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Young people and free time in Ljubljana:

A psychosocial analysis of needs and possibilities for their realisation

Summary of Research Report
November 2004

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to study how young people in Ljubljana spend their time. We were interested to know what kind of clubs and other organised activities they join, what they do in their free time besides this, why they choose specific activities and what prevents them from doing what they would like. We were also interested in what they do when they are with their friends, where they usually meet in their free time and what they think the city is missing. The participants gave us a subjective evaluation of the time they spend in various social contexts. We established whether young people of different ages differ in the way they spend their free time or whether young people who do not do well at school and unemployed young people have different free-time habits and needs to their contemporaries and how young people usually spend their free time in different locations in the city (in the street, in cafés and bars, in sports facilities, in cultural and alternative cultural premises). The research included approximately 2000 young people aged between 12 and 26. In November 2003 they completed a questionnaire which mostly contained questions of the open type. Analysis of the responses shows that young people's participation in organised free-time activities declines as they get older. At the same time, passive use of free time decreases as they get older and active ways of spending free time become more frequent. Young people of all ages most frequently spend their free time playing sport, listening to music and watching television, and socialising with friends. They would like to have even more sport, art and entertainment. The gathering places for young adolescents are mainly the street and courtyards, while young adults mainly meet in cafés and bars (older adolescents gather both in the street and in cafés and bars). Young people's dissatisfaction with how they spend their free time increases as they get older. In the city young people of all ages most frequently express a desire for better bus services, cycle paths and green surfaces and more tolerant interpersonal relations. Older adolescents and young adults more often want more public events than young adolescents and would like more places for young people to socialise. Young adolescents and older adolescents are more likely than young adults to want proper sports grounds. Older adolescents would like more cafés and bars, discos and amusements than the other two groups. Differences also appeared between how unsuccessful young people spend their free time and between different focus groups of young people.



Keywords: free time, interests, young people, friends, peers

1. PURPOSE AND AIMS

The purpose of this research was to study **how young people in Ljubljana spend their free time**. We therefore set ourselves the aim of finding out the following:

- how young people of different generations spend their free time in Ljubljana,
- what are the social/psychological profiles of young people with regard to the structure of use of free time,
- what forms of free time activity do young people miss in the city,
- what are the social, economic, physical and other impediments to the desired free-time activities,
- what aspects of young people's free-time needs are unsatisfactory,
- how could any discrepancy between the needs of young people and the free-time possibilities in neighbourhoods and the city as a whole be eliminated.

We pursued this objective by means of the following research questions:

- whether young people of different ages differ in the way they spend their free time,
- whether academically unsuccessful young people at primary and secondary schools and unemployed young people spend their free time in a different way from their peers,
- what differences are there in the structure of free time of young people who usually spend their free time in specific locations in the city (streets, cafés, sports facilities, cultural institutions, alternative cultural spaces).

2. METHOD

2.1. PARTICIPANTS

In line with the purpose of the research, we defined a target population as follows: young people aged between **12 and 26** who spend their free time in Ljubljana. These are pupils from the last two or three years of primary school, secondary school pupils, students, young people in employment and unemployed young people. As well as those who are permanently resident in Ljubljana, they include secondary school pupils and students who attend school or university in Ljubljana and are living in the city on a temporary basis (commuters are not included in the target population because they spend their free time in the place where they live).

Since young people aged between 12 and 26 are not a homogeneous group, at least as regards development and psychological characteristics, we decided to use separate samples for three different age groups:

- **young adolescents aged between 12 and 14** – pupils from the last years of primary school,
- **older adolescents aged between 15 and 18** – mainly secondary school pupils (young people in employment and unemployed young people account for less than 2% in this age group)
- **young adults aged between 19 and 26** – young adults who have completed their education or are continuing it (students, young people in employment and unemployed young people).

We took a sample of young adolescents from among penultimate-year and final-year pupils at primary schools in Ljubljana, and a sample of older adolescents from among pupils at Ljubljana secondary schools. Young adults were sampled at random at various locations in the city. A total of 2189 young people were given the questionnaire.



2.1.1. Sample of young adolescents

Of the 46 **primary schools** in the City of Ljubljana, **18** volunteered to take part in the research. At each school the pupils of two entire classes (**one year 7 class and one year 8 class**) took part in the research. We chose this step in order to obtain data on free time from all pupils regardless of their academic success. A total of 662 pupils from the last two years of primary school took part. We then made a **random selection of pupils** to act as a sample of young adolescents who would **proportionally represent** the pupils from the last two years of primary school **by individual former Ljubljana municipalities** (see Table 1). The representative sample of young adolescents included **476 pupils** (48.5% from year 7 and 51.5% from year 8; 46.5% are boys and 53.5% are girls).

Table 1: Sample and population of young adolescents (primary school pupils from years 7, 8 and 9)

Primary schools By districts:	Pupils from years 7, 8 and 9			
	population		sample	
	<i>number</i>	<i>share</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>share</i>
City Centre	1299	15.9%	80	16.8%
Vič-Rudnik	1535	18.8%	79	16.6%
Šiška	1797	21.9%	115	24.2%
Bežigrad	1420	17.3%	77	16.2%
Moste-Polje	2135	26.1%	125	26.3%
TOTAL	8186		476	

2.1.2. Sample of older adolescents

Of the 31 **secondary schools** in the City of Ljubljana, **14** volunteered to take part in the research. These included 7 general or technical *gimnazija* programmes, two arts *gimnazija* programmes, 8 technical programmes and 5 vocational secondary programmes. At each secondary school the pupils of two entire classes (**one year 1 class and one year 3 class from each programme**) took part in the research. A total of 1022 pupils from Ljubljana secondary schools took part.

First of all we **excluded the commuting pupils**. We then made a **random selection of pupils** with regard to the **proportional representation of individual types of school** (*gimnazija*, technical, vocational). Because of the low number of participating pupils from vocational schools, we had to exclude a large number of pupils from other types of school in order to ensure that the sample was representative (see Table 2). The sample included **477 pupils** (53.9% from year 1 and 46.1% from year 3; 54.3% were boys and 45.7% were girls).



Table 2: Sample and population of older adolescents (secondary school pupils from years 1 & 3)

secondary schools by programmes:	secondary school pupils			
	population		sample	
	<i>number</i>	<i>share</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>share</i>
<i>gimnazija – general</i>	9264	38.1%	181	37.9%
<i>gimnazija – art</i>	474	1.9%	11	2.3%
technical	10481	43.1%	205	43.0%
vocational	4094	16.8%	80	16.8%
TOTAL	24313		477	

2.1.3. Sample of young adults

The sampling of young adults was done at random among adult individuals at **various locations in the city** where they spend their free time and among those inquiring about employment at the Employment Office. A total of 505 young adults took part.

We then made a **random selection** of individuals in three groups (**students, young people in employment, and unemployed young people**) so that their shares in the sample were **proportional** to their shares in the population (see Table 3). The representative sample of young adults who spend their free time in the City of Ljubljana included **375 people**.

Table 3: Sample and population of young adults

status:	population		sample	
	<i>number</i>	<i>share</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>share</i>
students	45350	86.3%	316	84.3%
employed	5210	9.9%	42	11.2%
unemployed	1987	3.8%	17	4.5%
TOTAL	52547		375	

The sample includes young people aged between 18 and 26. The average age is 22.1. The gender make-up of the sample is 43% men and 57% women. Of the students, 46.4% are students of sciences or technical disciplines, while 53.6% study social sciences or arts subjects. The proportions of students in the sample are proportional to the shares in the overall student population (46.6% sciences/technical disciplines and 53.4% social sciences/arts disciplines). The proportions of students from the first two years (45.5%), students from the third, fourth and fifth years (31.3%) and graduands (21.4%) also correspond to the proportions in the sample (47.7%, 31.0% and 21.3% respectively). Although the students are from all the faculties of Ljubljana University, the proportions in the sample are not proportional to the populations from each faculty.



2.1.4. 'Focus group' samples

In order to study different profiles of free-time activity, we placed some groups of young people under the microscope ('focus groups').

On the one hand we were interested in young people who are unsuccessful at school and unsuccessful in seeking employment (i.e. unemployed young people). The sample of unsuccessful primary and secondary school pupils included those participating pupils who in the last assessment period (at the conclusion of the previous academic year, i.e. 2002/03) achieved 'unsatisfactory' and 'satisfactory' grades. Of the unsuccessful primary school pupils, 34% are from year 7 and 66% are from year 8. Of the unsuccessful secondary school pupils, 41.5% are from year 1 and 58.5% are from year 3; 16.5% are *gimnazija* pupils, 61.2% are technical school pupils and 22.3% are vocational school pupils. Of the unemployed, 44.1% are studying: 9 at the University of Ljubljana, 13 at a secondary technical school, 3 at a vocational secondary school and 1 at a people's university. The sample is shown in more detail in Table 4.

Table 4: Samples of unsuccessful young people

Groups	N	sex M	sex F	age group	average age
academically unsuccessful primary school pupils	50 (8.0% of participants)	54.3 %	45.7%	13 – 16	13.9
academically unsuccessful secondary school pupils	188 (18.4% of participants)	70.7 %	29.3 %	14 – 21	16.6
unemployed young people	60	55.0 %	45.0 %	15 – 28	22.0

On the other hand we were interested in young people who spend their free time in different social contexts. We therefore devoted special attention to young people who usually spend their free time in the streets, in cafés/bars, at sports facilities, in premises intended for cultural activities and in premises intended for alternative culture. We gave the different samples the following names: 'street' – young people who spend their free time in the street, in courtyards, etc.; 'coffee bar' – young people who spend their time in cafés; 'sporty' – young people who spend most of their spare time playing sport; 'arty' – young people who in their free time attend cultural events and other cultural space (libraries, museums, etc.; 'alternative' – young people who frequent alternative cultural spaces. A description of the focus group sample is given in Table 5.

Table 5: Focus group samples

Focus groups	N	sex M	sex Ž	age group	average age	in education (N _{PS} - N _{SS} - N _{Uni})	employed	unemployed
"street"	68	34	34	12 – 26	18.2	77.6 % (14 - 24 - 19)	13.8 %	8.6 %
"coffee bar"	74	36	38	15 – 26	20.9	89.2 % (0 - 23 - 43)	10.8 %	/
"sporty"	40	20	20	12 – 26	20.8	70.0 % (2 - 7 - 19)	25.0 %	5.0 %
"arty"	66	23	43	12 – 27	21.9	86.4 % (2 - 1 - 54)	10.6 %	3.0 %
"alternative"	56	24	32	14 – 26	21.3	75.0 % (0 - 13 - 29)	25.0 %	/



2.2. THE INSTRUMENT

For this research we compiled a questionnaire on free time for adolescents and young adults (two versions were prepared, one for school pupils and one for young adults). We used the questionnaire to collect data on demographic characteristics (age, sex, place of residence, family status, education level of family, social position, economic position, forms and means of spending free time and motivation for specific activities, who they spend their free time with and their wishes and needs for changes in the way they spend their free time in Ljubljana. Some questions were multiple choice, though more than half allowed respondents to respond freely in their own words.

2.3. THE PROCEDURE

2.3.1. Collecting the data

In the second half of October 2003 we wrote to all primary schools and secondary schools in Ljubljana inviting them to take part in the research. In late October and early November 2003 the selected classes at those schools which had decided to take part collected parental consent forms (sent out together with a letter explaining the purpose and aims of the research). In November 2003 the researchers carried out the research in schools while at the same time in public spaces (streets, courtyards, parks) and public premises in the city (sports facilities, museums, libraries, cinemas, theatres, youth cultural centres, clubs, information points, cafés and the employment office) they surveyed young people aged between 18 and 26. These were chosen at random and invited to take part.

In primary and secondary schools the surveying was done in groups, in written form, by individual classes and took up to half an hour. The surveying of young adults was done individually either in written form or as an interview.

2.3.2 Processing the data

In the first half of December 2003 the data was input into the computer and the free answers coded. Coding took place in two stages. First the free answers to individual questions were combined into narrow categories of identical and very similar answers. These were then combined into broader categories of answers relating to the activities of the same type. For the same questions in both versions of the questionnaire we formulated the same categories of answers.

In January 2004 we prepared representative samples of young adolescents, older adolescents and young adults and 'focus group' samples. Over the course of the next few months we carried out statistical processing of the collected data by individual samples or groups of young people. For all answers we carried out descriptive analyses. We decided against more complex statistical analysis mainly because of the low level of measurement (nominal or in some cases ordinal). For this reason the majority of the comparative data was merely qualitatively analysed across the samples. We compared the samples of young people of different ages against each other according to individual variables, while we compared the focus groups with peer groups. The results of unsuccessful primary school pupils with the average of all primary school pupils, unsuccessful secondary school pupils with the average of all secondary school pupils and unemployed young people with the average of young adults. We compared the results of the focus groups from the various locations in which they spend their free time with their peers in terms of the average age of the young people in the group. Thus we compared members of the 'street' category with the average of secondary school pupils and the members of the other groups with the average values of variables in the case of young adults.



3. RESULTS

We shall merely present here a summary of those responses to the questions in the questionnaire which were given by at least a tenth of respondents in each of the age groups. More detailed analyses of the answers to individual questions are presented in the final report of the research.

3.1. FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT AGES

3.1.1. Organised activities

A sixth of young adolescents – primary school pupils¹ – do not attend any extra-curricular activities (17.4%). The remaining primary school pupils attend on average two extra-curricular activities (M=2.11). Just over a quarter of primary school children attend a foreign language course in their free time. A seventh of them go to basketball, religious instruction or dancing. Just over a tenth attend a music school, and a similar number play volleyball. Just under a tenth belong to a music group or choir, and roughly the same number play football.

More than two fifths of older adolescents – secondary school pupils² – (44.2%) attend no extra-curricular activity or other organised free-time activity. Other secondary school pupils attend on average one to two extra-curricular activities (M=1.47). Approximately one eighth of secondary school pupils do fitness or aerobics. The same proportion belong to a music group or choir. Slightly fewer learn a foreign language as an extra-curricular activity.

Almost two fifths of young adults³ (38.7%) do not attend any organised free-time activity. The remaining young adults attend on average one to two organised activities (M=1.40). A quarter of young adults go to fitness or aerobics, a sixth work as volunteers and an eighth go to dancing classes. Just under a tenth belong to a music group or choir and the same proportion work in societies of various types. In fewer than 6% of cases are young adults involved in other organised activities.

The number secondary school pupils who do not take part in any organised free-time activity is twice as high as the number of primary school pupils. At the same time the choice of extra-curricular activities available at primary schools is greater than at secondary schools.

Young adolescents are more frequently involved in organised sports activities than young adults are. Young adults more frequently go to fitness classes than young adolescents do, and are more frequently members of voluntary societies and other societies. The question of access to organised sports activities for older adolescents and young adults and access to various voluntary societies for secondary and primary school pupils remains open.

¹ From this point on, we shall use the designation ‘primary school pupils’ for the sample of young adolescents that only includes pupils from the last two years of primary school.

² From this point on we shall use the designation ‘secondary school pupils’ for the sample of older adolescents that only includes secondary school pupils.

³ The young adults category includes a small number of young adults aged over 25. From this point on we shall use the designation ‘young adults’ for this sample.



3.1.2. Non-organised free time

As young people get older, the share of those who spend their free time passively falls. On the other hand active use of free time increases among young adults: more of them attend cultural events, more of them read and go on excursions and parties. Roughly the same number of young people of all ages meet their friends every day and play sport and occasionally take part in artistic activities.

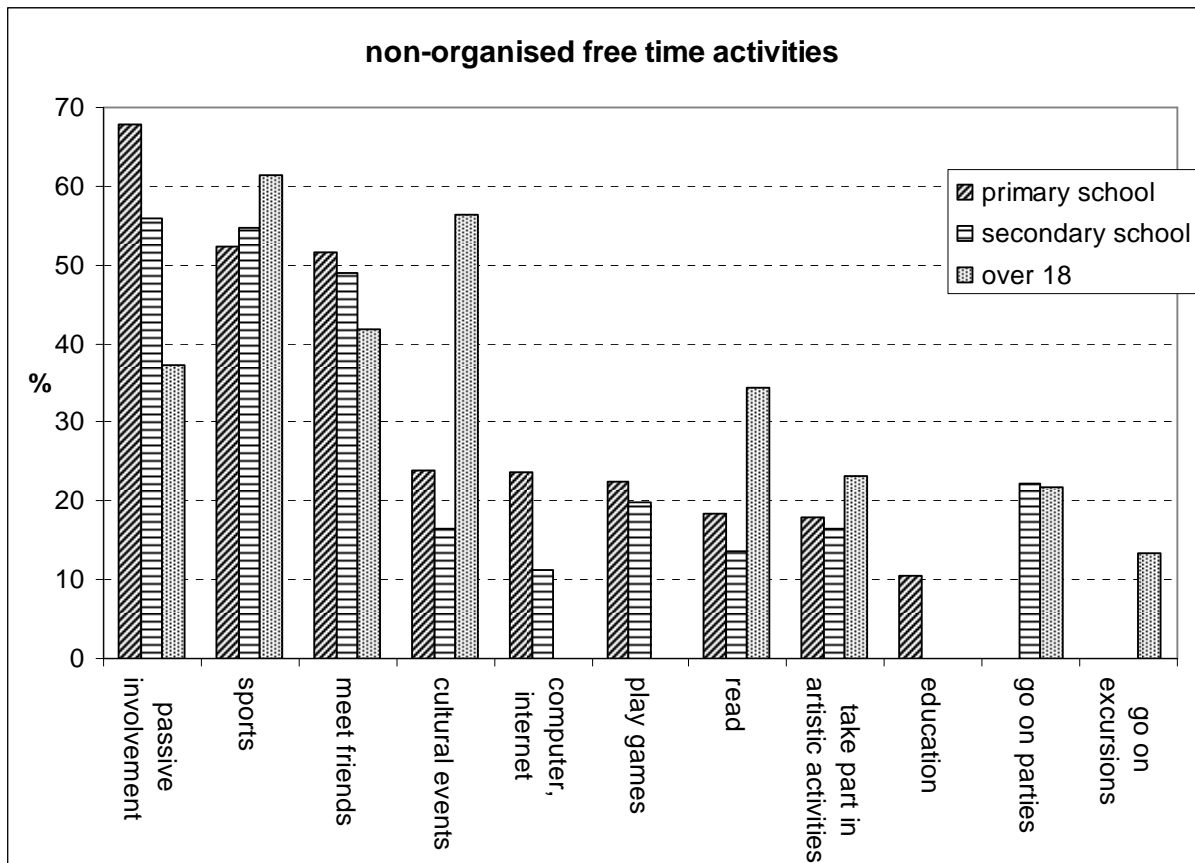


Figure 1: Activities of young people in non-organised free time with regard to age



3.1.3. Most frequent activities

Among the most frequent activities of young people, regardless of age, are various sports, listening to music and watching TV, and socialising with friends. The main inducements to take part in all manner of activities are friends and the possibility of meeting new people, and also the fact that they consider the activity to be useful for life or an activity in which they can express themselves freely.

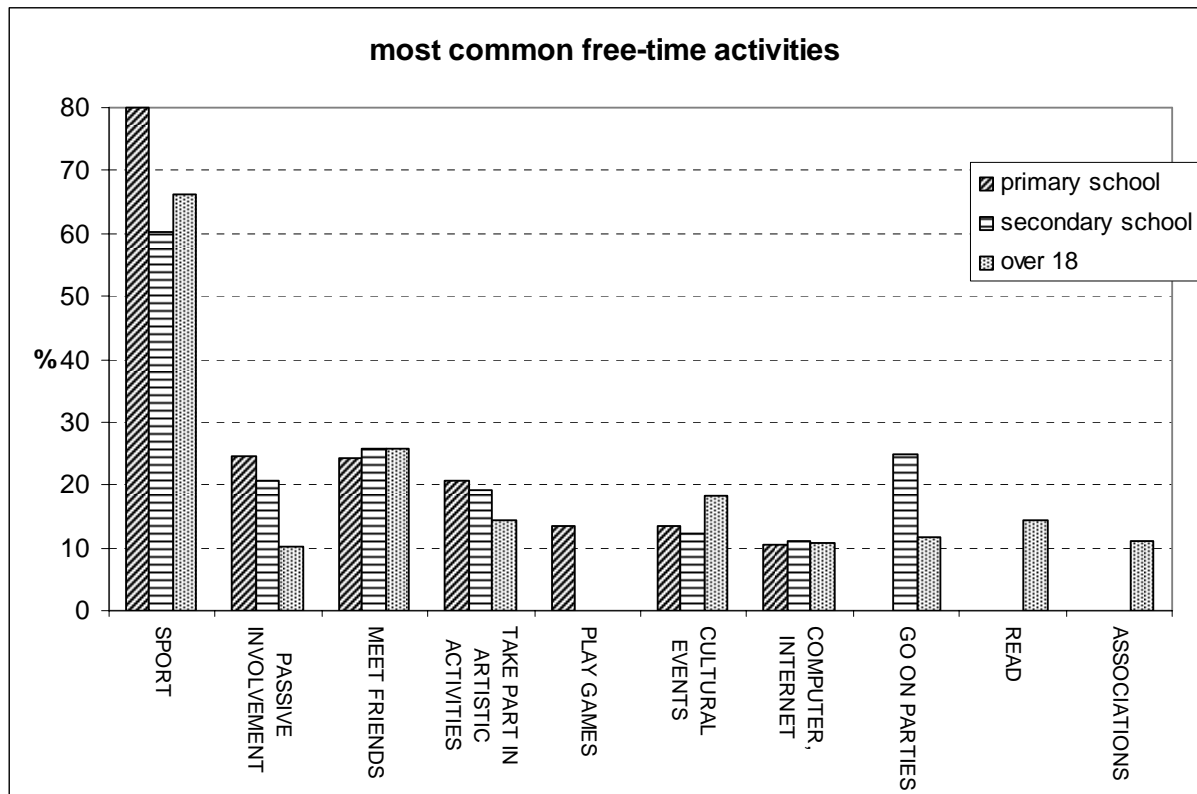


Figure 2: Most common free-time activities of young people with regard to age

3.1.4. Use of free time in different social contexts

Young people of all ages are for the most part satisfied with the use of their free time in the family, with friends, and independently. Young adolescents and young adults are also for the most part satisfied with participation in clubs and societies, while the majority of older adolescents would like to spend more time in them. It would be worth drawing the attention of various youth organisations to the willingness of this segment of the population to participate. Here, the question of whether secondary school pupils have sufficient free time remains open.

As young adolescents become older adolescents, the share of the time they spend with friends increases and the share of time they spend with the family decreases. The share of free time they spend alone does not change with age. This shows that young people's friends become increasingly important as they get older.



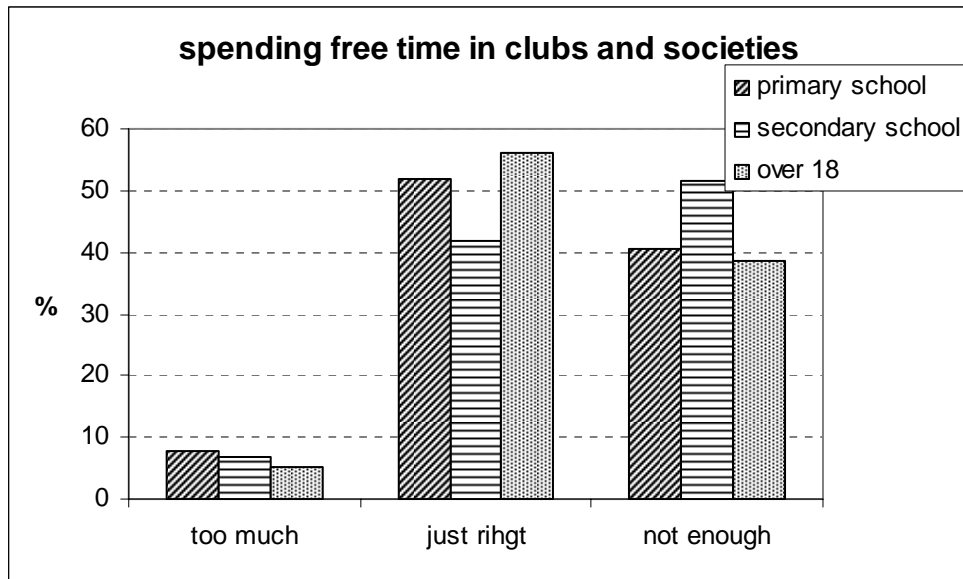


Figure 3: Subjective assessments of free time that young people spend in clubs and societies, with regard to age

3.1.5. Free time with friends and gathering places

For young people from all age groups the most popular activities with friends are: talking, joking, socialising, having parties and drinking/smoking/experimenting with drugs. Together with friends they go to the cinema, to play sport, to cafés and bars, on walks, or wander round the city. They also play and create together. As they get older the frequency of sports activities among friends falls slightly while the frequency of visits to cultural events (especially the cinema) increases. More older adolescents have parties and drink/smoke/experiment with drugs with friends than do young people of the other age groups, and more of them go to cafés and bars.

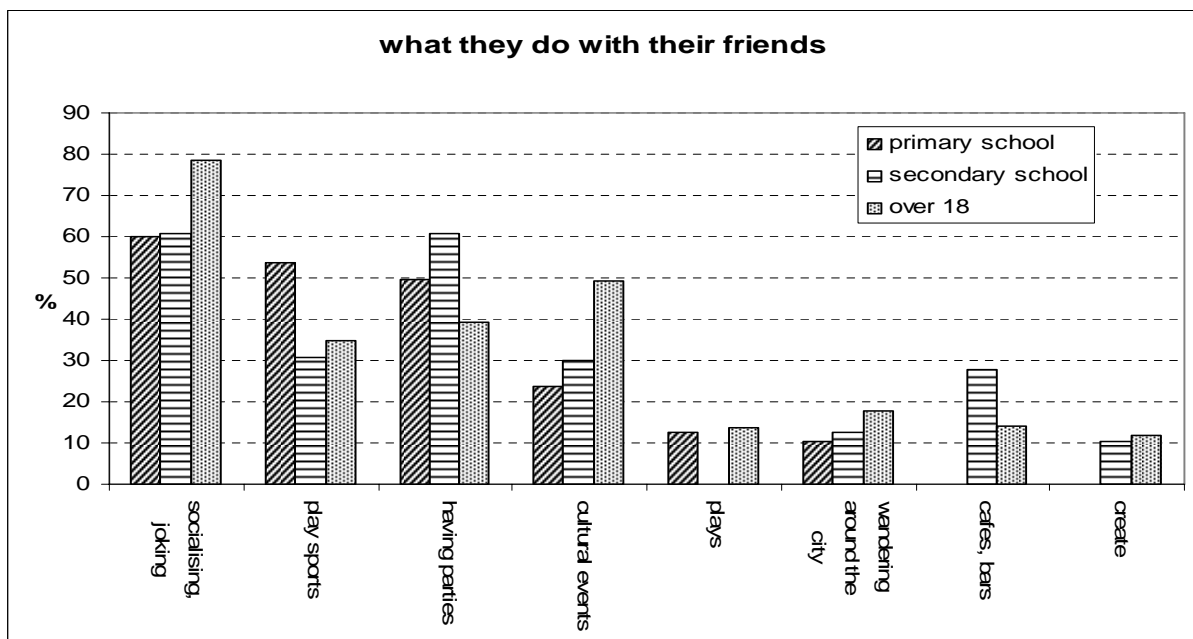


Figure 4: Activities of young people with friends, with regard to age



Streets and courtyards, the main gathering places of primary school pupils, are substituted by cafés and bars among young adults (while secondary school pupils frequently gather both in the street and in cafés and bars). For young adults the possibilities increase of visiting various public spaces (e.g. cultural) which are more often than not inaccessible to young adolescents and even to older adolescents (parental restrictions, financial limitations, limitations of programme). Both young adolescents and older adolescents meet friends in locations that are close to them and where they have good company. Among young adults, the most important criterion in the choice of locations, besides good company, is the possibility of carrying out a specific activity. Accessibility of locations is less important for young adults. Meeting friends in a specific place because they have nowhere else to meet is cited as a reason by more secondary school pupils than primary school pupils, while hardly any young adults mention this. We can conclude from the above that for a considerable proportion of young people in Ljubljana (two thirds of primary school pupils and almost half of secondary school pupils), the street is the everyday and frequently the only choice of location for meeting in free time. There they are left to themselves, away from the proper supervision and stimulation of adults, which represents a risk factor for the development of antisocial behaviour among young people.

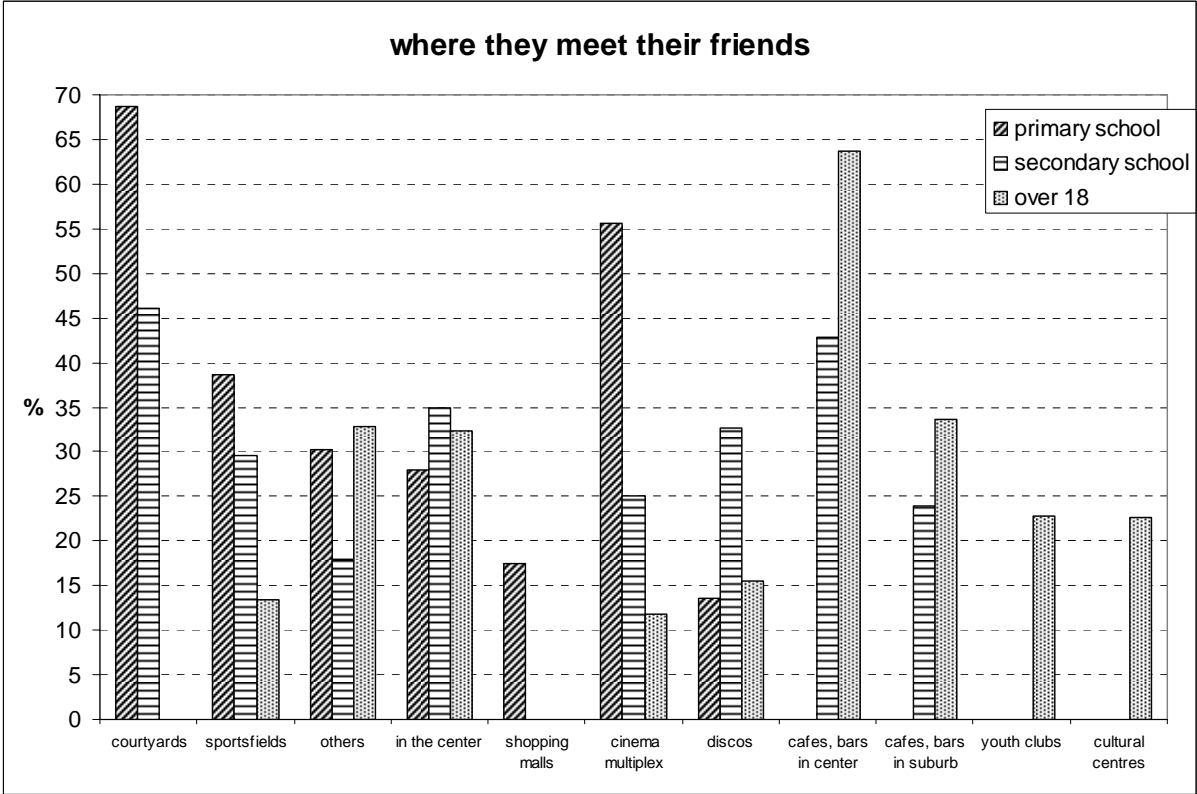


Figure 5: Locations where young people of the three age groups meet up with friends



3.1.6. Satisfaction with free time and wishes

As they get older, young people's dissatisfaction with how they spend their free time increases, although it remains below 5% even among young adults. At the same time, the share of young people who are completely satisfied with how they spend their free time falls as they get older – from two thirds of respondents to just half.

The share of young people who want more organised free-time activities falls as they get older (from two thirds of respondents to a half), while the share of those who do not want organised activities grows (from a third to a half). However even in the group of young adults the share of those who want organised activities is slightly higher than the share of those who do not want them.

A majority of young people of all age groups think that everyone should see to their own free-time activities. Many (around 40%), however, are of the opinion that this is the job of the Youth Office or the city authorities or other organisations working with young people. In these figures it is possible to make out a reflection of young people's need for a bigger and more varied range of free-time activities in the city, from which they can make their own independent choice.

Table 6: Opinions of young people from the three age groups on who should ensure that their free-time wishes are realised

	primary school	secondary school	over 18
CITY AUTHORITIES	31.9%	42.8%	42,3%
YOUTH OFFICE	42.2%	50.3%	30,7%
LOCAL RESIDENTS	6.8%	15.1%	8,3%
PARENTS	44.9%	33%	3%
FRIENDS	16.4%	16.2%	19,1%
THEMSELVES	50.1%	45.8%	67,4%
NO-ONE	4.2%	6.7%	4,4%
OTHER ORGANISATIONS			32.9%
SOMEONE ELSE			6.6%



Young adolescents and older adolescents mainly want to spend their free time on sport, art and enjoying themselves. Besides sport and art, young adults also want to learn foreign languages. All groups want excursions or trips, while young adolescents and older adolescents also want to attend more cultural events. We can recognise in the list of desired activities a reflection of basic human needs for movement, company, creativity and research (or learning something new). In the majority of cases respondents do not take part in the desired activities because of a lack of money or time.

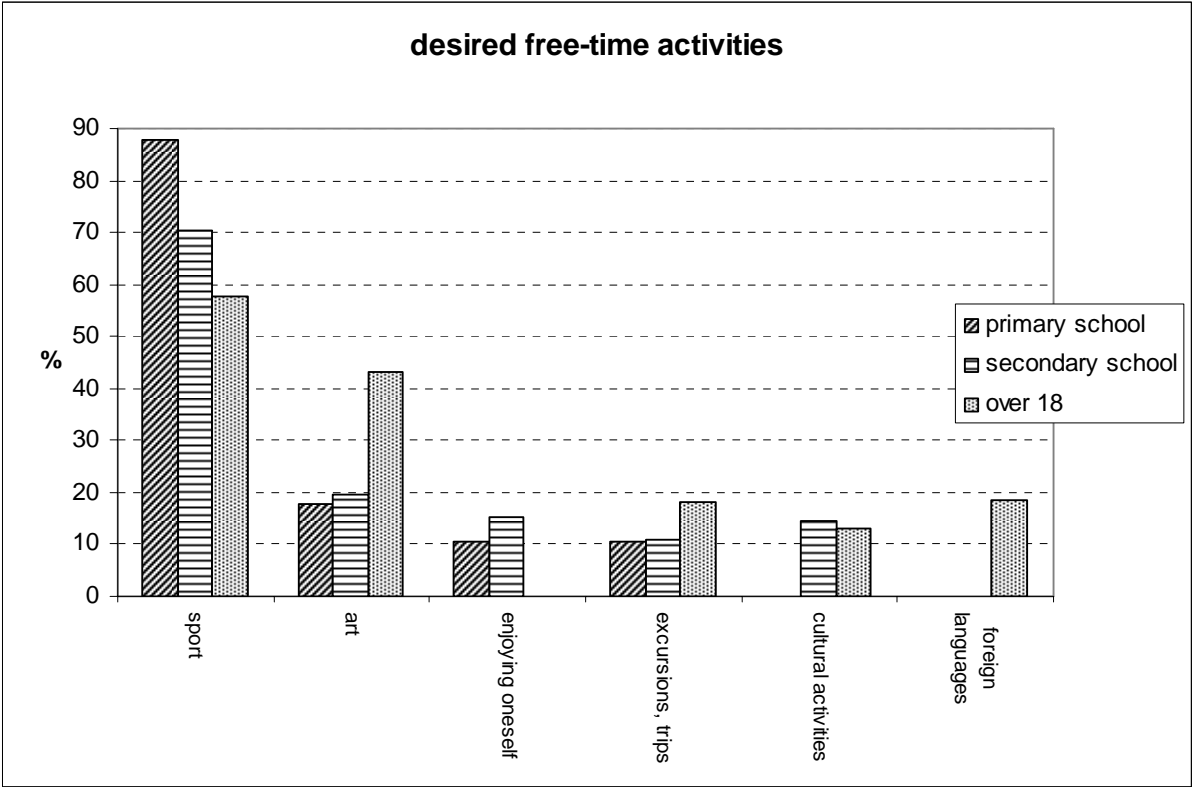


Figure 6: Activities young people would like to do in their free time

Approximately a fifth of young people in all age groups would like better-organised city infrastructure (above all public transport, cycle paths, green areas, parks and benches), while at least a tenth want more tolerant interpersonal relations (friendliness and tolerance towards young people). Older adolescents and young adults more frequently want more public events (approximately one fifth) than young adolescents (less than one tenth), and more of them (approximately one sixth) think that there is a lack of facilities for social activities for young people. On the other hand, more young adolescents and older adolescents (approximately a fifth) than young adults (an eighth) believe that there is a lack of sports infrastructure (especially tidy playgrounds). More older adolescents (almost two fifths) than members of the other two groups (a quarter of young adolescents and a seventh of young adults) think that there should be more infrastructure for amusement and entertainment (cafés and bars, discos and places of amusement). In the group of young adults, as many as a tenth are satisfied with everything in the city, while in the other two groups there are almost no respondents without wishes or comments.



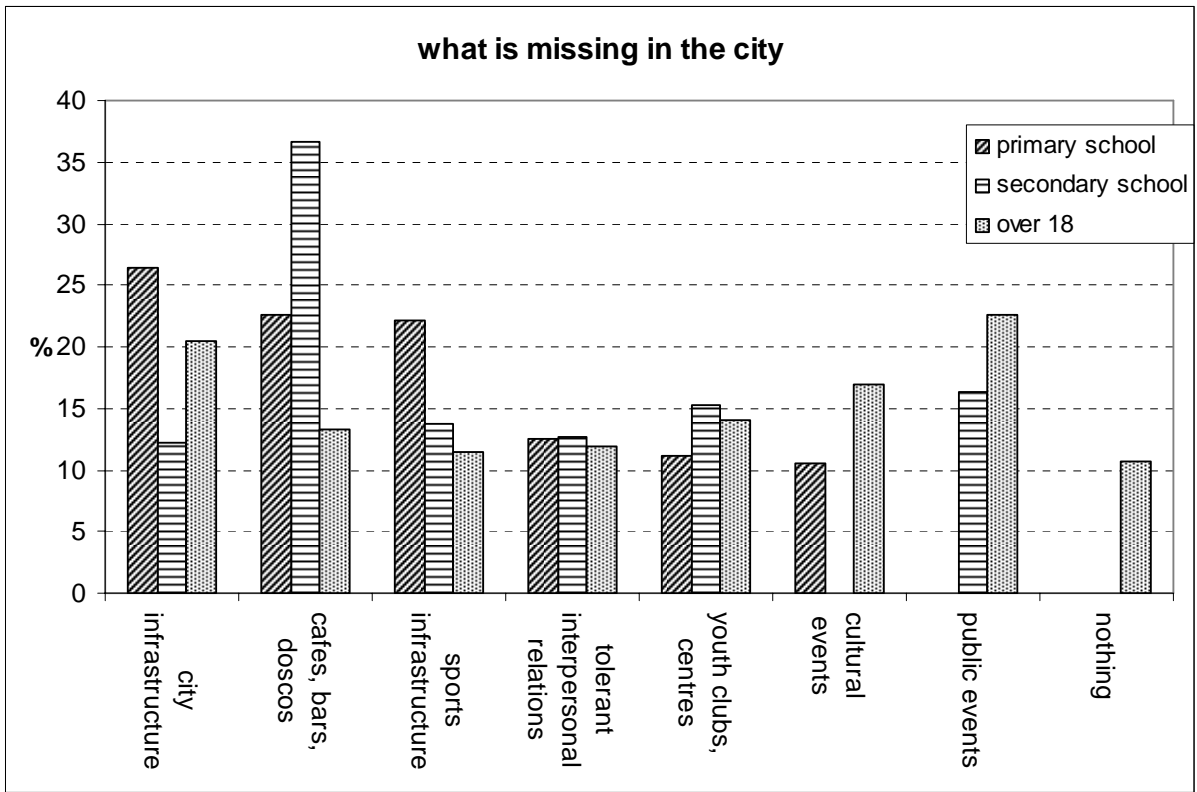


Figure 7: What young people of different ages think is missing in the city



3.2. UNSUCCESSFUL YOUNG PEOPLE AND FREE TIME

3.2.1. Unsuccessful primary school pupils

A larger share of unsuccessful primary school pupils than other primary school pupils attend no extra-curricular activities (24%). They choose the same activities as their peer group and only differ from the latter in that a larger share of them do sport and a smaller share study in their free time. In non-organised free time, a larger share of unsuccessful primary school pupils are frequently passive (watching TV or listening to music) and a smaller share take an interest in computers.

Unsuccessful primary school pupils are more likely than their peers to consider that they spend too little of their free time with friends, in clubs and societies or alone. We can conclude that they feel a lack of free time more than their peers do (probably because they use more of it for studying and schoolwork).

In comparison with their peers, unsuccessful primary school pupils are more often completely satisfied with what they do in their free time. More unsuccessful primary school pupils than other primary school pupils would like to have more organised free-time activities.

As with their peers, lack of time and money are unsuccessful primary school pupils' reasons for not playing sport, socialising or doing something creative even though they would like to. Additionally, unsuccessful primary school pupils often cite lack of ability as a reason.

Properly equipped sports facilities and sports centres are on the top of their list of things the city needs more of (cited by three fifths of them), and they are more likely to think this than their peers. They also bemoan the lack of cultural centres and cultural events, public events and parties more than their peers do, though they are less concerned than their peers about the number of cafés and bars and better interpersonal relations.

3.2.2. Unsuccessful secondary school pupils

A larger share of unsuccessful secondary school pupils than other secondary school pupils attend no extra-curricular or other organised activity (59%). They do not differ from other secondary school pupils in their choice of organised activity but they less frequently attend fitness classes and language courses. Compared to their peers, a greater share of unsuccessful secondary school pupils go to parties and discos. A greater share of them smoke, drink alcoholic drinks and try drugs. A greater share of them also play football and basketball. Unsuccessful secondary school pupils are less likely than their peers to read or work with computers in their free time. The most frequent activities of unsuccessful secondary school pupils are similar to those of their peers, as are the reasons for them. They only differ in that fewer unsuccessful secondary school pupils attend cultural events.

Unsuccessful secondary school pupils do not differ from their peers in terms of their level of satisfaction with how they spend their free time. Slightly more unsuccessful secondary school pupils than other secondary school pupils would like to have more organised free-time activities.

The majority of unsuccessful secondary school pupils want the same activities as their peers. The reasons why they do not do these activities are the same as with their peers. They only differ in that unsuccessful secondary school pupils are less likely to want to attend cultural events.

Unsuccessful secondary school pupils bemoan the lack of public events and youth infrastructure as much as other secondary school pupils do, while a larger share of unsuccessful secondary school pupils thinks that there should be more entertainment infrastructure and sports



infrastructure and better interpersonal relations. A smaller share of unsuccessful secondary school pupils have comments to make about city infrastructure.

3.2.3 Unemployed young people

Half of unemployed young people do not take part in any organised activity in their free time, which is a larger share than among young adults in general. Both unemployed young people and their peers most frequently attend fitness classes or aerobics. Compared to their peers, they more often do martial arts or play football. More unemployed young adults than other young adults spend their free time passively, and more of them go on excursions; fewer of them play sport for recreation or attend cultural events, and fewer of them read. Compared to their peers, a slightly higher proportion of unemployed young adults work with computers, while a smaller share read frequently, attend cultural events or take part in social organisations of various types.

Unemployed young people are in general less willing to participate in clubs and societies and have less desire to spend time with friends, while at the same time they feel lonely. These assessments perhaps reflect the feeling of social exclusion of the unemployed – something with which they are unable to engage actively.

They are less likely than their peers to attend cultural events with friends and are also less likely to do a creative activity or play games together. Unemployed people go to cafés and bars slightly more frequently than their peers, and attend cultural centres or youth centres less frequently than their peers. We can conclude that free-time activities that cost money are less accessible to them.

Like the majority of young adults, the majority of unemployed young people are satisfied with how they spend their free time, although the share of dissatisfied unemployed young people is larger. Like the majority of young adults, the majority of unemployed young people would like more organised free-time activities.

Unemployed young adults more frequently want to socialise and take part in social organisations than other young adults, and are less interested in going on excursions. As with their peers, their main reasons for not taking part in desired activities are lack of time and money, while additionally they often feel incompetent.

The largest share of unemployed young adults (a third) would like to see better interpersonal relations (e.g. less violence and good company) and more public events (more than a quarter). They want an improvement of both more frequently than their contemporaries. More unemployed young adults than other young adults do not think anything is missing in the city. They bemoan the lack of sports and youth infrastructure less frequently than their peers and have less comments about city infrastructure or entertainment infrastructure and the range of cultural activities on offer.



3.3. FREE TIME OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM FOCUS GROUPS

3.3.1. The 'street' category

A larger share of young people belonging to the 'street' category than other secondary school pupils do not take part in organised free-time activities. In their free time they socialise and play sport more frequently than their peers, while they less frequently engage in creative activity, use computers or play games.

In comparison with their peers, fewer members of the 'street' category are satisfied with how they spend their free time. They are satisfied with how they spend time in clubs and societies and in the family. On the one hand they would like to spend more time with friends than other young people do, but on the other hand they would like to spend less time with them. They would also like to spend less time alone.

Fewer of them want more organised activities available. They are more frequently of the opinion that everyone should organise their free time on their own or with friends, and more rarely do they think that this should be the responsibility of the Youth Office, the city authorities and other organisations.

They meet friends in streets and courtyards more frequently than the members of the other focus groups do. They are less likely than their peers to say that they meet in specific locations because they do not have anywhere else to go.

Unlike other young people they would like more socialising and parties and more artistic activities.

More than a third of the members of the 'street' category would like better city infrastructure (better public transport, but also more nature, parks and green surfaces); a quarter would like better interpersonal relations (more friendliness, respect, less supervision), and a fifth would like more sports infrastructure (playing fields and sports halls). A sixth think there should be more public events, a seventh think there should be more cultural activities and an eighth think that there is a lack of youth infrastructure. A tenth of them would like more entertainment infrastructure (cafés and bars, discos, recreation grounds) and the same number would like more fun. See also Figure 8.

3.3.2 The 'coffee bar' category

A larger share of members of the 'coffee bar' category than other young adults do not attend organised activities. In their free time they socialise and go to parties more frequently than their peers and less frequently play sport, attend cultural events, go on excursions, read and engage in creative activities.

The majority of them are satisfied with their free time and do not want more organised activities available. They differ from other young people in that they are more frequently satisfied with the time they spend with friends. At the same time they are more likely to want to spend more free time alone.

They meet up with friends in cafés and bars in the city centre and in their neighbourhood more frequently than the young people from the other focus groups do, but very rarely meet up with friends at sports facilities.

They are more likely to want to get involved with sport and art than the young people from the other focus groups.



The largest proportion of members of the 'coffee bar' category think that there should be more entertainment infrastructure in the city (almost a third would like more cafés/bars and discos). A quarter would like there to be more going on in the city and for city infrastructure to be better organised (more public transport, cheaper activities, more parks and green surfaces). A seventh think that there are not enough cultural activities and the same proportion complain about the lack of youth infrastructure. See also Figure 8.

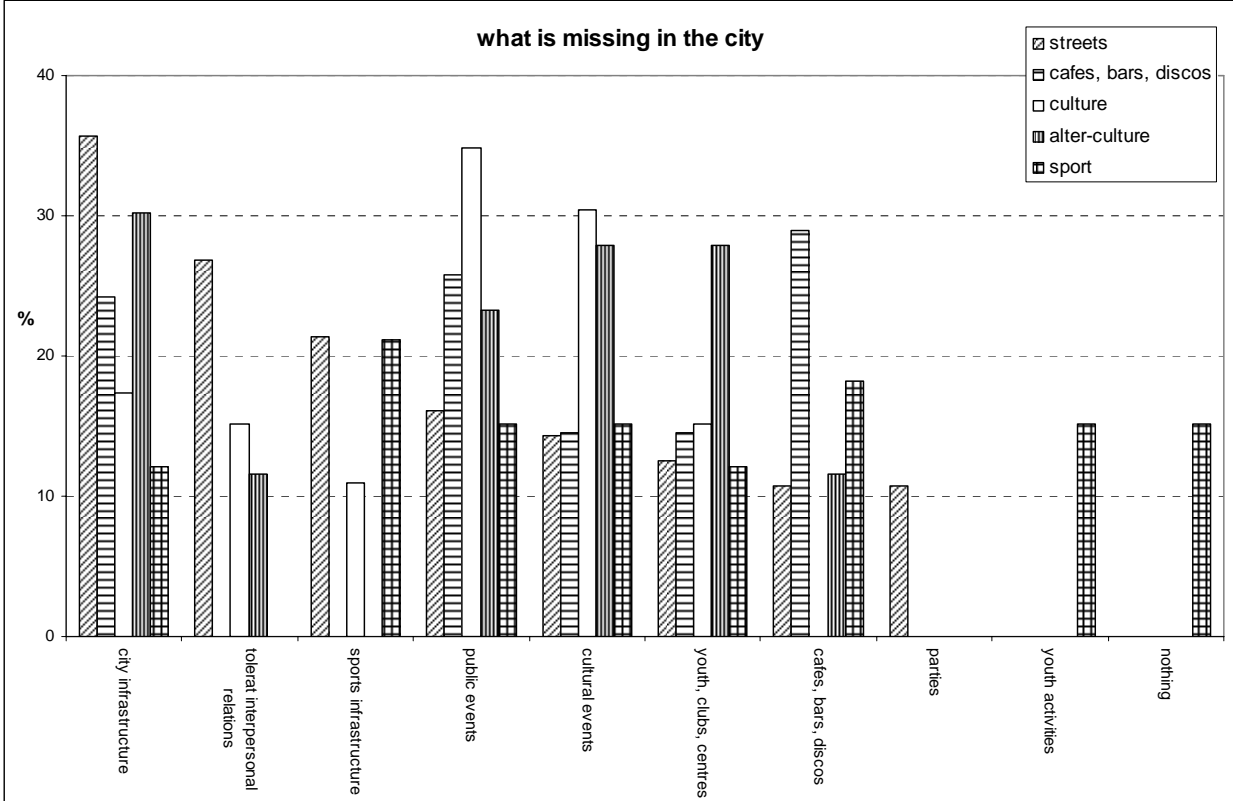


Figure 8: What the young people of the various focus groups think is missing in the city

3.3.3. The 'sporty' category

In comparison with their peers, a smaller share of members of the 'sporty' focus group take part in organised activities. A larger share are involved in sport, while a smaller share are involved in cultural activities, reading and socialising; a smaller share are passive.

More members of the 'sporty' category than their peers are satisfied with their free time. They are more frequently satisfied with the time they spend in clubs and societies than young people from the other focus groups and are less likely than them to want to spend more time there. However they are less frequently satisfied with the time they spend in the family and more frequently would like to spend more time with the family. Likewise they are more likely than their peers to wish to spend more time with friends. They also differ from other young people in that they are more frequently satisfied with the time they spend alone.

They are less likely than their peers to want more organised activities. More 'sporty' young people than their peers think that everyone should organise his own free-time activities.

Fewer members of the 'sporty' category are involved in cultural activities and fewer go to cafés and bars, while more of them regularly play sport with friends. They differ from young people



from the other focus groups in that they very rarely meet in courtyards and do not go to youth cultural places in the city centre.

They would like to be involved with sport and computers more frequently than young people from the other focus groups. They would also more frequently like to be involved with art.

The largest share of members of the 'sporty' category – a fifth – would like better sports infrastructure in the city, while a slightly smaller share would like more entertainment infrastructure (cafés and bars, discos). A seventh of them would like more public events in general, more cultural activities and more activities for young people. The same proportion do not think that anything is lacking in the city. An eighth of them would like better-organised city infrastructure and the same proportion would like more youth infrastructure. See also Figure 8.

3.3.4 The 'arty' category

A larger share of members of the 'arty' category than other young adults do not take part in organised activities. In comparison with their peers, they more frequently attend cultural events, read and socialise with friends in their free time, while they are more rarely involved in sport and are less frequently passive in their free time.

In comparison with their peers, slightly more members of the 'arty' category are dissatisfied and fewer are satisfied with their use of their free time. Compared to young people from the other focus groups they are more likely to want to spend more time in clubs and societies. On the other hand they are more frequently satisfied with the time they spend with the family, with friends or alone.

Slightly more of them would like to have more organised free-time activities. Like the others, the largest share of them are of the opinion that everyone should organise their own free time.

They meet up with friends in cafés and bars in the city centre and in cultural centres in the city centre more frequently than other young people do. They very rarely gather in courtyards or at discos and sports facilities.

They are more likely than young people from the other focus groups to want to be involved in art.

A third of the members of the 'arty' focus group think there should be more public events, while slightly fewer think there should be more cultural events. A sixth of them would like to see better city infrastructure, while a seventh would like more youth infrastructure and better interpersonal relations among people in the city. A tenth of them would also like better sports infrastructure. See also Figure 8.

3.3.5 The 'alternative' category

A larger share of members of the 'alternative' focus group than other young adults do not take part in organised activities. Compared to their peers, they more frequently work as volunteers and are members of various societies. A larger share of them dedicate their spare time to art and culture, while fewer of them play sport.

Slightly more members of the 'alternative' focus group than their peers are satisfied with their free time. They differ from young people from the other focus groups in that they are more frequently satisfied with the time they spend with their friends.



They are less likely than their peers to want more organised activities available. More of them think the city authorities should be responsible for organising free-time activities and fewer think that everyone should organise their own free time.

They meet up with friends in youth cultural centres in the city centre more frequently than other young people do and more rarely go to discos and sports facilities.

Compared to young people from the other focus groups, they more frequently wish to be involved in art and to socialise more and take part in social organisations.

The largest share of members of the 'alternative' category (30%) would like to see better-organised city infrastructure. Roughly the same number would like more youth infrastructure and cultural activities. Less than a quarter would like to see more public events in general, while a fifth think there should be more cultural infrastructure. An eighth would like more entertainment infrastructure and better interpersonal relations. See also Figure 8.



4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 FREE TIME ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT AGES

Despite the fact that young people of different ages engage in similar activities (sport, socialising, listening to music/watching TV, and artistic activities) and do so for similar reasons (friends, meeting new people, usefulness, self-expression), we can conclude that they spend their free time in different ways. Younger adolescents – primary school pupils – more frequently belong to clubs of various types; above all they are more frequently involved in various sports than those older than them. Many of them also attend music school and religious instruction. They spend less of their free time with friends (mainly in the street/yard and at sports facilities) and spend more of it passively (listening to music, watching TV and playing games). They go to the cinema and other cultural events less frequently than the older age groups. When they go to the cinema, they choose the Kolosej complex more frequently than the other groups do. Shopping centres are also mainly gathering places for younger adolescents. With their friends they mainly go to those locations that are close to home and where they have company. They are more satisfied with the use of their free time than the older age groups. At the same time the largest proportion of them think that they or their parents should decide what they are going to do in their free time. Above all they would like to play more sports, but like other young people they lack time or money. They are more likely to want more sports facilities with suitable equipment and stands. They also want more accessible things for young people in the city (cheaper free-time activities, better bus services) and would like more gathering places for young people (park benches, cafés for young people and an amusement park).

Half as many older adolescents – secondary school pupils – as primary school pupils are members of clubs or take part in other organised free-time activities. They most frequently attend fitness classes and also music school or language courses. Secondary school pupils also frequently play sport and listen to music and watch TV. They go to parties more frequently than the other groups. Of all the age groups, they spend the largest proportion of their free time socialising with friends. They mainly meet up with them in city centre streets or in cafés. With their friends they mainly go to those locations that are close to them, those that are accessible in some other way, and those where there is good company. Like the other groups, they would like to be more involved in various sports and artistic activities, and they want more amusements than the other groups. Lack of time and money are the main reason they cannot do the activities they would like to. Most lacking in the city, in their opinion, are places for young people to socialise, be they cafés, discos, places of amusement or youth clubs. They would also like more public events. They mainly expect the Youth Office and the city authorities to realise their wishes, although they often think that this is their own responsibility too. For the most part they are satisfied with how they spend their free time except that the majority of them would like to spend more time in clubs or societies.

Young adults differ from the younger age groups in that they are more frequently involved in the work of various societies and more frequently work as volunteers. They spend their free time more actively than younger adolescents: they more frequently go to the cinema and other cultural events, they read more and do more creative activities, and more frequently go on excursions and to parties. They spend less time than other young people listening to music and watching TV, and spend less of their free time with friends. They mainly meet up with friends in cafés and bars and, more frequently than other young people, they meet in various public cultural and youth spaces. They choose the locations where they meet mainly on the basis of whether they are suitable for specific activities and if they can find good company there. The majority of them are satisfied with how they spend their free time, although the share of those who are dissatisfied is also highest in this age group. They mainly consider it their own responsibility to find solutions, though they also often attribute responsibility to the city authorities, the Youth Office and other youth organisations. Young adults, like the other age groups, would most frequently like to play more sport. In comparison to the other groups they more frequently wish to do something creative, learn foreign languages or travel. Lack of time and money is the



reason they do not do these things. They would like to see more public events and cultural events in the city and more accessible free-time activities in general (in terms of cost, time and place – a better bus service at night, better cycle paths, green recreation areas). Many of them would like there to be youth centres with non-profit activities. A tenth of them do not think anything is missing in the city.

It is worth thinking about access to organised sports activities for secondary school pupils and young adults on the one hand, and access to voluntary work for primary school pupils and secondary school pupils on the other. At the same time attention should be drawn to the willingness of the majority of secondary school pupils to spend more time attending clubs and societies in their free time.

In view of the scale of the desire for improvement in the accessibility of free-time activities in the city and the lack of spaces where young people can socialise (with the result that for the most part they gather in the street or in courtyards), it is worth appealing for the founding of youth centres with a wide range of free free-time activities throughout the whole day, close to where the young people of Ljubljana live, i.e. in residential neighbourhoods or at least in district communities.

4.2. FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES OF UNSUCCESSFUL YOUNG PEOPLE

Organised free-time activities (e.g. educational courses and fitness) and other activities connected to finances (e.g. computers, cultural events) are less accessible to young people who do badly at school than to their peers. Thus they more frequently spend their free time passively, listening to music or the radio or watching TV. Unsuccessful secondary school pupils also attend parties more frequently than their peers, and more of them smoke, drink and experiment with drugs. At the same time more unsuccessful secondary school pupils would like to have more organised free-time activities. On the other hand we can conclude that they do not have enough free time; unsuccessful secondary school pupils would like to spend more time in clubs and society and with their family and less time with their friends. Otherwise their dissatisfaction with their free time remains hidden and they do not express it. Like their peers, unsuccessful secondary school pupils would like to be involved with sport and art and socialise more, but, like their peers, do not do so because of a lack of money and time, and frequently also because of a lack of competence. In comparison with their peers, they are more likely to bemoan the lack of sports facilities and cultural centres in the city, and would also like more public events. Additionally, they are more likely to want more cafés and less intolerance towards young people.

Unemployed young people for the most part do not take part in organised free-time activities although they are more likely than their peers to want to. They are more frequently passive in their free time. They less frequently attend public events, are not involved in art and more frequently go to cafés and bars. They say that they would like to spend more time alone and less time in clubs and societies or with friends (compared to their peers). They express clearly their dissatisfaction with their free time. They bemoan the lack of friendliness in the city more than their peers do, and also the lack of public events. At the same time they more frequently do not want to change anything in the city. On the basis of all of the above we can conclude that they suffer from a form of social exclusion which they do not wish to or are unable to actively confront.



4.3. FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE FOCUS GROUPS

4.3.1. The 'street' category

Young people who for the most part spend their free time in the streets spend more free time than their peers on socialisation and sport. They only rarely take part in organised free-time activities. At the same time fewer of them in comparison to their peers would like to have more organised activities available. For the most part they think that they spend exactly the right amount of time in clubs and societies. In comparison to their peers, a larger share would like to spend more time with friends, while a larger share would like to spend less time with friends. They are also more likely than their peers to think that they spend too much time alone. In general they are more frequently dissatisfied with how they spend their free time. Compared to their peers they would like more socialisation and amusements and also more involvement with art. They are more likely than their peers to think that it is their responsibility to realise these wishes and less likely to ascribe this responsibility to the city authorities, the Youth Office and other organisations. In the city they would above all like to see better access to activities through better public transport, cycle paths, benches and parks, more respect and tolerance towards young people and proper sports facilities.

4.3.2 The 'coffee bar' category

Young people who for the most part spend their free time in cafés and bars spend more free time than their peers on socialisation and parties. They rarely take part in organised free-time activities and have no desire to do so. In general they are satisfied with their free time. Although for the most part they think that they spend the right amount of time with their friends, they frequently wish to spend more time alone. Compared to their peers, they are more likely to want to be involved with sport or art. In the city they would most like to see more cafés and bars, discos or places of amusement, more public events, more accessible public transport and more green surfaces.

4.3.3. The 'sporty' category

Young people who for the most part spend their free time at sports facilities take part in organised free-time activities more frequently than their peers and more rarely than them would like to have more such activities. Compared to their peers they are more frequently involved in sport and less frequently attend cultural events, socialise or read, listen to music or watch TV. On average they are more satisfied than their peers with how they use their free time. They more frequently consider that they spend the right amount of time in clubs and societies or alone, but would like to spend more time with their family and with friends. With their friends they most frequently play sport, and rarely go with them to cultural events or to cafés and bars. They do not gather in the street or in youth cultural centres. More frequently than their peers they would like to play even more sport and involve themselves more with computers or art. They are more likely than their peers to want sports facilities in the city, and also more cafés and bars and more activities for young people. More than a tenth of them do not think that anything is missing in the city.

4.3.4 The 'arty' category

Young people who devote most of their free time to culture rarely take part in organised free-time activities. They would like to have more of them available. They attend cultural events, read and socialise more frequently than their peers. They would like to spend more time than their peers in clubs and societies but are more frequently satisfied with the time spent with friends, the family or alone. In general they are more dissatisfied with their free time than other young people. They more frequently wish to be involved in art. They would like to see more events and



cultural activities in the city, as well as better accessibility, youth centre and more friendliness and tolerance.

4.3.5. The ‘alternative category’

Young people who spend much of their free time in alternative cultural locations are less likely to take part in organised free-time activities and do not want such activities. They are more likely than their peers to work as volunteers during their free time. They also devote more time to art and culture and less to sport. In general they are more satisfied with how they spend their free time than their peers are. They differ from them above all in the fact that they are satisfied with the time they spend with friends. Compared to their peers more of them believe that the city authorities are responsible for the organisation of free-time activities, while fewer believe that everyone should organise his own free time. They are more likely than other young people to want to be involved in art, to socialise more and to take part in various social organisations. In the city they would above all like to see better access to activities through improved public transport. They would also like more youth centres and cultural activities and public events in general.

