	104.8	- 17.60 pp (- 21.5%)	4.00 pp (- 4.0%)	- 14.30 pp (- 17.5%)
<b>Towns and suburbs</b>						
Overall	453.0	561.0	505.0	23.84 pp (108)	- 9.98 pp (- 56)	11.47 pp (52)
15–19	99.6	111.0	96.0	11.44 pp (11.4%)	13.51 pp (-15.0%)	- 3.61 pp (- 3.6%)
20–24	107.1	136.6	113.0	27.54 pp (29.5%)	17.28 pp (- 23.6%)	5.50 pp (5.9%)
25–29	118.5	153.9	141.7	29.90 pp (35.4%)	7.90 pp (- 12.2%)	19.60 pp (23.2%)
30–34	127.4	159.5	153.9	25.20 pp (32.1%)	- 3.51 pp (- 5.6%)	20.80 pp (26.5%)
<b>Rural areas</b>						
Overall	870.0	712.0	588.0	- 18.16pp (- 158)	- 17.41pp (- 124)	- 32.41pp (- 282)
15–19	199.9	154.7	123.0	- 22.60 pp (- 45.2%)	- 20.49 pp (- 31.7%)	- 38.50 pp (-76.9%)
20–24	223.2	178.3	139.3	- 20.12 pp (- 44.9%)	- 21.87 pp (- 39.0%)	- 37.60 pp (- 83.9%)
25–29	221.4	186.8	164.3	- 15.63 pp (- 34.6%)	- 12.04 pp (- 22.5%)	- 25.80 pp (- 57.1%)
30–34	225.5	192.6	161.4	-14.59 pp (- 32.9%)	- 16.20 pp (- 31.2%)	- 28.42 pp (- 64.1%)

Source: Eurostat (lfsa\_pgaus) – data extracted on 12.5.2020



According to the Eurostat data (2019) 43.0% (588.000) of youth live in rural areas. Data from Chart 3 also indicates that the population of youth (15–24 years old) living in rural areas and cities is decreasing gradually every year. The highest decrease is in rural areas. Since 2010 till 2019 the decrease was (- 38.50pp; - 76.9%). In towns and suburbs there was an increase of youth population during 2012–2013, but this then started to decrease gradually.

**Chart 2. The evolution of the ratio of youth population in Slovakia, (age group 15–24) by degree of urbanisation – cities, towns and suburbs and rural areas in thousand, (2009–2019)**



Source: Eurostat: lfsa\_pgaus. Population by sex, age, country of birth, labour status and degree of urbanisation, data extracted in 12.5.2020





**Table 3. Population by sex, age, country of birth, labour status and degree of urbanisation in Slovakia (1000), (age group 15–24), (2009–2019)**

GEO/TIME	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	815.3	793.4	752.1	728.1	704.7	681.6	659.1	635.9	610.5	587.8	567.0
Cities	172.7	163.6	154.8	123.4	124.2	116.7	105.3	102.2	86.8	94.7	95.2
Towns	207.6	206.8	207.8	250.1	247.6	236.2	222.1	225.1	223.4	207.8	209.0
Rural areas	435.1	423.0	389.6	354.7	332.9	328.7	331.8	308.7	300.4	285.3	262.8

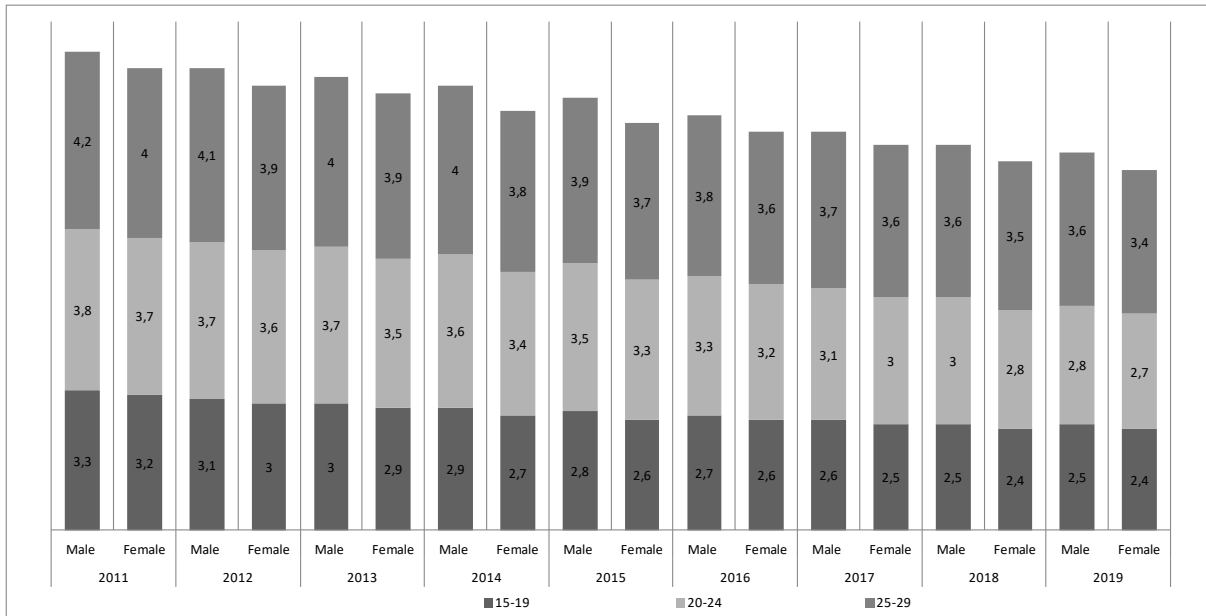
Source: Eurostat (lfsa\_pgauws) – extracted on 12.5.2020

Chart 3 summarises the evolution of youth population between 2011–2019, divided into male and females. In 2019, according to Eurostat data there were more male than females living in Slovakia (15–34 years old), specifically 668.000 females and 699.400 males. However, Chart 4 indicates the ratio of male and females in rural areas and we can observe that the ratio is more female than male. Nevertheless, in one decade the entire youth population in all age groups gradually decreased in rural areas and the population of female youth is no exception. In 2010, there were 423.600 females living in rural areas, compared to 2019 when the number of females dropped to 290.200 in total. This decrease represented a – 31.50% relative change. In rural areas, the population of males decreased from 368.100 youth (15–34 age group) in 2010, to 251.300 males in 2019. This decrease represents a – 31.70% relative change.

*There are more males aged 15–34 years old living in Slovakia, but more females living in rural areas.*



Chart 3. Male and Female ratio of young people in the total population 2011–2019, thousand



Source: Eurostat (ifsa\_pgauws) – extracted on 12.5.2020

Redistribution of youth in different regions of Slovakia also plays important role, especially in the context of unemployment. The highest population of Youth (0–30) is in the east of Slovakia in Prešov (17.41%) and the Košice Region (15.9%). The lowest is in the Trnava Region (9.65%), in the lower, west part of Slovakia.



## 3. 2. Employment and Unemployment

In 2019, the overall unemployment rate in Slovakia was 4.92%. In March 2020, it slowly started increasing again to 5.19% due the COVID-19 economic downturn (UPSVAR, 2020). Within the last 10 years, the unemployment rate was highest in 2012 (14.44%). The situation on the labour market improved significantly in 2016, 2018 and 2019. In comparison with 2012, the unemployment rate dropped by nearly – 65.92%.

The unemployment rate was peaking in 2012, but since than it has been decreasing nearly every year.

The most affected regions in Slovakia are the South-east and East of Slovakia. In 2019, the average unemployment rate was 4.92% in Slovakia. In the Kosice Region in the east of Slovakia, it was 7.57%. The highest employment rate is in the Bratislava and Trnava Region.

**Table 4. Overall unemployment rate in Slovakia 2009–2019 (all productive age groups)**

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
12.66%	12.46%	13.59%	14.44%	13.50%	12.29%	10.63%	4.92%	6.42%	5.04%	4.92%

Source: Eurostat (ifsa\_pgauws) – extracted on 12.5.2020



### 3. 2. 1. Youth employment

The **regional factor**, which negatively affects overall employment and job opportunities in Slovakia negatively impacts upon the employment of young people also. Regional disparities, especially lack of job offers and differential remuneration are the main cause for the depopulation of regions. The highest unemployment of youth is in Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov Region and this means that young people are forced to emigrate to regions abroad and within Slovakia. This causes depopulation of certain municipalities, especially in rural areas.

2018 and 2019 saw the lowest unemployment rate in a decade for the age category 15–39. The employment rate was 61.4% in 2018 and 61.1% in 2019 (total for all degrees of urbanisation). Since 2010, the employment rate has been gradually increasing. Table 5 indicates the evolution of youth employment by degree of urbanisation. It describes a slow increase in all degrees of urbanisation. The highest increase was in age category 20–24 in rural areas by (23.6pp; 9.4%). In particular, the employment rate increased after the year 2013. However, in towns and suburbs there was also an increase between the years 2013–2019 (90pp; 1.8%) in age category 15–19. According to degree of urbanisation, there was a decline in age category 30–34 in rural areas by (– 2.7pp; – 2.0%) and in towns and suburbs by (–1.6pp; –1.3%).

*In 2018 and 2019, there was the lowest unemployment rate in a decade.*

*The highest increase of employment was in rural areas by 18.1 pp (5.59%) overall and for the age category 20–24.*



**Table 5. Employment rates by age and degree of urbanisation (%) in Slovakia, including absolute and relative change (2009–2013, 2013–2019, 2009–2019)**

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013 )	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019 )	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019 )
<b>Country</b>						
Overall	50.05%	47.68%	54.66%	- 4.7 pp (- 2.4%)	14.6 pp (7.0%)	9.2 pp (4.6%)
15–19	3.1%	2.3%	3.4%	- 25.8 pp (-0.8%)	47.8 pp (1.1%)	9.7 pp (0.3%)
20–24	40.4%	35.2%	43.7%	12.9 pp (-5.2%)	24.1 pp (8.5%)	8.2 pp (3.3%)
25–29	70.1%	67.0%	75.0%	- 4.4 pp (-3.1%)	11.9 pp (8.0%)	6.7 pp (4.9%)
30–34	76.3%	71.8%	76.4%	- 5.90 pp (-4.5%)	6.4 pp (4.6%)	.13 pp (0.1%)
<b>Cities</b>						
Overall (a)	59.7%	60.9%	67.3%	2.0 pp (1.2%)	10.5 pp (6.4%)	12.7 pp (7.6%)
15–19	3.0%	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
20–24	41.0%	32.7%	42.6%	- 20.20 pp (-8.3%)	30.30 pp (9.9%)	3.90 pp (1.6%)
25–29	75.2%	72.9%	83.0%	- 3.10 pp (-2.3%)	13.90 pp (10.1%)	10.40 pp (7.8%)
30–34	76.9%	77.7%	80.2%	1.00 pp (-0.8%)	3.20 pp (2.5%)	4.30 pp (3.3%)
<b>Towns and suburbs</b>						
Overall	50.99%	47.98%	52.94%	- 5.9 pp (- 3.01%)	10.3 pp (4.96%)	3.8 pp (1.95%)
15–19	3.0%	2.0%	3.8%	33.0 pp (-1.0%)	90.0 pp (1.8%)	26.7 pp (0.8%)
20–24	41.1%	33.3%	37.2%	- 19.0 pp (- 7.8)	11.7 pp (3.9%)	- 9.5 pp (- 3.9%)
25–29	69.9%	67.1%	71.6%	- 4.0 pp (- 2.8%)	6.7 pp (4.5%)	2.4 pp (1.7%)
30–34	79.4%	74.1%	78.1%	- 6.7 pp (- 5.3%)	5.4 pp (4.0%)	-1.6 pp (-1.3%)
<b>Rural areas</b>						
Overall	47.41%	44.87%	53.00%	- 5.4 pp (- 2.54%)	11.8 pp (8.13%)	18.1 pp (5.59%)
15–19	3.2%	2.6%	3.7%	-18.8 pp (0.6%)	- 42.3 pp (-1.1%)	15.6 pp (0.5%)
20–24	39.9%	37.7%	49.3%	- 5.5 pp (- 2.2%)	30.8 pp (11.6%)	23.6 pp (9.4%)
25–29	67.5%	64.0%	74.2%	- 5.2 pp (- 3.5%)	15.9 pp (10.2%)	9.9 pp (6.7%)
30–34	74.3%	66.8%	72.3%	-10.1 pp (- 7.5%)	8.2 pp (5.5%)	- 2.7pp (- 2.0%)

Source: Eurostat (lfst\_r\_ergau) – extracted on 29.04.2020

Notes: (a) Overall indicators for cities are presented for the 15–39 years old group; (b) data not available.



### 3. 2. 2. Youth unemployment

According to Eurostat, data in last decades for all youth age groups shows that the unemployment rate has rapidly decreased. In 2019, the unemployment rate for the total population in Slovakia reached 4.92%. Table 6 summarises the unemployment rate for youth from 15–39 years old and indicates that the unemployment reached in 2019 (7.6%) was the lowest in the decade and lower than average in the EU. In age category 20–24, there was decline by (– 46.7 pp; – 11.4%), for 25–29 by (– 55.5 pp; – 7.6%) and for 30–34 by (– 32 pp; – 3.5%). Youth unemployment has been rising every year since 2009, peaking in 2012/2013. After its peak, it began decreasing gradually. Between the years 2013–2019 the unemployment declined by (– 57.9 pp; – 17.9%); (– 67.2 pp; – 12.5%); and, by (– 47.8 pp; – 6.6%) (Table 6). For example, 2012 had the highest unemployment rate (15–24) 34.0%. In 2009, the unemployment rate was 27.3%, in 2013 (33.7%) and 2019 (16.1%).

In 2018, the unemployment rate for age category 15–25 was 14.9%, and in 2019 this increased to 16.1%. It was the lowest unemployment rate for youth in a decade. The highest unemployment rate in this category was in 2012 (34.0%).

Chart 4 indicates the pattern of evolution of unemployment according to different degrees of urbanisation. In Slovak towns and suburbs, after the year 2018, the unemployment rate increased slightly. The lowest unemployment rate was in Slovak cities; in 2019 it was only 4.1% (15–39 years old). The lowest unemployment rate in age category (30–34) was 3.9% and 4.5% (25–29) in cities in 2019. In rural areas in 2019, in age category 25–29, it was only 6.0%. According to the Eurostat data, we can perceive the highest decrease in age category 25–29. In the last decade it decreased (– 55.5 pp; – 7.6%) in total: in cities it was (– 52.1 pp; – 4.9%) and the highest decrease was in rural areas (– 65.1 pp; – 11.2%) for age group 25–29.

In rural areas, there has been quite a high decrease of unemployment for youth in age group 25–34. The highest unemployment rate is in age category (15–19) across all degrees of urbanisation. Comparing the degrees of urbanisation, there is only small difference between rural areas and towns and suburbs. Despite decreased unemployment in age category 15–19 by (– 16.5 pp; – 8.8%) in general, the unemployment rate for this category remains quite high. In



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2009, it was 53.3%; in 2013 it was 62.4%; and, in 2019 it was 44.5%. Slovakia belongs to the group of countries in EU with highest rate of unemployment in this age group. In 2019, it was the third highest unemployment rate. The average for the EU was 18.2%. In rural areas it decreased by a - 20.9% relative change.

*The unemployment rate has rapidly decreased in all urban areas. Youth unemployment has been rising every year since 2009, peaking in 2012/2013. After its peak, it began gradually decreasing. In rural areas, there has been a quite high decrease of unemployment for youth in age group 25–34. The highest decrease was for age category 20–29 in rural areas.*



**Table 6. Unemployment rates by sex, age and degree of urbanisation (%) in Slovakia, including absolute and relative change (2009–2013, 2013–2019, 2009–2019)**

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013 )	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019 )	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019 )
<b>Country</b>						
Overall (a)	14.4%	17.5%	7.6%	87.85 pp (3.1%)	- 56.57 pp (9.9%)	- 47.22 pp (- 6.8%)
15–19	53.3%	62.4%	44.5%	17.1 pp (9.1%)	- 28.7 pp (-17.9%)	- 16.5 pp (- 8.8%)
20–24	24.4%	30.9%	13.0%	26.6 pp (6.5%)	- 57.9 pp (-17.9%)	- 46.7 pp (- 11.4%)
25–29	13.7%	18.6%	6.1%	35.8 pp (4.9 %)	- 67.2 pp (-12.5%)	- 55.5 pp (- 7.6%)
30–34	10.7%	13.8%	7.2%	29.0 pp (3.1%)	- 47.8 pp (- 6.6%)	- 32.7 pp (- 3.5%)
<b>Cities</b>						
Overall (a)	8.8%	12.1%	4.1%	37.5	- 66.1pp (- 8.0%)	-53.4 pp (- 4.7%)
15–19	N/A	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.
20–24	14.3%	26.5%	b.	85.3 pp (12.2%)	b.	b.
25–29	9.4%	13.6%	4.5%	44.7 pp (4.2%)	- 66.9 pp (- 9.1%)	- 52.1 pp (- 4.9%)
30–34	8.0%	7.4%	3.9%	70.0 pp (5.6%)	- 47.3 pp (- 3.5%)	- 51.3 pp (- 4.1%)
<b>Towns and suburbs</b>						
Overall (a)	12.8%	16.7%	8.5%	30.5 pp (3.9%)	- 49.1 pp (- 8.2%)	- 33.6 pp (-4.3%)
15–19	57.8%	61.6%	46.0%	6.6 pp (3.8%)	- 25.3 pp (-15.6%)	- 20.4 pp (- 11.8%)
20–24	23.2%	30.0%	18.6%	29.3 pp (6.8%)	- 38.0 pp (-11.4%)	- 19.8 pp (- 4.6%)
25–29	11.4%	17.9%	7.1%	- 37.7 pp (-4.3%)	- 60.3 pp (-10.8%)	- 37.7 pp (- 4.3%)
30–34	8.7%	12.8%	7.0%	47.1 pp (4.1%)	- 45.3 pp (- 5.8%)	- 47.0 pp (- 6.2%)
<b>Rural areas</b>						
Overall (a)	17.8%	20.8%	8.8%	16.8 pp (3.0%)	57.7 pp (-12%)	- 50.6 pp (-9.0%)
15–19	56.5%	63.7%	44.7%	12.7 pp (7.2%)	- 29.8 pp (- 19.0%)	- 20.9 pp (- 11.8%)
20–24	28.6%	32.8%	11.4%	14.7 pp (4.2%)	- 65.2 pp (- 21.4%)	- 60.1 pp (- 17.2%)
25–29	17.2%	21.5%	6.0%	25.0 pp (4.3%)	- 72.1 pp (- 15.5%)	- 65.1 pp (- 11.2%)
30–34	13.2%	18.0%	9.7%	- 26.5 pp (-3.5%)	- 46.1 pp (- 8.3%)	- 26.5 pp (- 3.5%)

Source: Eurostat: (lfst\_r\_urgau) – extracted on 29.04.2020

Notes: a. Overall indicators are presented for 15–39 years old group from the total population; b. data not available.





The unemployment rate in Slovakia (for age group 15–39) was higher than the EU average until 2014 and the difference was notable. Since 2010, in order to support employment opportunities many information and advisory services have been established, which have resulted in positive outcomes. According to a Council Recommendation of April 2013, Slovakia has committed to the implementation of the Youth Guarantee. The Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan was the most complex strategy to strengthen youth employment in Slovakia. The Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family implemented National Projects financed through EU social Funds aimed at supporting the employment of young people below the age of 29. Since November 2012, the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Slovakia (supported through the national project) has aimed at promoting employment and reducing unemployment of selected groups of jobseekers. The project created 12.028 new jobs for youth age 29 and below. (The Youth Guarantee. Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family).

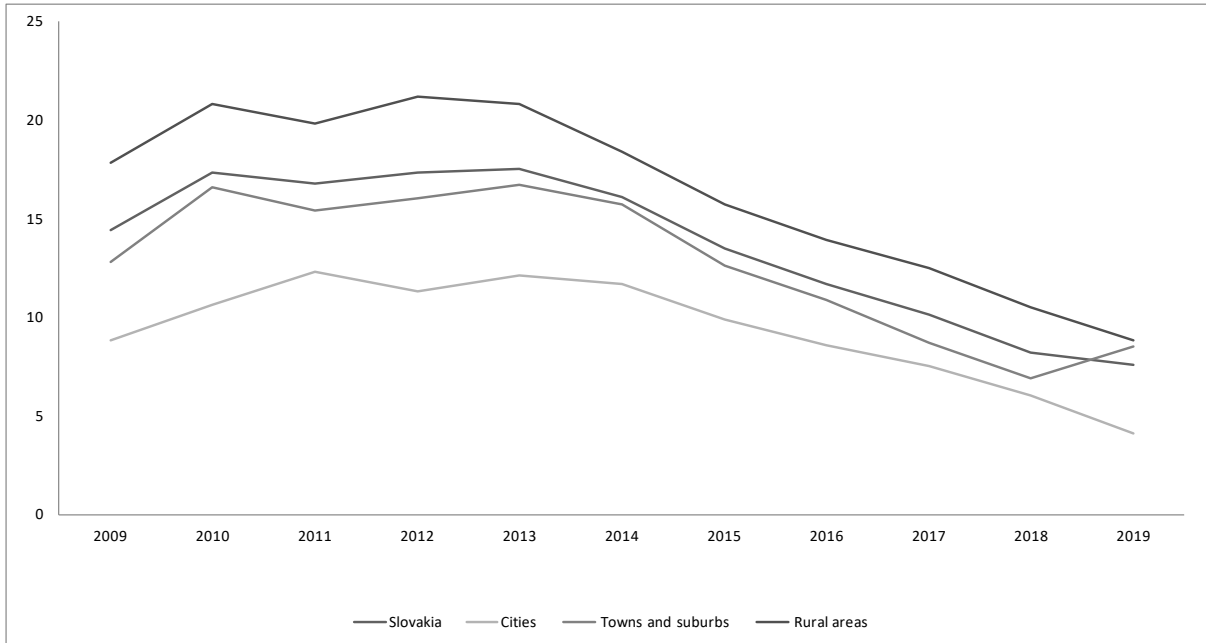
**Table 7. Unemployment rates by sex, age and degree of urbanisation (%), (age group 15–39)**

GEO/TIME	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
EU 28	11.7	12.6	12.7	13.9	14.3	13.4	12.2	11.2	10.0	9.0	8.3
Slovakia Total	14.4	17.3	16.8	17.3	17.5	16.1	13.5	11.7	10.1	8.2	7.6

Source: Eurostat (fst\_r\_urgau) – extracted on 29.04.2020



Chart 4. Unemployment rates by sex, age and degree of urbanisation (%) in Slovakia, (2009 – 2019)



Source: Eurostat (lfst\_r\_urgau) - extracted on 29.04.2020



### 3. 3. Education

29% of Youth in Slovakia believe that they have good access to quality of education.

According to the EU dialog in Slovakia 2019, formal education can't cover all aspects of preparation for employment. So many skills are youth learning in non-formal education.

(Youth dialog, 2019)

#### 3. 3. 1. Young people by educational attainment level

We used data for educational attainment for the age group 15–24 years–old and compared it across different levels of urbanisation and educational attainments. The comparison were: Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (levels 0–2); Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (levels 3 and 4); and, tertiary education (levels 5–8).

In 2019, the attainment level for ISCED 0–2 was 47.30% in all degrees of urbanisation throughout Slovakia. In 2019, the level of ISCED level 0–2 attained by youth was more than in 2009. In the cities this level reached 45.3%, in towns and suburbs 48.0%, and in rural areas 47.5% (in 2019). The number of 15–24 year-olds having less than ISCED 0–2 education increased over the previous decade 11.0 pp in cities (4.5%); in towns and suburbs by 5.7 pp (2.6%); and, in rural areas only by 3.30 pp (1.5%).

ISCED 3–4 attainment in 2019 was 44.2% of youth in all areas. In cities it was 44.4%, in towns and suburbs 43.8%, and in rural areas it was 44.6%. ISCED 3–4 decreased over the previous decade by (–13.40 pp; – 6.9%) in the cities; by (–13.10 pp; 6.6%) in towns and suburbs; and by (–11.90 pp; 2.3%) in rural areas.

Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education gradually decreased in all levels of urbanisation within Slovakia.



ISCED 5–8 reached 8.4% youth in all areas (2019), 10.2% in cities, 8.3% in towns and suburbs and 7.9% in rural areas. Comparing the 2009–2019 levels of education, it can be seen that ISCED 5–8 increased rapidly by (82.61 pp; 3.8%) at the national level; by (29.1 pp; – 2.3%) in cities; and by (97.6 pp; 4.1%) in towns and suburbs. **The highest increase was in rural areas by (132.30 pp; 4.5%) in the previous decade.** Between 2009 – 2013, the level of tertiary education in towns and suburbs increased by (104.80 pp; 4.4%). In 2012, in Slovak cities the educational attainment peaked at 15.60% but since then rapidly decreased to 8.4% in 2014. After this, it started increasing again and in 2018 it had reached 12.0%.

*Tertiary education increased rapidly by (132.30 pp; 4.5%) in rural areas.*

**Table 8. Population aged 15–24, by ISCED levels (%) and degree of urbanisation in Slovakia, including absolute and relative change (2009–2013, 2013–2019, 2009–2019)**

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013 )	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019 )	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019 )
<b>Country</b>						
ISCED 0–2	44.7%	44.4%	47.3%	0.67 pp (– 0.3%)	6.53 pp (2.9%)	5.82 pp (2.6%)
ISCED 3–4	50.7%	47.5%	44.2%	– 6.31 pp (– 3.2%)	6.95 pp (– 3.3%)	12.82 pp (– 6.5%)
ISCED 5–8	4.6%	8.1%	8.4%	76.09 pp (3.5%)	3.70 pp (0.3%)	82.61 pp (3.8%)
<b>Cities</b>						
ISCED 0–2	40.8%	42.5%	45.3%	4.20 pp (1.7%)	6.60 pp (2.8%)	11.00 pp (4.5%)
ISCED 3–4	51.3%	47.0%	44.4%	– 8.40 pp (– 4.3%)	–5.50 pp (– 2.6%)	–13.40 pp (– 6.9%)
ISCED 5–8	7.9%	10.4%	10.2%	31.60 pp (2.5%)	–1.90 pp (– 0.2%)	29.10 pp (2.3%)
<b>Towns and suburbs</b>						
ISCED 0–2	45.4%	43.0%	48.0%	– 5.30 pp (– 2.4%)	11.60 pp (5%)	5.70 pp (2.6%)
ISCED 3–4	50.4%	48.4%	43.8%	– 3.90 pp (2%)	– 9.50 pp (– 4.6%)	– 13.10 pp (6.6%)
ISCED 5–8	4.2%	8.6%	8.3%	104.80 pp (4.4%)	– 3.50 pp (0.3%)	97.60 pp (4.1%)
<b>Rural areas</b>						
ISCED 0–2	46.0%	46.0%	47.5%	0%	3.30 pp (1.5%)	3.30 pp (1.5%)
ISCED 3–4	50.6%	47.1%	44.6%	– 6.90 pp (3.5%)	– 20.90 pp (– 3.6%)	– 11.90 pp (2.3%)
ISCED 5–8	3.4%	6.8%	7.9%	100 pp (3.4%)	16.20 pp (1.1%)	132.30 pp (4.5%)

Source: Eurostat (edat\_ifs\_9913) – data extracted on 29.04.2020



### 3.3.2. Early school leavers

Data for Early School Leavers from Education and Training (further ESLET) was available only in age category 18–24 years old. We compared the data across different levels of degree of urbanisation for years 2009, 2013 and 2019. At the country level, the ESLET rate gradually increased. The highest increase of ESLET from 2009–2019 were in towns and suburbs. The difference was (155.0 pp; 6.2%). For males, the highest increase was between the years 2013–2019 (135.7 pp; 7.6%) in towns and suburbs. In total, all degrees of urbanisation the highest increase of ESLET was for females (92.7 pp; 3.8%) (2009–2019). The only decrease was for male ESLETs between 2013–2019 in rural areas (- 13.48 pp; - 1.2%). Between the years 2009–2019 the number of female ESLETs increased in rural areas by (40.30 pp; 2.3%). When it comes to sex-based comparisons, there are more male (13.2%) ESLET in towns and suburbs compared to females (10.2%). There was not a statistically important difference between males (7.7%) and females (8.8%) in rural areas in 2019, but there was an increase of ESLET females from 2009 onwards (40.3 pp; 2.3%).

*In the previous decade, in Slovakia (all degree of urbanisation) increased number of ESLET. Especially the increase in the numbers of ESLET females. The only decrease was for male ESLETs between 2013–2019, in rural areas.*



**Table 8. Population aged 15–24, by ISCED levels (%) and degree of urbanisation in Slovakia, including absolute and relative change (2009–2013, 2013–2019, 2009–2019)**

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013 )	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019 )	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019 )
<b>All degree of urbanisation</b>						
18–24 total	4.9%	6.4%	8.30%	30.60 pp (1.5%)	29.70 pp (1.9%)	69.40 pp (3.4%)
18–24 male	5.7%	6.7%	8.80%	17.50 pp (1%)	31.30 pp (2.1%)	54.40 pp (3.1%)
18–24 female	4.1%	6.1%	7.90%	48.80 pp (2%)	29.50 pp (1.8%)	92.70 pp (3.8%)
<b>Cities</b>	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.
<b>Towns and suburbs</b>						
18–24 total	5.1%	5.8%	11.7%	13.70 pp (0.7%)	101.70 pp (5.9%)	129.40 pp (6.6%)
18–24 male	7.9%	10.4%	10.2%	31.60 pp (2.5%)	-1.90 pp (- 0.2%)	29.10 pp (2.3%)
18–24 female	4.0%	6.0%	10.2%	50.00 pp (2%)	70.00 pp (4.2%)	155.00 pp (6.2%)
<b>Rural areas</b>						
18–24	6.2%	8.0%	7.9%	29.00 pp (1.8%)	- 1.25 pp (- 0.1%)	27.40 pp (1.7%)
18–24 male	6.7%	8.9%	7.7%	32.80 pp (2.2%)	- 13.48 pp (- 1.2%)	14.90 pp (1%)
18–24 female	5.7%	7.0%	8.0%	22.80 pp (1.3%)	14.30 pp (1%)	40.30 pp (2.3%)

Source: Eurostat (edat\_ifse\_30) – data extracted in 20.04.20

Note: a. data not available

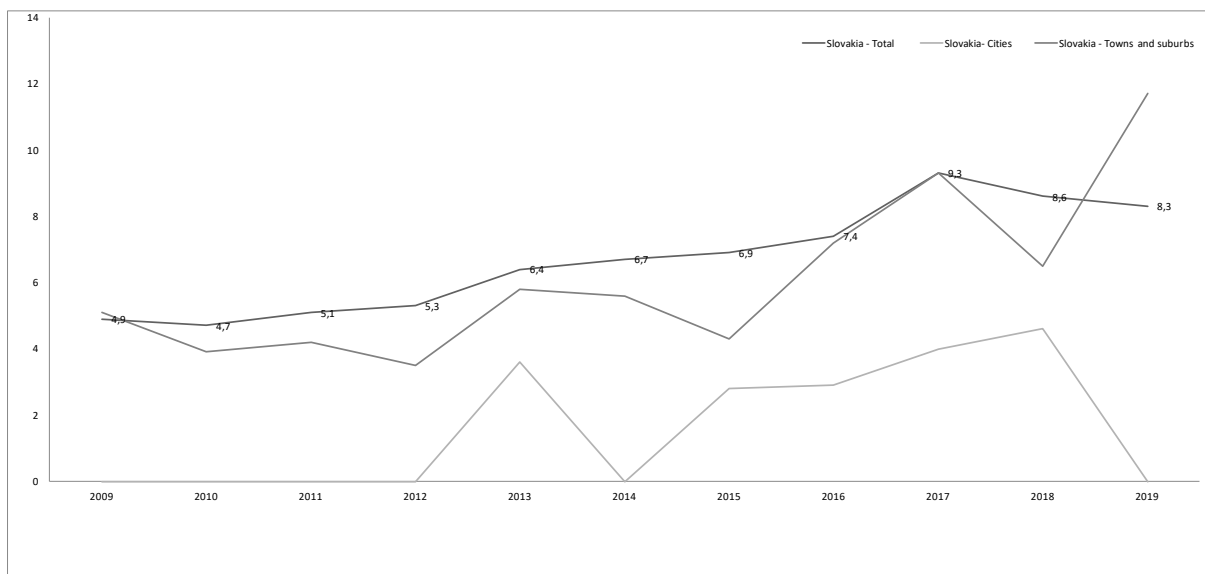


Table 10. ESLET rates age group 18–24 in Slovakia, absolute and relative change (2009–2013, 2013–2019, 2009–2019)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013 )	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019 )	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019 )
Total	4.90%	6.40%	8.30%	69.40 pp (3.40%)	30.36 pp (1.5%)	29.70 pp (1.9%)
Towns and suburbs	5.10%	5.80%	11.70%	129.40 pp (6.6%)	13.70 pp (0.7%)	101.70 pp (5.9%)
Rural areas	6.20%	8.00%	7.90%	27.40 pp (1.7%)	29.00 pp (1.80%)	- 1.20 pp (- 0.1%)

Source: Eurostat (edat\_ifse\_30) – data extracted in 20.04.20

Chart 5. Early school leavers from education and training by degree of urbanisation in Slovakia, (age group 18–24), 2009–2019.



Source: Eurostat (edat\_ifse\_30) – data extracted on 02.07.2020

The problem of ESLET and NEETS in rural areas (especially regarding marginalised Roma communities) is addressed by the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Roma Inclusion 2020. There is a significant problem with a quite high percentage of early schools leavers from marginalised Roma communities, especially among young girls (EACEA, 2020).



### 3. 4. NEETs

NEET is an acronym that stands for “Not in Education, Employment, or Training”. It refers to a person who is unemployed, not in school or vocational training. Presently, we will consider NEETs aged between 15–34 for the needs of this report. In 2019, 17.20% of this group were NEETs in Slovakia. The total percentage of NEETs in the age category 15–34 in Slovakia, compared to the EU average, is higher by 26.50% (relative change). (Slovakia 17.20%, EU average 13.60%). During the previous decade, the change in the amount of NEETs was quite moderate changing by 8.5% (relative change). The highest amount of NEETs in Slovakia were seen in 2013 (21.5%) and 2014 (21.4%). The lowest amount of NEETs were in 2018 and 2019 (17.2%). Since 2015, the amount of NEETs has been decreasing. After 2010 until 2014, their number was increasing due the economic crises around 2010. 19.40% NEETs were in age category 15–29. The lowest amount of NEETs were in category 15–17, at only 4.30%. The highest decrease was seen in rural areas in the 20–24 age category between 2009 – 2019, representing a 40.30 pp. In the 15–19 age category, there was quite a high increase of NEETs: in total a 35.8% relative change during 2009–2019.

Since 2013 the amount of NEETs (aged 15–34) has decreased in all degrees of urbanisation. The largest decrease was from 2013 to 2019 in the cities (– 25.9% pp) and rural areas (– 24.70% pp). In 2013, Slovakia was in the highest bracket for NEETs (aged 15–34) with 21.50% (total). Between 2013–2019 amount of NEETs (total) dropped by relative change – 20.0% pp. In general, the amount of NEETs (aged 15–34) in Slovakia increased from 2009 to 2013 and then decreased in the following manner: total in all areas – 20.00% (relative change); cities – 25.90% (relative change); and, rural areas – 24.70% (relative change). Since 2013 (for ages 15–34) the amount of NEETS in rural areas was gradually decreased.

Age category 15–29.

In 2019, there were more female NEETs in rural areas (aged 15–29) (19.4%) than male (9.7%). This difference is statistically important, representing 9.7% absolute change. The share of NEET young females aged 15–29 is higher than the EU average.





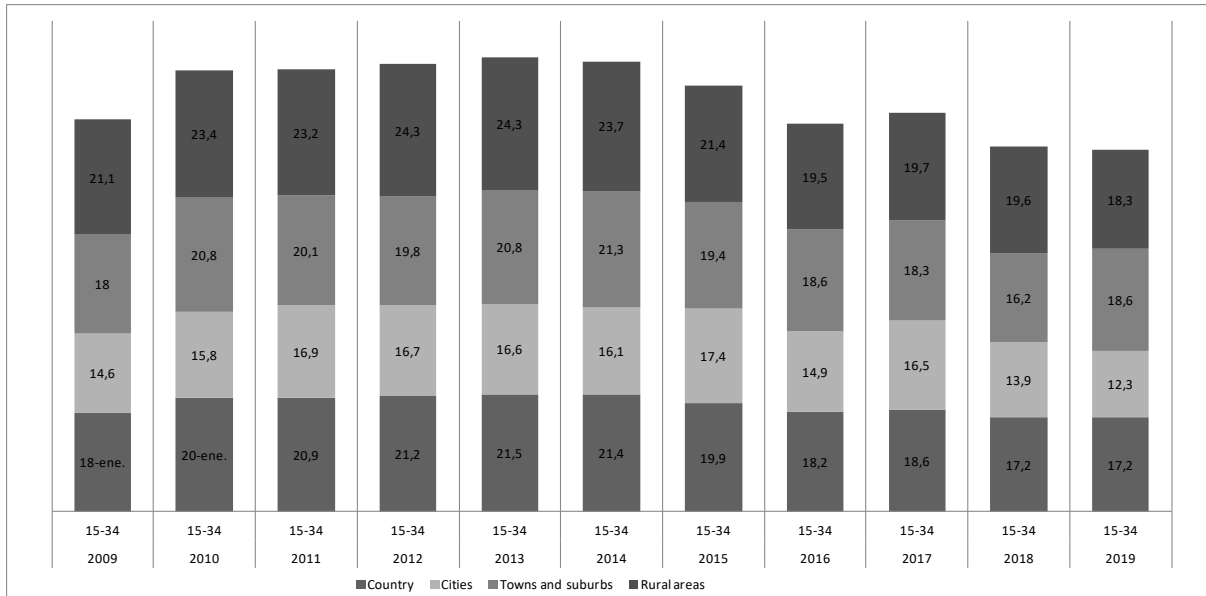
The largest share of NEETs females (15–29) lives in small towns and suburbs up to 23.3% (2019), comparing to 11.0% of male (2019). Rate for male is similar to EU average. The number of NEETs in rural areas has decreased. From 2009 – 2019, the number of NEETs (15–29) in rural areas decreased from 15.90% to 10.5%. The highest number of male NEETs in this age group was found in rural areas from 2012 to 2013 and in smaller towns/suburbs in 2011. The lowest amount of male NEETs was observed in 2018 (aged 15–29) in the cities (4.80%) and towns/suburbs (7.80%). In 2019, there were 5.4% male NEETs in the cities (aged 15–29). Comparing years 2009–2019, in 2018 (9.5%) and 2019 (9.7%) there was the lowest amount of male NEETs in total, on average. Over the same period, the lowest female NEETs rate was observed in 2019 (19.35%) in rural areas, 11.1% in cities and in 2017 the figure was 20.6% in towns and suburbs. The highest number of female NEETs live in small towns/suburbs with the exception being for 2019 in cities, where the rate for NEETs females was only 11.1%. The highest number of NEETs were in rural areas in 2012–2013 (24.3%), and the lowest was in 2019 (18.3%).

*In general, the amount of NEETs (15–34) in Slovakia increased from 2009 to 2013 but decreased after 2013. In 2019, there were more female NEETs in rural areas. The number of NEETs in rural areas has decreased overall.*



### 3. 4. 1. NEET rate

Chart 6. Youth NEET rate (%) 2009–2019 in Slovakia by degree of urbanisation (15–34)



Source: Eurostat (edat\_lfse\_30) – data extracted in 20.04.20



**Table 11. Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex, age and degree of urbanisation (NEET rates) absolute & relative change (2009–2013, 2013–2019, 2009–2019)**

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013 )	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019 )	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019 )
<b>Country</b>						
Overall	18.8%	21.5%	17.2%	14.4 pp (2.7%)	- 20.0 pp (- 4.3%)	- 8.5 pp (-1.6%)
15–19	4.3%	5.2%	6.2%	20.9 pp (0.9%)	19.2 pp (1.0%)	44.2 pp (1.9%)
20–24	19.3%	20.4%	13.5%	5.7 pp (1.1%)	- 33.8 pp (- 6.9%)	- 30.0 pp (- 5.8%)
25–29	25.8%	27.8%	20.7	7.7 pp (2.0%)	25.5 pp (- 7.1%)	-19.8 pp (-5.1%)
30–34	22.8%	27.8%	23.3%	21.9 pp (5.0%)	- 16.2 pp (- 4.5%)	2.2 pp (- 0.5%)
<b>Cities</b>						
Overall	14.60%	16.60%	12.30%	13.7 pp (2.00%)	- 25.9 pp (- 4.3%)	-15.8 pp (-2.3%)
15–19	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.
20–24	10.80%	16.90%	N/A	56.5 pp (6.10%)		
25–29	18.20%	18.60%	14.00%	2.2 pp (0.40%)	- 24.7 pp (- 4.6%)	- 23.1 pp (- 4.20%)
30–34	22.60%	21.50%	19.20%	- 4.9 pp (1.10%)	- 10.7 pp (- 2.30%)	- 15.0 pp (- 3.40%)
<b>Towns and suburbs</b>						
Overall	18.00%	20.80%	18.60%	15.6 pp (2.8%)	-10.6 pp (-2.2%)	3.3 pp (. 6%)
15–19	4.20%	5.10%	6.30%	21.4 pp (0.9%)	23.5 pp (1.2%)	50.0 pp (2.1%)
20–24	18.70%	19.60%	17.20%	4.8 pp (0.9%)	- 12.2 pp (- 2.4%)	- 8.0 pp (- 1.5%)
25–29	26.70%	28.20%	23.60%	5.6 pp (1.5%)	- 60.3 pp (-10.8%)	- 37.7 pp (- 4.3%)
30–34	19.10%	25.80%	21.80%	35.0 pp (6.70%)	- 15.5 pp (- 4.0%)	14.1 pp (2.7%)
<b>Rural areas</b>						
Overall	21.1%	24.3%	18.30%	15.2 pp (3.2%)	- 24.7 pp (- 6.0%)	-13.3 pp (- 2.8%)
15–19	5.3%	6.7	7.2	26.4 pp (1.4%)	7.5 pp (0.5%)	35.8 pp (1.9%)
20–24	23.1%	22.4%	13.8%	- 3.0 pp (- 0.7%)	- 38.4 pp (- 8.6%)	- 40.3 pp (- 9.3%)
25–29	29.40%	31.80%	21.20%	8.2 pp (2.4%)	- 33.3 pp (- 10.6%)	- 27.9 pp (- 8.2%)
30–34	24.90%	32.60%	27.50%	30.9 pp (7.7 %)	- 5.6 pp (- 5.1%)	10.4 pp (2.6%)

Source: Eurostat (edat\_ifse\_29) – data extracted on 29.04.2020

Note: a. Data not available



When it comes to comparison based on gender, there are statistically important differences. There is a notable gender imbalance in Slovakia. The percentage of NEETs males in 2019 was 9.8% and 25.0% for females.

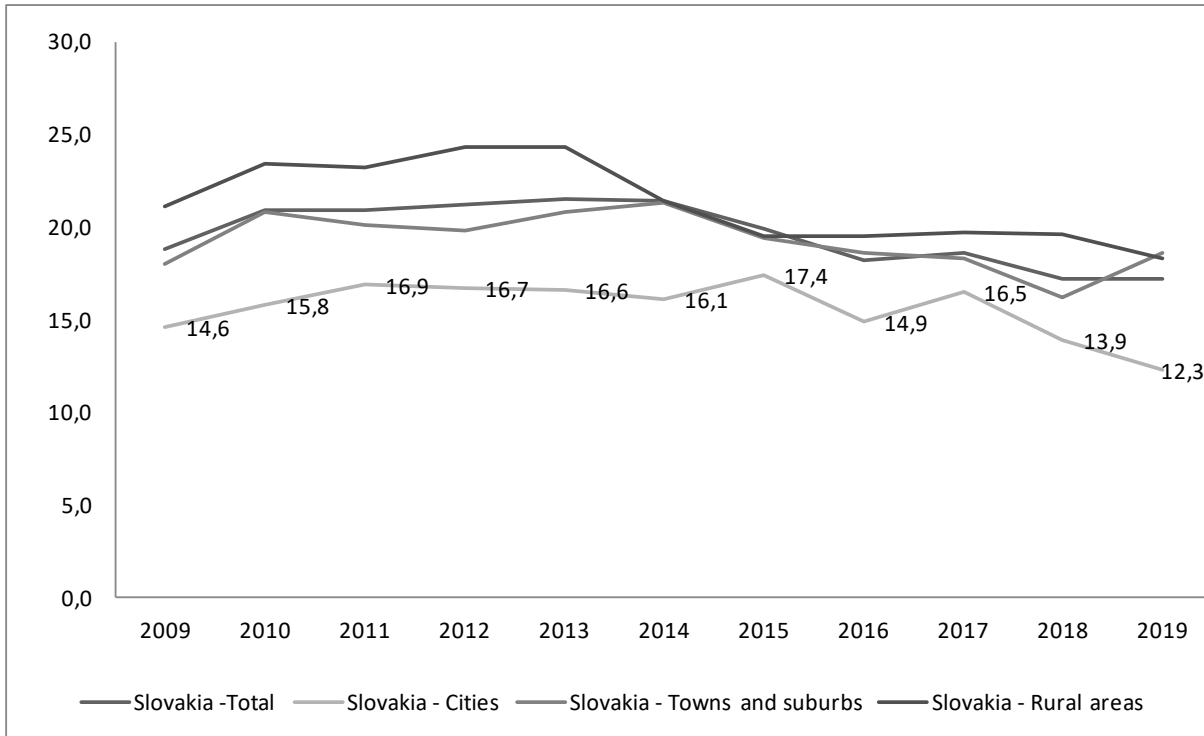
**Table 12. Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex, age and degree of urbanisation (NEET rates), (15–34 years).**

GEO/TIME	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Slovakia Females	24,8	26,1	26,3	27,5	27,5	27,7	26,9	25,2	26,0	25,2	25,0
Slovakia Male	13,0	16,0	15,7	15,3	15,8	15,4	13,2	11,6	11,6	9,6	9,8

Source Eurostat (edat\_lfse\_29) – data extracted on 29.04.2020



Chart 7. Youth NEETs rate (%) 2009–2019 in Slovakia by degree of urbanisation and sex



Source Eurostat (edat\_ifse\_29) – data extracted on 29.04.2020



## 4. CONCLUSIONS

**Youth population** | Young people represent 34.17% of the total population. Slovakia does not face a lack of young people, however, the youth population in Slovakia is gradually decreasing. The highest decrease was in age category 15–19 years old (– 28.70 pp; – 106.8%) and 20–24 years old (– 28.40 pp; – 119.6%). 43.0% of youth live in rural areas. In rural areas, it was a decade of decrease (– 38.50 pp; – 76.9%) for those aged 15–19 years old and (– 37.60 pp; – 83.9%) for those aged 20–24 years old. There are more males than females living in Slovakia (15–34 years old). However, there are more females than male living in rural areas.

**Youth employment** | In 2018–2019, in age category 15–39 the lowest unemployment rate of the previous decade was observed. Since 2010, the employment rate has been gradually increasing in all degrees of urbanisation. The highest increase was in age category 20–24 in rural areas (23.6 pp; 9.4%). However, in towns and suburbs also, for age category 15–19, there was an increase (90 pp; 1.8%) (2013–2019).

**Youth unemployment** | The unemployment rate among all youth age groups in last decade has rapidly decreased. In 2019, the unemployment rate for the total population in Slovakia reached 4.92%. The highest increase of youth unemployment overall was between the years 2009 – 2013 (87.85 pp; 3.1%). The lowest unemployment rate was in 2019 in the age category 30–34 (3.9%) and 4.5% for age category 25–29 in the cities. In rural areas, for age category 25–29, it was only 6.0%. Youth unemployment has been rising every year since 2009, peaking in 2012/2013. After its peak, it started to gradually decrease. The highest decrease of unemployment was in the age category 25–29. Over the previous decade it decreased (– 55.5 pp; – 7.6%) in total: in cities (– 52.1 pp; – 4.9%) and in rural areas (– 65.1 pp; – 11.2%).

**Educational attainment** | In Slovakia, between 2009 and 2019, the population aged 15 to 24 years old has become more educated. The number of those with an education equivalent to ISCED–2 has increased, ISCED 3–4 has likewise gradually decreased in all levels of urbanisation and ISCED 5–8 has increased also. The highest increase was in the previous decade was for level ISCED 5–8 in rural areas (132.30 pp; 4.5%).



**ESLET** | In last decade – all degree of urbanisation number of ESLET in Slovakia increased. The highest increase was especially for females ESLET. There was an increase of ESLET females in rural areas from 2009 and a decrease of ESLET males in rural areas. For males, the highest increase was between 2013–2019 (135.70 pp; 7.6%) in towns and suburbs. In total, between 2009–2019, all degrees of urbanisation saw the highest increase for ESLET females (92.70 pp; 3.8%). The only decrease was for ESLET males in rural areas between 2013–2019 (– 13.48 pp; – 1.2%). From 2009–2019, the number of ESLET females increased in rural areas by (40.30 pp; 2.3%).

**NEETs** | NEETs share has slightly decreased in the previous decade in Slovakia. In 2019, Slovakia had 17.20% NEETs. The highest decrease was (– 40.30 pp; – 9.30%) in rural areas for age group 20–24. There is a notable gender imbalance in Slovakia. The percentage of NEETs males in 2019 was 9.8 but 25.0 for females.



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## 6. IMPORTANT LINKS

Act Nr. 282/2008 Coll. on youth work support from the year 2020 – <https://www.iuventa.sk/en/Legislation.alej>

IUVENTA – <https://www.iuventa.sk/sk/IUVENTA-home.alej>

KOMPRAK.IUVENTA – <https://www.iuventa.sk/sk/KomPrax/Home.alej>

Labour Code. Slovak Republic – <https://www.employment.gov.sk/files/praca-zamestnanost/vztah-zamestnanca-zamestnavateľa/zakonnik-prace/zakonnik-prace-anglicka-verzia-labour-code-full-wording-2012.pdf>

National Business Centre – <http://www.sbagency.sk/en/national-business-center#.Xnio8mBCfIU>

Rural Parliament – <https://www.vipa.sk/>

Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Years 2014–2020 – [https://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Slovakia\\_2014\\_Youth\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Slovakia_2014_Youth_Strategy.pdf)

Youth Council – [www.strukturovanydialog.sk](http://www.strukturovanydialog.sk) a [www.mladez.sk](http://www.mladez.sk)



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