

Cultural life and needs of high school students in Serbia (2011)

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Abstract

This paper presents the main findings of research on the [cultural life and cultural participation of high school students in Serbia](#). The data showed that activities from the public cultural life domain are not among the favorite ways for high school students in Serbia to spend their free time; they mostly “use it up” on activities taking place in the so-called private sphere (watching TV and listening to music, playing sports and using computers) that take up smaller amounts of material resources. Because of this, high school students are not frequent visitors of the events in the field of culture. In addition to the group of high school students which basically does not participate in public cultural life, we have identified a group of students that does go to cultural institutions and visits programs in the field of culture, making an average of 8.5% of this population. Among them, 3.5% to 5.5% of students participate in public cultural life at least once a month. Generally speaking, the majority of high school students do not participate in public cultural life, but it cannot be said that they are completely absent from public life. However, more detailed analyses show that a significant part of the high school population does not participate in public cultural life and that, for a large part of this population, cultural programs are unavailable or uninteresting, either because of a lack of free time, interest, the concept of public cultural life, or financial or territorial reasons. Such a trend, with the majority of high school students in Serbia not participating in public cultural life, can have major consequences for the future both of this social group and society as a whole. The consequences are not immediately noticeable, but rather manifest themselves over a longer period of time, in different intensities and different forms in almost all of parts of the social structure.