



Forum21

European Journal on Child and Youth **Policy**

Revue européenne de **politique** de l'enfance et de la jeunesse

Europäische Zeitschrift für **Kinder- und Jugendpolitik**

- > Child and Youth Political Objectives of the Polish EU Council Presidency
- > Les objectifs politiques concernant l'enfance et la jeunesse de la présidence polonaise du Conseil de l'UE
- > Kinder – und jugendpolitische Ziele der polnischen EU-Ratspräsidentschaft
- > Child and Youth Policy in Poland
 - > Building democratic, cohesive and inclusive societies – the policy of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in promoting the participation of young people
 - > Shaping Youth Policies in Nordic Countries – Main Orientations of the Finnish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers
 - > Developing the Legislative Framework of Youth Policy in Estonia – The New Youth Work Act
 - > Revisiting China's Youth Policy
 - > Employment of young people – One main goal of Greek youth policy
 - > Jeunes du Maroc : le challenge du développement
 - > Youth Policy in Georgia
 - > Poverty of migrant children in the European Union
 - > European Commission sets out EU agenda for the rights of the child
 - > EU education report: good progress, but more effort needed to achieve targets
 - > Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue – Integration

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Contents

Table des matières

Inhaltsverzeichnis

Содержание

Introductory Note _____	p. 5
Child and Youth Political Objectives of the Polish EU Council Presidency _____	p. 6
Les objectifs politiques concernant l'enfance et la jeunesse de la présidence polonaise du Conseil de l'UE _____	p. 10
Kinder – und jugendpolitische Ziele der polnischen EU-Ratspräsidentschaft _____	p. 14
Политические цели в отношении детей и молодежи в период Польского председательства в Совете ЕС	
Child and Youth Policy in Poland _____	p. 20
La politique en faveur de l'enfance et de la jeunesse en Pologne	
Kinder – und Jugendpolitik in Polen	
Детская и молодежная политика в Польше	
Building democratic, cohesive and inclusive societies – the policy of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in promoting the participation of young people _____	p. 28
Bâtir des sociétés démocratiques, solidaires et favorisant l'inclusion – la politique du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe en faveur de la participation des jeunes	
Entwicklung demokratischer, kohärenter und inklusiver Gesellschaften – die Politik des Kongresses der Gemeinden und Regionen des Europarats zur Förderung der Teilhabe junger Menschen	
Построение демократического, сплоченного и свободного от дискриминации общества – политика Конгресса местных и региональных властей Совета Европы в продвижении участия молодежи	
Shaping Youth Policies in Nordic Countries – Main Orientations of the Finnish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers _____	p. 40
Elaboration des politiques de jeunesse dans les pays nordiques – orientations de la présidence finlandaise du Conseil nordique des ministres	
Ausgestaltung von Jugendpolitik in den nordischen Ländern – Wichtige Orientierungen der finnischen Präsidentschaft des nordischen Ministerrates	
Формирование молодежной политики в Северных странах – основные направления председательства Финляндии в Совете Министров Северных стран	

Developing the Legislative Framework of Youth Policy in Estonia – The New Youth Work Act _ p. 46
Développer le cadre législatif de la politique de jeunesse en Estonie – La nouvelle loi sur le travail de jeunesse
Entwicklung des gesetzlichen Rahmens für die Jugendpolitik in Estland – Das neue Jugendarbeitsgesetz
Разработка законодательной базы молодежной политики в Эстонии – Новый закон по молодежной работе

Revisiting China's Youth Policy _____ p. 54
La politique de jeunesse chinoise revisitée
Neue Überlegungen zur Jugendpolitik in China
Пересмотр молодежной политике Китая

Employment of young people – One main goal of Greek youth policy _____ p. 66
L'emploi des jeunes, un objectif prioritaire pour la politique de jeunesse grecque
Beschäftigung von Jugendlichen – ein Hauptziel griechischer Jugendpolitik
Занятость молодежи – основная цель молодежной политики Греции

Youth in Morocco: The Challenge of Development
Jeunes du Maroc : le challenge du développement _____ p. 72
Jugend in Marokko: die Herausforderung der Entwicklung
Молодежь Марокко: вызовы развития

Youth Policy in Georgia _____ p. 80
La politique de jeunesse en Géorgie
Jugendpolitik in Georgien
Молодежная политика Грузии

Poverty of migrant children in the European Union _____ p. 90
La pauvreté des enfants d'immigrés dans l'Union européenne
Armut unter Migrantenkindern in der Europäischen Union
Бедность детей-мигрантов в странах Европейского Союза

Youth political events, resolutions and documents
Manifestations, résolutions et documents de politique de jeunesse
Jugendpolitische Events, Resolutionen und Dokumente

European Commission sets out EU agenda for the rights of the child _____ p.98
La Commission européenne présente le programme de l'Union en matière de droits de l'enfant _____ p.101
Europäische Kommission präsentiert EU-Agenda für die Rechte des Kindes _____ p.103

EU education report: good progress, but more effort needed to achieve targets _____ p.106
Rapport sur l'éducation dans l'UE: des progrès, mais des efforts restent nécessaires pour atteindre les objectifs _____ p.108
EU-Bildungsbericht: Trotz guter Fortschritte mehr Anstrengungen erforderlich _____ p.111

Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue – Integration _____ p.114
Dialogue interreligieux et interculturel – Intégration _____ p.125
Interreligiöser und interkultureller Dialog – Integration _____ p.135

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Introductory Note

In its Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) communication released on 30th June 2011, the European Commission presented its proposals for the EU's next seven-year budget. With regards to young people, the Commission announced the integration of education, training, youth and sport programmes for the upcoming framework.

The European Union's education and vocational training programmes will be particularly strengthened by the new budget, with the communication stating that "investing in young people is one of the best business plans". Education programmes will particularly focus on supporting transnational learning mobility – one of the main objectives of the EU 2020 strategy – and fostering co-operation between education institutions and the world of work. Further investment is also planned in the European Social Fund, which provides job opportunities for young people, aims to lower school drop out rates and raise skill levels.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe plans to reform the Organisation with the aim to revitalise the Council of Europe as a political body, to increase its impact by concentrating its work on fewer projects centred around its fundamental values, and to make the Council of Europe more visible and, very importantly, more relevant to the 800 million Europeans living in its 47 member states.

Youth issues first appeared on the Council of Europe's agenda in the 1960s. Activities with and for young people were stepped up, and 2012 marks the fortieth anniversary of the launch of a European youth policy through setting up of the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg and the European Youth Foundation in 1972.

In accordance with new reform plans for shaping European child and youth related policies and with raising the importance of promoting child and youth policy related dialogue Forum21 is in a process of restructuring and widening the framework of cooperation for setting new future oriented goals for our two worldwide unique Journals.

Especially in times of economic austerity our commitment is also oriented towards reshuffling the financial basis for the production of the Journals. This is why this June 2011 issue is published only in an electronic version to being hosted on the website of the Council of Europe.

www.coe.int/youth/forum21

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Child and Youth Political Objectives of the Polish EU Council Presidency

The Presidency constitutes a big challenge for Poland – although the requirements are high, the possibilities are even greater. It involves cooperation between many people and institutions, not only at the European and national level, but also locally. Poland has an important role to play during its Presidency. It is the first country of the new trio and therefore it will have a great influence on the shape of cooperation and the pace of future work. Poland is a big country, so it can set itself ambitious objectives. However, it does not have experience in the field of Presidency, which requires special preparation as well as the ability to learn from mistakes and success of other countries.

The works of Polish Presidency in the field of youth will be focused on the *youth and the world* priority – one of the fields of action defined in the Council Resolution of 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018). This priority perfectly matches the leading theme of the whole PL-DK-CY trio, i.e. *Youth Participation*, as well as other ideas of the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship (2011). Themes taken up by the Polish Presidency refer to the strategic efforts for youth, which are being carried out by the European Commission, i.e. to key objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, including its flagship initiative **Youth on the Move**.

Youth and the World

According to the Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation, **Youth and the World** is a comprehensive priority, which assumes accomplishment of many different tasks, such as: extending young people's

knowledge on global problems, providing them with possibilities of sharing their beliefs with people involved in politics as well as encouraging youth to get engaged in voluntary service. Bearing in mind the fact that such broad aims are becoming more and more difficult to achieve, the Ministry of National Education has become more and more difficult to achieve, the Ministry of National Education has narrowed down the scope of actions taken in order to make them more attainable and measurable in the short period of 6 months and to make them represent common interests of all EU Member States. That is why the Polish government is going to focus on promoting youth participation in mobility, mainly as part of nonformal education and voluntary activities, with a particular focus on cooperation with neighbouring countries of the European Union – the Eastern Europe and Caucasus. The Polish Presidency constitutes a perfect opportunity for establishing relations among young people from the EU and Eastern Europe and Caucasus countries. Experience shows that it is possible to tighten cooperation between young people from EU and their peers from the Mediterranean, and that further support is provided to the Balkan countries. Executing the national priority in the field of establishing positive relationship with the East, Poland is trying to make people realize the needs and advantages of cooperation with the neighbors beyond the eastern border of the EU.

Cooperation in the field of youth should constitute a starting point for further integration with this region, since political, cultural, social and economic cooperation is based on straightforward relations between people, friendship, tolerance as well as awareness of one's own culture. The Eastern Partnership programme, accepted for implementation in 2009, also provides a good context for the Polish Presidency's activity.

Due to mutual exchange of knowledge and experience, it will be possible to increase the participation of young people in democratic life in a broader context. The Polish Presidency in the EU will make it possible for Member States to gain knowledge concerning the structures and priorities of youth policy in the Eastern European and Caucasus countries. It will also make it possible to discuss with young people the problems concerning youth participation – in the context of the situation in the region. Another advantage of the Polish Presidency's efforts may be the increase of the number of youth projects, commonly executed by the EU, Eastern European and Caucasus countries – as part of the *Youth in Action* programme and other programmes.

The Council Conclusions on the Eastern dimension of youth mobility

The Polish Presidency's efforts will result in the adoption of the Council conclusions on the Eastern dimension of youth mobility. The aim of the document will be to determine the barriers and obstacles in the development of mobility of young people from outside the European Union, from the East European and Caucasus countries, as well as the advantages resulting from such mobility in the fields of culture, society, politics, or personal life. Moreover, the document contains a number of recommendations of a cross-sectoral character, concerning this area. It is probable that the works on Th. document will start with a seminar on youth policy in the East European and Caucasus countries. The seminar will be held in Ukraine, in July 2011. The document will also be based on available research results and knowledge on youth policy structures and the situation of young people in the region. The Polish Presidency will cooperate in this field with the Council of Europe, which has a long-standing experience in cooperation with partners from the East. The conclusions will be adopted by the Education, Youth Culture and Sports Council in November 2011.

The conclusions will emphasize the necessity of increasing mobility of young people from the EU

member States and from the EECA countries. It will indicate the most effective methods of developing cooperation and increasing the quality of mobility, in particular in the field of nonformal education and voluntary activities. The conclusions will encourage building of social capital and positive intercultural relations, by encouraging young people to cooperate in the field of youth at home and abroad. It is worth mentioning that during its six-month Chairmanship, the Polish Presidency is going to encourage Member States to establish cooperation with other partners from outside Europe, following the idea of the **youth and the world** priority. These specific regional priorities of the Polish Presidency constitute only a suggestion of intensifying relations between young people from the EU and their peers from the east. If the effects in the form of new cooperation tools or best practices will result in cooperation with other regions, it will be considered as a great success of the Polish Presidency.

Except for the above mentioned conclusions, the Polish Presidency is also going to adopt conclusions in the field of voluntary activities. The document will be adopted by the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council in October 2011. The conclusion will contain, among other things, essential recommendations and actions planned in order to support young people's voluntary activities.

It is worth mentioning that in 2012, a midterm evaluation of actions taken as part of the adopted priority will be carried out, since the actions in this field will be the subject of the report on youth, prepared by the European Commission in cooperation with Member States.

European programme for youth

Referring to the works on mobility programmes in a new financial perspective, the Polish Presidency is going to actively participate in the discussion on the future of the European programme for youth, including its expansion to countries neighbouring on EU. In the second

half of 2011, the European Commission will probably announce a draft decision on the new programme for youth, which will initiate negotiations on the European level. During the organized events, Poland will try to create an opportunity to discuss the possibility of expanding the European programme for youth to Eastern European and Caucasus countries. The future of this programme is very important for the Polish Presidency, since it provides young people with a unique opportunity to develop their competencies by participating in interesting projects within the scope of informal education. Analyzing the results of the currently carried out programme – *Youth in Action* – on the local, regional, national and international level, the Presidency is fully satisfied with the effects that the programme has on young people and it fully supports its continuation, as a separate EU programme after 2013. Linking the programme to other EU programmes would have a negative effect on its quality and uniqueness.

Currently, it is the only initiative that covers such a wide scope and which is fully devoted to financing and providing professional support to nonformal education of young people. The programme enables realization of one's own ideas and interests, which gives young people the possibility of broadening their knowledge and acquiring new skills outside school. An important element of the *Youth in Action* programme is the fact that every young person can join it, regardless of their educational path, sex, ethnic origin, social status or financial situation. One of the most important elements is also the focus on support of mobility and employment of young people referred to in the flagship initiative "Youth on the Move". Another reason for continuing the programme after 2010 and not linking it to other EU initiatives is the fact that it is most economically adjusted to the possibilities and needs of youth. Taking into consideration the above mentioned facts, it is extremely important that the new programme for youth meet the expectations of young people and provide at least the same opportunities as the *Youth in Action* programme.

Events organized during the Polish Presidency

In order to achieve the set objectives, the Polish Presidency is going to organize a great deal of events. The most important are those events that are permanently included in the European agenda and will be organized directly by the Ministry of National Education. These are: the meeting of Directors General of Youth and the youth conference. The youth conference is organized as part of the structured dialogue with young people, the European Commission and representatives of Member States' governments responsible for youth policy. Its aim is to create a discussion forum for young people from all EU Member States. During the conference, the participants will discuss the results of European consultations and work out recommendations concerning implementation of priorities defined in the Council Resolution on a renewed framework for cooperation in the youth field for the years 2010-2018. The leading theme of both the consultation and the whole conference will be participation of youth, with a special focus on the **Youth and the World** priority and the eastern dimension of youth mobility. Young people from Eastern Partnership countries and Russia will also be invited to the conference. The conference will be held from 5 to 7 September 2011 in Warsaw.

The second important event organized during the Polish Presidency is the meeting of Directors General of Youth. Its aim is to enable exchange of information among Directors of Youth on mutual cooperation as well as a discussion on common strategy concerning youth cooperation in Europe. During the meeting, the discussions will also cover the Youth Report 2012. A part of the meeting of the Directors General of Youth will be organized together with the youth conference, which will enable a direct dialogue with young people, better understanding of their needs and identification of key challenges, which will contribute to better organization of the European strategy for youth. The conference will take place from 5 to 8 September in Warsaw.

Due to the specific character of the youth field, the Ministry of National Education is going to get involved in the intersectoral cooperation to a greater extent. That is why aspects connected with youth will be discussed during the ministerial conference entitled “Eastern Dimension of Mobility”, which will be held in July in Warsaw; during the seminar on youth policy in East European and Caucasus countries held in Odessa, Ukraine, in July; during the events connected with the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship, etc.

Active participation in Europe’s democratic life

To sum up, Poland is aware of the opportunities arising out of its chairmanship

in the European Council and it is ready to execute the developed priorities. The Polish government appreciates the youth capital and their activity in the context of the development of the whole civil society. Analyzing the present international situation, the Polish Presidency will focus on developing good neighborhood policy, with the assumption that effective cooperation with youth constitutes the basis for effective cooperation in the fields of economy, culture, social issues and politics. Youth can essentially contribute to the development of international society based on democracy. The European Union also has a lot to offer in this field, and so does Poland, where the spirit of solidarity is traditionally very strong.

Les objectifs politiques concernant l’enfance et la jeunesse de la présidence polonaise du Conseil de l’UE

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La présidence constitue un enjeu majeur pour la Pologne et, si les exigences associées sont élevées, les possibilités qui s’offrent sont nombreuses. Cela implique la coopération entre quantité d’individus et d’institutions, aux niveaux non seulement européen et national, mais également local. La Pologne a un rôle important à jouer durant sa présidence. C’est le premier pays du nouveau trio et, partant, elle aura une forte influence sur le mode de coopération et le rythme des travaux futurs. La Pologne est un grand pays qui peut lui-même fixer des objectifs ambitieux. En revanche, elle ne possède pas

d’expérience dans le domaine de la présidence, qui exige une préparation spéciale ainsi que la capacité à tirer les enseignements des échecs et des succès des autres pays.

Dans le domaine de la jeunesse, l’action de la présidence polonaise sera axée sur la priorité intitulée *Les jeunes dans le monde* – l’un des domaines d’action définis dans la Résolution du Conseil du 27 novembre 2009 relative à un cadre renouvelé pour la coopération européenne dans le domaine de la jeunesse (2010-2018). Cette priorité reflète

parfaitement le thème phare du trio formé par la Pologne, le Danemark et Chypre – à savoir la participation de la jeunesse, ainsi que d'autres orientations tracées par l'Année européenne des activités de volontariat pour la promotion de la citoyenneté active (2011). Les thèmes repris par la présidence polonaise renvoient aux efforts stratégiques en faveur de la jeunesse que déploie la Commission européenne pour atteindre les objectifs fondamentaux de la stratégie Europe 2020, y compris son initiative clé, *Jeunesse en mouvement*.

Les jeunes dans le monde

Selon la Résolution relative à un cadre renouvelé pour la coopération européenne dans le domaine de la jeunesse, **Les jeunes dans le monde** est une priorité générale qui prévoit la réalisation de plusieurs tâches, et notamment : élargir les connaissances des jeunes au sujet des problèmes mondiaux, leur offrir la possibilité de partager leurs convictions avec des hommes politiques et les encourager à s'engager dans le service volontaire. Conscient que de tels objectifs sont de plus en plus difficiles à atteindre, le ministère de l'Éducation nationale a réduit la portée des mesures prises afin de les rendre plus réalisables et mesurables sur une courte période de six mois, et de faire en sorte qu'elles représentent les intérêts communs de l'ensemble des États membres de l'UE. C'est pourquoi le gouvernement polonais va se focaliser sur la promotion de la participation des jeunes à la mobilité, principalement dans le cadre de l'éducation non formelle et des activités volontaires, en privilégiant la coopération avec les pays voisins de l'Union européenne – l'Europe orientale et les pays du Caucase. La présidence polonaise représente une opportunité idéale pour établir des relations entre les jeunes de l'UE, de l'Europe orientale et des pays du Caucase. L'expérience a montré qu'il était possible de renforcer la coopération entre les jeunes de l'UE et leurs homologues de la Méditerranée, et d'apporter un appui supplémentaire aux pays des Balkans. En mettant en œuvre la priorité nationale qui est la création de relations

harmonieuses avec l'Est, la Pologne s'efforce de sensibiliser aux besoins et aux avantages de la coopération avec les voisins par-delà les frontières orientales de l'UE.

La coopération dans le domaine de la jeunesse devrait être un point de départ pour la poursuite de l'intégration de cette région, sachant que la coopération politique, culturelle, sociale et économique est fondée sur des relations directes entre les peuples, mais aussi sur l'amitié, la tolérance et la conscience de sa propre culture. Le programme de partenariat oriental, qui doit être mis en œuvre en 2009, offre également un contexte de choix pour l'activité de la présidence polonaise. Grâce à l'échange mutuel de connaissances et d'expériences, il sera possible de renforcer la participation des jeunes à la vie démocratique dans une perspective élargie. La présidence polonaise de l'UE permettra aux États membres de mieux connaître les structures et les priorités de la politique de jeunesse en Europe orientale et dans les pays du Caucase. Elle permettra également d'examiner avec les jeunes les problèmes relatifs à leur participation dans le contexte spécifique à la région. Un autre fruit des efforts de la présidence polonaise devrait être l'accroissement du nombre de projets de jeunes, généralement mis en œuvre par l'UE, l'Europe orientale et les pays du Caucase, dans le cadre du programme Jeunesse en action et d'autres programmes.

Les conclusions du Conseil sur la dimension orientale de la mobilité des jeunes

Les efforts de la présidence polonaise se traduiront par l'adoption des conclusions du Conseil relativement à la dimension orientale de la mobilité des jeunes. L'objectif de ce document sera d'identifier les barrières et les obstacles au renforcement de la mobilité des jeunes hors de l'Union européenne, venant d'Europe orientale et des pays du Caucase, ainsi que les avantages générés par une telle mobilité sur les plans de la culture, de la société, de la politique ou encore de la vie personnelle. Qui plus est, le

document contient plusieurs recommandations de nature intersectorielle sur la question. Les travaux sur ce document devraient démarrer par un séminaire sur la politique de jeunesse dans l'Europe orientale et les pays du Caucase, qui se tiendra en Ukraine, au mois de juillet 2011. Ce document s'appuiera également sur les résultats de travaux de recherche disponibles ainsi que la connaissance des structures de la politique de jeunesse et de la situation des jeunes dans la région. Dans cet objectif, la présidence polonaise apportera sa contribution au Conseil de l'Europe, qui possède une longue expérience de la coopération avec des partenaires orientaux. Les conclusions seront adoptées par le Conseil Education, jeunesse, culture et sports en novembre 2011.

Les conclusions souligneront la nécessité d'accroître la mobilité des jeunes des pays membres de l'UE et des pays de l'Est. Elles mettront en exergue les méthodes les plus efficaces pour développer la coopération et améliorer la qualité de la mobilité, notamment dans le secteur de l'éducation non formelle et des activités volontaires. Les conclusions encourageront la création d'un capital social et de relations interculturelles positives, en incitant les jeunes à coopérer dans leur pays et à l'étranger. Il convient de mentionner que, durant son mandat de six mois, la présidence polonaise va encourager les Etats membres à coopérer avec d'autres partenaires par-delà l'Europe, conformément à l'idée promue par la priorité **Les jeunes dans le monde**. Ces priorités régionales spécifiques de la présidence polonaise ne sont qu'une incitation à intensifier les relations entre les jeunes de l'UE et leurs homologues de l'Est. S'il en résultait de nouveaux outils de coopération ou des bonnes pratiques avec les autres régions, il s'agirait là indéniablement d'un grand succès pour la présidence polonaise.

En plus des conclusions susmentionnées, la présidence polonaise va adopter des conclusions concernant les activités volontaires. Le document sera adopté par le Conseil Emploi, politique sociale, santé et consommateurs en octobre 2011 ; il contiendra notamment des

recommandations essentielles et les mesures prévues pour soutenir les activités volontaires des jeunes.

Il faut mentionner qu'en 2012, une évaluation à mi-parcours des mesures prises dans le cadre de la priorité adoptée sera effectuée, l'objectif étant de les intégrer dans un rapport sur la jeunesse préparé par la Commission européenne en coopération avec les Etats membres.

Programme européen pour la jeunesse

A propos des travaux sur les programmes de mobilité dans une nouvelle perspective financière, la présidence polonaise envisage de participer activement aux débats sur l'avenir du Programme européen pour la jeunesse, et notamment son extension aux pays voisins. Durant le deuxième semestre 2011, la Commission européenne devrait annoncer un projet de décision concernant le nouveau programme pour la jeunesse, qui déclencherà des négociations à l'échelon européen. Durant les événements organisés, la Pologne s'efforcera de créer l'opportunité d'examiner la possibilité d'étendre le programme européen pour la jeunesse à l'Europe orientale et aux pays du Caucase. L'avenir de ce programme est essentiel pour la présidence polonaise, dans la mesure où il offre aux jeunes une opportunité unique de développer leurs compétences en participant à des projets intéressants dans le cadre de l'éducation informelle. Après analyse des résultats du programme actuellement mis en œuvre, **Jeunesse en action**, aux niveaux local, régional, national et international, la présidence se déclare pleinement satisfaite de son impact sur les jeunes et apporte son plein appui à sa poursuite, en tant que programme distinct de l'UE après 2013. En effet, lier le programme en question à d'autres programmes de l'UE risquerait d'avoir des répercussions négatives sur sa qualité et son caractère unique.

Actuellement, il s'agit en effet de la seule initiative d'une telle envergure qui soit entièrement

dédiée au financement et à l'apport d'un soutien professionnel à l'éducation non formelle des jeunes. **Jeunesse en action** favorise la réalisation des idées et intérêts de chacun, donnant ainsi aux jeunes la possibilité d'élargir leurs connaissances et d'acquérir de nouvelles capacités hors de l'école. Un élément important de ce programme est qu'il est ouvert à tous les jeunes, indépendamment de leur parcours éducatif, de leur genre, de leur origine ethnique, de leur statut social ou encore de leur situation financière. Un autre de ses points forts est qu'il soutient la mobilité et l'emploi des jeunes que promeut l'initiative phare **Jeunesse en mouvement**. Une raison supplémentaire de poursuivre ce programme après 2010 et de ne pas l'associer à d'autres initiatives de l'UE est qu'il est ajusté de la manière la plus économique aux possibilités et aux besoins effectifs des jeunes. Dans ces conditions, il est extrêmement important que le nouveau programme pour la jeunesse réponde aux attentes des jeunes et leur fournisse au moins les mêmes opportunités que **Jeunesse en action**.

Événements organisés dans le cadre de la présidence polonaise

Pour atteindre les objectifs fixés, la présidence polonaise prévoit d'organiser quantité d'événements. Les plus importants d'entre eux sont ceux qui sont inclus de façon permanente dans l'agenda européen et qui seront organisés directement par le ministère de l'Éducation nationale, et notamment : la réunion des directeurs généraux de la jeunesse et la conférence de jeunesse. La conférence de jeunesse est organisée dans le cadre du dialogue structuré avec les jeunes, la Commission européenne et les représentants des responsables gouvernementaux des États membres pour la politique de jeunesse. Son objectif est d'offrir un forum de discussion pour les jeunes de l'ensemble des pays membres de l'UE. Durant la conférence, les participants examineront les résultats des consultations européennes et élaboreront des recommandations relatives à la mise en œuvre des priorités définies dans la Résolution du Conseil relative à un cadre renouvelé pour la coopération dans le domaine

de la jeunesse (2010-2018). Le thème majeur à la fois de la consultation et de la conférence sera la participation des jeunes, avec un accent particulier sur la priorité **Les jeunes dans le monde** et la dimension orientale de la mobilité des jeunes. Des jeunes des pays du partenariat oriental et de Russie seront également invités à la conférence, qui se tiendra du 5 au 7 septembre 2011 à Varsovie.

Le deuxième événement d'importance organisé sous la présidence polonaise sera la réunion des directeurs généraux de la jeunesse. Son objectif est de favoriser l'échange d'informations entre les participants sur la coopération mutuelle, ainsi qu'un débat sur une stratégie commune concernant la coopération de jeunesse en Europe. Durant la réunion, le rapport 2012 sur la jeunesse sera également examiné. La conférence de jeunesse sera organisée parallèlement à la réunion des directeurs généraux, afin de permettre un dialogue direct avec les jeunes, une meilleure compréhension de leurs besoins et l'identification des problèmes fondamentaux – ce qui contribuera à une meilleure structuration de la stratégie européenne pour la jeunesse. La conférence se déroulera du 5 au 8 septembre 2011 à Varsovie.

Étant donné le caractère spécifique du secteur de la jeunesse, le ministère de l'Éducation nationale va s'engager plus activement dans une coopération intersectorielle. C'est pourquoi les aspects liés à la jeunesse seront examinés lors de la conférence ministérielle sur la dimension orientale de la mobilité, qui se tiendra en juillet à Varsovie ; durant le séminaire sur la politique de jeunesse en Europe orientale et dans les pays du Caucase, qui se tiendra à Odessa, en Ukraine, en juillet ; durant les événements en lien avec l'Année européenne des activités de volontariat pour la promotion de la citoyenneté active, etc.

Active participation à la vie démocratique de l'Europe

En résumé, la Pologne est parfaitement consciente des opportunités offertes par sa présidence du Conseil européen et se tient

prête à mettre en œuvre les priorités définies. Le gouvernement polonais apprécie le capital que constituent les jeunes et leur activité en faveur du développement de la société civile dans son ensemble. Après analyse de la situation internationale actuelle, la présidence polonaise se focalisera sur l'élaboration d'une politique de bon voisinage, en partant de l'hypothèse qu'une coopération effective avec les jeunes est la base indispensable d'une

coopération effective dans les domaines de l'économie, de la culture, des questions sociales et politiques. Les jeunes peuvent en effet apporter une contribution essentielle au développement d'une société internationale basée sur la démocratie. L'Union européenne a également beaucoup à apporter en la matière, tout comme la Pologne, où l'esprit de solidarité est traditionnellement très fort.

Kinder – und jugendpolitische Ziele der polnischen EU-Ratspräsidentschaft

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Die Präsidentschaft ist für Polen eine große Herausforderung – obwohl die Anforderungen groß sind, sind die Möglichkeiten doch noch größer. Sie bedeutet Zusammenarbeit zwischen vielen Menschen und Institutionen nicht nur auf europäischer und nationaler Ebene, sondern auch auf lokaler Ebene. Polen hat in seiner Präsidentschaft eine wichtige Rolle zu spielen. Es ist das erste Land im neuen Trio und wird daher großen Einfluss auf die Ausgestaltung der Kooperation und die Geschwindigkeit der künftigen Arbeit haben. Polen ist ein großes Land und kann sich daher ehrgeizige Ziele setzen. Aber es hat keine Erfahrung auf dem Gebiet der Präsidentschaft, was besondere Vorbereitungen sowie die Fähigkeit erfordert, aus den Fehlern und Erfolgen anderer Länder zu lernen.

Die Arbeit der polnischen Präsidentschaft im Jugendbereich wird sich auf die *Priorität Jugend und die Welt* konzentrieren – eines der in der Entschließung des Rates vom 27.

November 2009 über den erneuerten Rahmen für jugendpolitische Zusammenarbeit in Europa (2010-2018) festgelegten Handlungsfelder. Die Priorität weist eine ausgezeichnete Übereinstimmung mit dem herausragenden Thema des gesamten Präsidentschaftstrios PL-DK-CY, d.h. *Jugendbeteiligung* sowie anderen Vorstellungen des Europäische Jahres der Freiwilligentätigkeit zur Förderung der aktiven Bürgerschaft (2011) auf. Die von der polnischen Präsidentschaft aufgegriffenen Themen beziehen sich auf strategische Anstrengungen für die Jugend, die von der Europäischen Kommission durchgeführt werden, d.h. Schlüsselziele der Strategie Europa 2020 einschließlich der Leitinitiative *Jugend in Bewegung*.

Jugend und die Welt

Nach der Entschließung über einen erneuerten Rahmen für die Zusammenarbeit in Europa

ist handelt es sich bei **Jugend und die Welt** um eine umfassende Priorität, die von der Umsetzung vieler unterschiedlicher Aufgaben wie beispielsweise den Folgenden ausgeht: Erweiterung der Kenntnisse junger Menschen über weltweite Probleme, Angebot von Möglichkeiten zum Austausch ihrer Überzeugungen mit in der Politik tätigen Personen sowie die Ermutigung für Jugendliche, sich in Freiwilligendiensten zu engagieren. Unter Berücksichtigung der Tatsache, dass solche umfassenden Ziele immer schwerer zu erreichen sein werden, hat das Ministerium für Nationale Bildung den Rahmen der eingeleiteten Maßnahmen eingegrenzt, um sie innerhalb des kurzen Zeitraums von sechs Monaten leichter erreichbar und messbar zu machen und sicherzustellen, dass sie die gemeinsamen Interessen aller EU-Mitgliedstaaten widerspiegeln. Aus diesem Grund wird die polnische Regierung sich darauf konzentrieren, die Teilhabe der Jugend an Mobilität in erster Linie im Rahmen der non-formalen Bildung und der Freiwilligkeit und mit einem besonderen Schwergewicht auf der Zusammenarbeit mit den Nachbarstaaten der Europäischen Union – in Osteuropa und im Kaukasus – zu fördern. Die polnische Präsidentschaft bietet eine ausgezeichnete Möglichkeit, um Beziehungen zwischen Jugendlichen aus der EU und den Ländern Osteuropas und des Kaukasus aufzubauen. Die Erfahrungen zeigen, dass eine Intensivierung der Zusammenarbeit zwischen jungen Menschen aus der EU und Gleichaltrigen aus dem Mittelmeerraum möglich ist, und dass den Balkanstaaten weitere Unterstützung angeboten wird. Bei der Umsetzung der nationalen Priorität im Aufbau positiver Beziehungen nach Osten versucht Polen, den Menschen die Notwendigkeit und Vorteile einer Zusammenarbeit mit den Nachbarn auf der anderen Seite der östlichen EU-Grenze klarzumachen.

Zusammenarbeit im Jugendbereich sollte ein Ausgangspunkt für eine weitere Integration mit dieser Region sein, weil politische, kulturelle, soziale und wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit auf direkten Beziehungen zwischen Menschen, Freundschaft, Toleranz sowie dem Bewusstsein

für die eigene Kultur aufbaut. Das Programm der Östlichen Partnerschaft, das 2009 zur Umsetzung angenommen wurde, bildet auch einen guten Hintergrund für die Arbeit der polnischen Präsidentschaft. Aufgrund des gegenseitigen Austausches von Kenntnissen und Erfahrungen wird es möglich, die Beteiligung junger Menschen am demokratischen Leben in einem größeren Zusammenhang zu intensivieren. Die polnische Präsidentschaft in der EU wird es den Mitgliedstaaten ermöglichen, Kenntnisse über die Strukturen und Prioritäten der Jugendpolitik in den Ländern Osteuropas und des Kaukasus zu erwerben. Außerdem ermöglicht sie die Diskussion mit jungen Menschen über Probleme im Zusammenhang mit der Jugendbeteiligung – vor dem Hintergrund der Lage in der Region. Ein weiterer Vorteil der Bemühungen der polnischen Präsidentschaft kann in einer Erhöhung der Zahl der Jugendprojekte liegen, die von der EU und den Ländern Osteuropas und des Kaukasus gemeinsam durchgeführt werden – als Bestandteil des Programms Jugend in Aktion und anderer Programme.

Die Schlussfolgerungen des Rates zur östlichen Dimension der Jugendmobilität

Die Bemühungen der polnischen Präsidentschaft werden in die Verabschiedung von Schlussfolgerungen zur östlichen Dimension der Jugendmobilität durch den Rat münden. Ziel des Dokumentes ist es, die Hindernisse und Hemmnisse in der Entwicklung der Mobilität junger Menschen aus Ländern außerhalb der Europäischen Union, aus den Ländern Osteuropas und des Kaukasus, sowie die sich aus einer solchen Mobilität in den Bereichen Kultur, Gesellschaft, Politik oder individuelles Leben ergebenden Vorteile festzustellen. Außerdem enthält das Dokument eine Reihe von bereichsübergreifenden Empfehlungen für dieses Gebiet. Es ist wahrscheinlich, dass die Arbeit an diesem Dokument mit einem Seminar zur Jugendpolitik in den Ländern Osteuropas und des Kaukasus beginnen wird. Das Seminar wird im Juli 2011 in der Ukraine stattfinden.

Das Dokument wird sich auch auf vorhandene Forschungsergebnisse und Kenntnisse über die jugendpolitischen Strukturen und die Lage junger Menschen in der Region stützen. Die polnische Präsidentschaft wird in diesem Bereich mit dem Europarat zusammenarbeiten, der über langjährige Erfahrung in der Zusammenarbeit mit Partnern aus dem Osten verfügt. Die Schlussfolgerungen werden im November 2011 vom Rat der Minister für Bildung, Jugend, Kultur und Sport verabschiedet.

Die Schlussfolgerungen werden die Notwendigkeit hervorheben, die Mobilität junger Menschen aus den EU-Mitgliedstaaten und den Ländern Osteuropas und Zentralasiens (EECA) zu verstärken. Sie werden die wirksamsten Methoden für den Aufbau der Zusammenarbeit und zur Erhöhung der Qualität von Mobilität insbesondere im Bereich von non-formaler Bildung und Freiwilligentätigkeit darstellen. Die Schlussfolgerungen werden zum Aufbau von Sozialkapital und positiven interkulturellen Beziehungen aufrufen, indem man junge Menschen zur Zusammenarbeit im Jugendbereich in ihren Heimatländern und im Ausland ermutigt. Man sollte erwähnen, dass die polnische Präsidentschaft während ihres sechsmonatigen Vorsitzes die Mitgliedstaaten dazu ermutigen wird, eine Zusammenarbeit mit anderen Partnern aus Ländern außerhalb Europas aufzubauen und so die Vorstellung der Priorität **Jugend und die Welt** weiterzuerfolgen. Diese speziellen regionalen Prioritäten der polnischen Präsidentschaft sind nur eine Anregung, um die Beziehungen von jungen Menschen aus der EU zu Gleichaltrigen aus dem Osten zu intensivieren. Wenn die Auswirkungen in Form von neuen Kooperationswerkzeugen oder guten Praktiken zu einer Zusammenarbeit mit anderen Regionen führen, wird dies als großer Erfolg der polnischen Präsidentschaft betrachtet werden.

Abgesehen von den oben genannten Schlussfolgerungen wird die polnische Präsidentschaft auch Schlussfolgerungen im Bereich der Freiwilligentätigkeit verabschieden. Das Dokument wird vom Rat der Minister für Arbeit, Sozialpolitik, Gesundheit und

Verbraucherschutz im Oktober 2011 angenommen. Die Schlussfolgerungen werden unter anderem entscheidende Empfehlungen und Maßnahmen enthalten, die zur Unterstützung der Freiwilligentätigkeit von jungen Menschen geplant sind.

Man sollte erwähnen, dass im Jahre 2012 eine Halbzeitauswertung im Rahmen der verabschiedeten Priorität durchgeführten Maßnahmen vorgenommen wird, weil die Maßnahmen in diesem Bereich Gegenstand des von der Europäischen Kommission in Zusammenarbeit mit den Mitgliedstaaten zu erstellenden Berichts über die Jugend sein werden.

Europäisches Programm für die Jugend

Im Zusammenhang mit der Arbeit zu Mobilitätsprogrammen in einem neuen finanziellen Umfeld wird die polnische Präsidentschaft sich aktiv an der Diskussion über die Zukunft des europäischen Programms für die Jugend einschließlich seiner Erweiterung auf die EU-Nachbarstaaten beteiligen. In der zweiten Jahreshälfte 2011 wird die Europäische Kommission wahrscheinlich den Entwurf eines Beschlusses zum neuen Programm für die Jugend ankündigen, mit dem dann Verhandlungen auf europäischer Ebene angestoßen werden. Bei den organisierten Veranstaltungen wird Polen versuchen, Gelegenheiten zur Diskussion über die mögliche Erweiterung des europäischen Programms für die Jugend auf die Länder Osteuropas und des Kaukasus zu schaffen. Die Zukunft dieses Programms ist für die polnische Präsidentschaft sehr wichtig, weil es jungen Menschen eine einmalige Chance bietet, ihre Kompetenzen durch Teilnahme an interessanten Projekten im Rahmen der informellen Bildung weiterzuentwickeln. In ihrer Analyse der Ergebnisse des aktuell laufenden Programms – *Jugend in Aktion* – auf lokaler, regionaler, nationaler und internationaler Ebene ist die Präsidentschaft mit den Wirkungen des Programms auf junge Menschen vollkommen

zufrieden, und sie unterstützt dessen Fortsetzung als eigenständiges EU-Programm nach 2013. Eine Verknüpfung des Programms mit anderen EU-Programmen würde sich negativ auf dessen Qualität und Einzigartigkeit auswirken.

Derzeit ist es die einzige Initiative, die ein so großes Spektrum beinhaltet und ausschließlich auf die Finanzierung und fachliche Unterstützung für die non-formale Bildung von jungen Menschen ausgerichtet ist. Das Programm ermöglicht die Verwirklichung eigener Ideen und Interessen, was jungen Menschen die Möglichkeit eröffnet, ihre Kenntnisse zu erweitern und außerhalb der Schule neue Qualifikationen zu erwerben. Ein wichtiges Element des Programms *Jugend in Aktion* ist die Tatsache, dass jeder junge Mensch unabhängig von Bildungsweg, Geschlecht, ethnischer Herkunft, sozialem Status oder finanzieller Lage daran teilnehmen kann. Eines der wichtigsten Elemente ist der Schwerpunkt bei der Unterstützung von Mobilität und Beschäftigung von jungen Menschen, der unter dem Motto der Leitinitiative „Jugend in Bewegung“ beschrieben wird. Ein weiterer Grund für die Fortsetzung des Programms nach 2010 und den Erhalt seiner Eigenständigkeit gegenüber anderen EU-Initiativen ist die Tatsache, dass es wirtschaftlich am besten an die Möglichkeiten und Bedürfnisse junger Menschen angepasst ist. Wenn man die oben genannten Tatsachen berücksichtigt, ist es ausgesprochen wichtig, dass das neue Programm für die Jugend die Erwartungen junger Menschen erfüllt und mindestens die gleichen Möglichkeiten bietet wie das Programm *Jugend in Aktion*.

Während der polnischen Präsidentschaft organisierte Veranstaltungen

Um die formulierten Ziele zu erreichen, wird die polnische Präsidentschaft zahlreiche Veranstaltungen organisieren. Die wichtigsten davon sind Veranstaltungen, die ständiger Bestandteil der europäischen Agenda sind und direkt vom Ministerium für Nationale Bildung organisiert werden. Dabei handelt es sich um: die

Sitzung der Generaldirektoren für Jugend und die Jugendkonferenz. Die Jugendkonferenz wird als Bestandteil des strukturierten Dialogs von jungen Menschen, der Europäischen Kommission und den für Jugendpolitik zuständigen Vertretern der Regierungen der Mitgliedstaaten organisiert. Ihr Ziel ist es, ein Diskussionsforum für junge Menschen aus allen EU-Mitgliedstaaten zu schaffen. Während der Konferenz werden die Teilnehmer die Ergebnisse europäischer Beratungen diskutieren und Empfehlungen zur Umsetzung der in der Entschließung des Rates über den erneuerten Rahmen für die jugendpolitische Zusammenarbeit in der Zeit zwischen 2010 und 2018 erarbeiten. Das Leitthema der Beratung und der gesamten Konferenz wird die Beteiligung der Jugend mit besonderem Schwergewicht auf der Priorität **Jugend und die Welt** und der östlichen Dimension der Jugendmobilität sein. Junge Menschen aus den Ländern der Östlichen Partnerschaft und Russland werden ebenfalls zu dieser Konferenz eingeladen. Die Konferenz wird zwischen dem 5. und 7. September 2011 in Warschau stattfinden.

Die zweite wichtige Veranstaltung, die während der polnischen Präsidentschaft organisiert wird, ist die Sitzung der Generaldirektoren für Jugend. Ihr Ziel ist es, den Informationsaustausch zwischen den Jugend-Direktoren zur gegenseitigen Zusammenarbeit sowie eine Diskussion über eine gemeinsame Strategie für die jugendpolitische Zusammenarbeit in Europa zu ermöglichen. Auf der Sitzung werden die Diskussionen sich auch mit dem Jugendbericht 2012 beschäftigen. Ein Teil der Sitzung der Generaldirektoren für Jugend wird zusammen mit der Jugendkonferenz organisiert, wodurch ein direkter Dialog mit jungen Menschen, ein besseres Verständnis ihrer Bedürfnisse und eine Identifizierung zentraler Herausforderungen möglich wird, die dann zu einer besseren Organisation der europäischen Jugendstrategie beitragen werden. Die Konferenz wird vom 5. bis 8. September in Warschau stattfinden.

Aufgrund der speziellen Merkmale des Jugendbereichs wird das Ministerium für Nationale Bildung auch in größerem Umfang in

der bereichsübergreifenden Zusammenarbeit tätig werden. Aus diesem Grunde werden Aspekte im Zusammenhang mit Jugendfragen auch auf der Ministerkonferenz zum Thema „Östliche Dimension der Mobilität“, die im Juli in Warschau stattfindet, beim im Juli stattfindenden Seminar über Jugendpolitik in den Ländern Osteuropas und des Kaukasus in Odessa, Ukraine, und während der Ereignisse im Zusammenhang mit dem Europäischen Jahr der Freiwilligentätigkeit zur Förderung der aktiven Bürgerschaft etc. erörtert werden.

Aktive Beteiligung am demokratischen Leben in Europa

Im Ergebnis ist sich Polen der Chancen bewusst, die sich aus seinem Vorsitz im Europäischen Rat ergeben, und es ist bereit,

die entwickelten Prioritäten umzusetzen. Die polnische Regierung hat eine hohe Wertschätzung für Jugend als Kapital und die Tätigkeit der Jugend bei der Entwicklung der gesamten Zivilgesellschaft. Bei der Analyse der derzeitigen internationalen Lage wird die polnische Präsidentschaft sich auf die Entwicklung einer guten Nachbarschaftspolitik konzentrieren und davon ausgehen, dass wirksame Zusammenarbeit mit der Jugend die Grundlage für eine wirksame Zusammenarbeit in den Bereichen Wirtschaft, Kultur, Soziales und Politik darstellt. Die Jugend kann einen wesentlichen Beitrag zur Entwicklung einer internationalen Gesellschaft auf demokratischer Grundlage leisten. Die Europäische Union hat in diesem Bereich ebenfalls viel zu bieten, und das gilt auch für Polen, wo der Geist der Solidarität traditionell sehr stark ist.

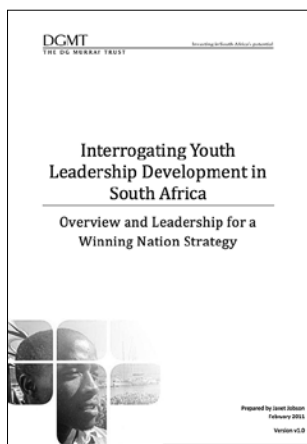
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Политические цели в отношении детей и молодежи в период Польского председательства в Совете ЕС

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Председательство является большим вопросом для Польши – оно предъявляет высокие требования, но предоставляет еще больше возможностей. Оно затрагивает сотрудничество между многими людьми и институтами, не только на европейском и национальном уровне, но и на местном. На Польшу возлагается важная роль в рамках Председательства. Это первая страна нового председательствующего трио. Следовательно, данное обстоятельство будет оказывать значительное влияние на форму сотрудничества и темпы дальнейшей работы. Деятельность в рамках Председательства Польши в молодежной сфере будет направлена на молодежь и на мировой приоритет – одну из областей действий,

определенных в резолюции Совета от 27 ноября 2009 года о возобновлении рамок Европейского сотрудничества в молодежной сфере (2010-2018гг.). Этот приоритет идеально соответствует ведущей теме тройного председательства Польша-Дания-Кипр в целом (например, молодежное участие), а также другим идеям Европейского года волонтерской деятельности, направленной на продвижение активной гражданственности (2011). Темы, выбранные в рамках Польского председательства, относятся к стратегическим действиям Европейской Комиссии в отношении молодежи, среди которых основные цели Европейской стратегии 2020, в том числе ее флагманская инициатива «Молодежь в движении».



Interrogating Youth Leadership Development in South Africa

Overview and Leadership for a Winning Nation Strategy

DGMT – The DG Murray Trust: Investing in South Africa’s Potential

Prepared by Janet Jobson, February 2011

“Young people have become the focus of intense interest to policy makers because they can be a major source of problems as well as a major resource for national development.” (SA Social Profile: 31) Young people in South Africa today are negotiating a complex reality wedged between a brutal apartheid history which they did not personally experience, a post-apartheid era where poverty and violence are the norm, and the knowledge that they will inherit an uncertain future. For the most-part as young people engage with South Africa, the country perceives them through the lens of being ‘problems’ to be solved.

This concept paper will attempt to highlight one of the critical aspects involved in trying to shift our perceptions of young South Africans – their potential to lead through public innovation. It is crucial to develop an alternative narrative of young people in South Africa – one where despite the very real challenges they face, and social dangers they pose, they flourish as active, innovative and catalytic agents to shape our shared future. The paper begins with an outline of the current state of youth in South Africa, focussing primarily on their civic engagement; then to the field of leadership development and some key insights to shape interventions that engage young people as active citizens; and finally the paper will describe the strategic plan for the Leadership for a Winning Nation portfolio and its flagship Leadership Incubator as responses to the state of youth civic engagement and leadership in South Africa.

To download this paper (27 pages) please visit:

<http://www.dgmt.co.za/files/2011/05/Overview-and-Strategy.pdf>

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Child and Youth Policy in Poland

① Children and Youth in Poland

According to the official governmental statistics there are just slightly over 11 million 400 thousand people under the age of 24 living in Poland, of which over 5 million are youth. This means that young people represent ca. 16% of the total population of Poland, making it one of the countries with the youngest demographics (together with Slovakia, Ireland and Cyprus) in the entire European Union¹. At the same time, Poland records one of the lowest percentages of the foreign youth living in the country (this characteristic is shared mainly by the new EU member states)². Despite this fact, the Polish youth – as confirmed by a host of studies – is not only numerous but also a varied social group.

“The State Strategy for Youth for 2003 – 2012” defines young people as a group aged from 15 to 25, including teenagers (15-19) and young adults (20-25); while the legal age, eligibility for marriage and active voting right is obtained at 18; similarly, the youth under the age of 18 is in Poland subject to compulsory education.

② Main Policy Directions for Children and Youth

Poland’s youth policy is expressed via many legal conditions regarding youth. Considering a unique, inter-sectoral nature of that policy, there is a persistently strong need to create a suitable environment for coordination of initiatives undertaken by the government and the institutions for youth, including research institutes at universities and non-governmental organizations, of which also youth organizations. Such initiatives should be performed on a local, regional and national

level. They are expected to improve the situation of the young generation, especially within the scope of its active participation in the employment market and its social and political involvement.

A number of specific postulates, strategic objectives and operating areas have been presented in the “State Strategy for Youth for 2003-2012”, prepared by the Ministry of National Education and Sport and adopted by the Council of Ministers on 19 August 2003.

The main objectives of the State Strategy for Youth include:

- Creating and equalising opportunities of development and self-realization for the young generation,
- Providing conditions for development of own activities of the young generation,
- Combating marginalization of the young generation,
- Developing international youth cooperation,
- Building youth information system,
- Education and in-service training of the adults working with youth.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the goals set out under the *State Strategy for Youth* be followed through based on the so called Open Method of Coordination (OMC) applied in the area of cooperation between the EU member states. On a national level, application of this method would involve foremostly cooperation between the state administration, NGOs and institutions for youth, which would also facilitate an ongoing exchange of information and experience, as well as joint setting of the directions. In consequence, such cooperation could lead to an optimum use of the funding earmarked for implementation of the youth policy. An additional recommendation

supporting success of the OMC is creating an efficient information network offering a current knowledge to the youth themselves, as well as their guardians and tutors; as at present, this task is followed through most efficiently – with both the content-related and financial support of the European Commission and the Ministry of National Education – by the Eurodesk Poland network which comprises over 70 organizations across Poland.

► **Employment:** People aged under 25 are identified under the current regulations as the persons in a particularly difficult position in the employment market. The “First job” governmental program addressed to people under the age of 25 and high education graduates aged under 27, offers a special solution, i.e. a 12-month paid internship at a local company, organization or institution, financed by the local labour office. This mechanism is an answer to a challenge which is the need for the young people to gain their first professional experience, necessary to be able to actively participate in today’s employment market. Those activities must be accompanied by adequate professional advice targeting young people; the advisory centres operate at both the local psychological and pedagogical counselling centres and the youth information organisations; it is important to appropriately prepare their staff to work with young people looking for jobs. There are also the Voluntary Labour Corps offered as part of the support system for youth employment, whose main objective is to create suitable conditions for appropriate social and professional development – including special initiatives addressed to unprivileged youth. Wide prospects with regard to performance of statutory obligations have been opened up for the Voluntary Labour Corps with access to the EU structural funds, and in particular financing from the European Social Fund.

► **Financial support for students:** In Poland there is a system of financial help for the higher education students. The main source of financing this system is the state budget. Higher education institutions obtain a grant for that purpose (for each calendar year), which is then distributed

accordingly by the rector in agreement with the school’s student self-government body. As part of the financial support, students may apply for both the housing or social benefits and for student academic or sports achievement grants. A supplementary form of financial aid for higher education students are student loans with the interest on loan subsidized by the state budget and attractive repayment conditions. It is worth noting that the grants, sometimes combined with paid traineeship or internship programs, are offered by an increasing number of private enterprises; such offer is attractive from the young people’s point of view as they are able to gain professional experience, while at the same time improving their financial status, as well as future chances on the employment market.

► **Free Time and Sport:** An important element of social integration via sport is providing access to sport infrastructure to youth from different backgrounds. This is supported, among others, by the “My Football Pitch – Orlik 2012” Programme. This initiative involves building complexes of free general-access football pitches, together with the changing rooms and amenities in each municipality of Poland. The programme is aimed at providing youth and children with access to cutting edge sports infrastructure, so as to enable them to practice sports.

③ **Tasks of the Ministry of National Education pertaining to the Youth Policy**

The Ministry of National Education undertakes a number of measures aiming at activation and support of youth, in particular in areas of education, obtaining competences by participation in non-formal education, support of youth with limited access to education, as well as support of public involvement of youth, shaping civic attitudes and participation of youth in the employment market.

► **Equalisation of Opportunities:** Available in Poland since 2004 is the National Grants Program acting as a basis for creating the state policy for

equalisation of educational opportunities and designing exchanges to reinforce the stimuli compensating the student's social background, as well as supporting education of students with learning disabilities. The National Grants Program allows for execution of the governmental schemes, aimed at equalisation of educational opportunities and support of gifted students. Equalisation of opportunities also provides for entrusting NGOs with the public tasks via financial support for the non-formal education projects aimed at development of leadership skills and foreign languages studies through participation in international youth exchange programs, as well as activities supporting foreign students in Poland and the children of the Poles living abroad.

Another important source of financing youth programs are also the local government units. The amount of funds earmarked for execution of the youth-related tasks depends on the budgetary capacity of those units.

► **International Cooperation and Youth Mobility:** The activities of youth related to non-formal European education and improvement of foreign language competency are supported by international initiatives led nationwide by the most important "Youth in Action" programme. Other programmes based on bilateral cooperation, such as the Polish and German Youth Cooperation or the Polish and Lithuanian Youth Exchange Fund provide financial and content-related support for the ideas of young people; their main role is to encourage friendly relationships between the countries and inspire young people to engage in activities allowing them to get to know one another and establish lasting contacts and friendships.

④ **Child and Youth Law (including regulations on prevention of addictions)**

On 7 July 1991, the Republic of Poland ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allowed to attempt to **establish**

the Commissioner for Children's Rights institution. The Act on the Commissioner for Children's Rights was adopted by the Sejm of the Republic of Poland on 6 January 2000. In line with the contents thereof, the Commissioner protects the rights of the child, specified in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other laws, while respecting the responsibilities, rights and obligations of the parents. Instituting the Commissioner for the Children's Rights, together with the relevant competences, substantially improved the already available instruments for protection of children's rights.

Activities of the Commissioner allow him/her to continually and systematically analyse issues of the children and families. Those issues are a subject of numerous general motions addressed to public authorities (several dozens of motions submitted annually). They also form a basis for formulating opinions on the status of respecting children's rights in Poland, which the Commissioner presents every year in the Polish Parliament. Operating within the Office of the Commissioner for the Children's Rights is also the Children's Rights Information Centre for obtaining and providing information on the status of observing children's rights.

As from November 2008, young people and children in Poland can call the first national toll-free **Helpline for Children and Youth at 116 111**, whenever they need support, care and protection. The Helpline at 116 111 is operated by qualified psychologists and pedagogical counsellors prepared not only to offer advice and help in crisis situations but also to intervene in cooperation with the Polish nationwide network of institutions and organizations authorized to take such actions. The Helpline for Children and Youth at 116 111 is one of the European toll-free telephone lines supporting communities, established upon the initiative of the European Commission. It is the first from this group of toll-free telephone lines launched in Poland. Number 116 111 was assigned to 14 member states of the European Union, Poland is the fifth member

state to have launched this helpline following the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary.

Launched in 2008 was the **“Safe and Friendly School”** Programme. This program is aimed at improvement of the educational skills of teachers and parents, as well development of social and emotional competencies of students.

This programme is also aimed to reinforce the school's educational role, while building a positive social climate and changing the student-teacher relation. It assumes a shift in the core focus to cooperation and building a friendly, supportive environment at school. The programme's primary goal is to achieve a real improvement of the students' safety at Polish schools and restrict pathological patterns, such as in particular aggression, drug addiction and alcohol abuse. The educational and preventive measures at schools are supplemented by resocialisation programmes at youth educational centres and youth social therapy centres. A crucial element of preventive health measures is promotion of a healthy lifestyle. This is aided by the “European Network of Health Promoting Schools” project in which Poland has been involved since 1992.

⑤ **Role of Youth Organisations in Implementation of Youth Policy**

One of the most important recommendations formulated by the experts – authors of the “White Book of Polish Youth” reads: A condition for execution of the modern state Policy for youth is to recognise it as a partner in the activities rather than just a subject of specific decision and activities³. Active participation of youth in the public forum is also a key to future professional activities of young people. The state should therefore play an auxiliary function with regard to youth groups, allowing them to conduct their own activities – the state should animate rather than organise their activities.

It should be taken into consideration that the model of social involvement of young Poles has been recently changing. Ever more often than involvement is situational and momentary

– young people become involved in specific projects, one-off initiatives and activities, while avoiding permanent responsibilities related to any formal membership. Thus, the role of mass youth organisations is on a gradual decline, although their offer seems still attractive and in many cases it is flexibly adjusted to the new reality and reflects the real needs of youth.

It is worth to highlight the manner of **organisation of the dialogue in the area of higher education and the issues of higher education students**. The students have a guaranteed influence on all the activities related to the academic environment, which is ensured to them under the Act of 27 July 2005 – Higher Education Law. Thus, the representatives of students and doctoral students sit on the senates of higher education institutions and the main boards of organisational units (faculties), while representing minimum 20% of the personal composition of the aforesaid academic bodies. The representatives of students and doctoral students also make up no less than 20% of the composition of the electoral college, i.e. the body which elects the rector, pro-rectors, deans and pro-deans.

Thus, the abovementioned legal regulations guarantee to students and doctoral students an influence over the activities of every higher education institution. All the students and doctoral students in a given institution constitute the following: students' self-government and doctoral students' self-government, and the bodies of those self-governments are a sole representative of the total body of students or doctoral students in a given institution. The bodies of the aforementioned self-governments make decisions on distribution of funds earmarked by the higher education institution for student purposes (including the activities performed by student organisations), and they also have a decisive say in allocation of the financial benefits to students and doctoral students.

The representatives of the student self-governments in higher education institution constitute the **Students' Parliament of the**

Republic of Poland, representing all the students in Poland, while the representatives of the doctoral students' self-governments constitute the National Representation of Doctoral Students.

It should be mentioned that the representatives of both the Students' Parliament and the National Representation of Doctoral Students are comprised within the Main Board of Higher Education, an electable representative body of higher education. The Main Board cooperates with the state bodies in determining the state's educational policy, via issuing opinions on drafts of all the legal acts in the area of studies and higher education, submits proposals regarding the names of degree courses and the education standards for all the degree courses.

The examples of systematic cooperation between the Ministry of National Education and youth organisations are as follows: **agreements concluded with scouting organisations** and support for the process of appointing the national youth representation.

In 2010-2011, the Minister of National Education signed an agreement on cooperation with the scout organisations operating in Poland, which for many years have been an important partner for the schools and educational units, developed successful methods for educating youth and children and developing their talents and skills⁴. The scout method assumes an individual approach to every young person, which ensures effectiveness and prevents risky behaviours of youth and children. The signing of the agreement was inspired by many examples of effective cooperation between Polish schools and scout organisations while conducting an educational programme. The undertaken actions will be realised via scout initiatives, programmes and educational projects, as well as cooperation of the scout field organisational units with the educational inspectorates, schools and educational units. Scout organisations which are a party to the signed agreement have the total of over 140 thousand members.

Recently, on 4 April 2011, a founding meeting of the **Polish Federation of Youth Organisations (PROM)** was held. The Polish Federation of Youth Organisations was founded as a result of over one year of efforts of the Ginger Group, involving over forty youth organisations and youth unions – from small local associations through to the largest ones, with dozens of thousands of members. Following numerous meetings and discussions, it has been possible to set out common objectives and a structure facilitating cooperation between organisations of different types.

The Federation is a common representative of the organisations associated within it for issues related to the needs and postulates of youth. Among the objectives set out for themselves by the PROM organisations is e.g. participation in development of the youth policy, popularisation of the concept of public involvement of young people, support of collaboration, exchange of information and experiences between youth organisations and youth unions and organisations acting on behalf of youth, facilitation of contact between Polish youth organisations and youth unions. Membership of the Federation is open to organisations where a minimum of two thirds of members are aged under 35. Also the youth town councils may participate in the activities of PROM as part of the standing team.

The Ministry of National Education has supported the process of establishing the Polish Federation of Youth Organisations from the very beginning but it still offered full freedom to the social organisations to form the Federation as an organisation independent of the state structures. These activities confirm involvement of the Ministry of National Education in establishment of the European social dialogue standards. The remaining challenge is cooperation with the non-formal youth groups and preparing activities to stimulate increased participation of individual units.

Future Challenges. The Department of Youth and Non-Governmental Organisations established within the Ministry of National

Education as of 1 January 2011, faces an ambitious task of coordination of a number of activities across many different areas, which together constitute the so called youth policy (in a wide, strategic meaning of the term) which still requires a single recognisable brand as in some of the EU member states (Germany, Belgium, Finland). It is important to establish a situation where despite any political shifts it will be possible to permanently pursue the strategic development and strategic approach to the youth policy.

Notes

- 1 Source: Eurostat 2007.
- 2 Source: Eurostat 2007, Population — International Migration and Asylum statistics.
- 3 “White Book” of Polish youth. Diagnosis of the situation of young Poles as a basis for the state strategy for youth, Warsaw 2004, p. 13.
- 4 Agreement signed with the Polish Scouting Association in 2010 was a renewal of the first agreement concluded with this organisation in 1997.

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La politique en faveur de l'enfance et de la jeunesse en Pologne

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La politique de jeunesse de la Pologne se traduit par quantité de dispositions juridiques relatives à la jeunesse. Etant donné la nature intersectorielle unique de cette politique, il est absolument nécessaire de créer un environnement favorable à la coordination des initiatives entreprises par le gouvernement et les institutions pour la jeunesse, y compris les instituts de recherche universitaires et les organisations non gouvernementales, dont beaucoup sont dédiées à la jeunesse. Le ministère de

l'Education nationale met en œuvre de nombreuses mesures visant à mobiliser et soutenir la jeunesse, et notamment dans les domaines suivants : éducation, acquisition de compétences par la participation à l'éducation non formelle, aide aux jeunes ayant un accès limité à l'éducation, encouragement de la participation publique des jeunes, développement d'attitudes civiques et participation des jeunes au marché de l'emploi.

Kinder – und Jugendpolitik in Polen

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Die polnische Jugendpolitik drückt sich in Form von zahlreichen gesetzlichen Rahmenbedingungen für die Jugend aus. Bei der Betrachtung der einzigartigen und bereichsübergreifenden Merkmale dieser Politik besteht ein andauernder nachdrücklicher Bedarf, ein geeignetes Umfeld für die Koordinierung von Initiativen zu schaffen, die von der Regierung und Institutionen für die Jugend wie beispielsweise universitären Forschungsinstituten und nichtstaatlichen Organisationen, darunter auch Jugendorganisationen, umgesetzt werden.

Das Ministerium für Nationale Bildung (Ministry of National Education) ergreift insbesondere in den nachfolgenden Bereichen eine Reihe von Maßnahmen zur Aktivierung und Unterstützung von Jugendlichen: Bildung, Erwerb von Qualifikationen durch Beteiligung an non-formaler Bildung, Unterstützung für Jugendliche mit eingeschränktem Zugang zu Bildung sowie Unterstützung für das öffentliche Engagement der Jugend, die Entwicklung zivilgesellschaftlicher Einstellungen und die Teilhabe von Jugendlichen am Arbeitsmarkt.

Детская и молодежная политика в Польше

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Молодежная политика в Польше отражается во многих правовых положениях, затрагивающих вопросы молодежи. Учитывая уникальность и межведомственный характер этой политики, существует настоятельная необходимость создания благоприятных условий по координации инициатив, предпринятых правительством и учреждениями для молодежи, в том числе научно-исследовательскими институтами в университетах и неправительственными организациями, включая молодежные

организации. Министерство национального образования предпринимает меры, направленные на активизацию и поддержку молодежи, в частности, в области образования; меры, ориентированные на приобретение компетенций в процессе участия в неформальном образовании; поддержку молодых людей с ограниченным доступом к образованию, а также меры по содействию вовлеченности молодежи в общественную жизнь, формированию гражданской позиции и участию молодежи на рынке труда.

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Building democratic, cohesive and inclusive societies – the policy of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in promoting the participation of young people

From the Charter of Local Self-Government to the Charter on youth participation: A potted history of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Established in 1949, the Council of Europe is the oldest European organisation, set up to ensure Europe's citizens would not again have to live through the horror and suffering caused by the two world wars of the twentieth century. To achieve this aim, the Council has been working to unite European countries based on the shared values of respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the values which, in the Council's eyes, form the basis of a tolerant and civilised society and which are indispensable for the building of a stable, functional, inclusive and cohesive Europe.

But democracy and human rights protection are not just matters for central government. Local democracy expanded after World War II and the scope of public services at local level increased. It was only logical, therefore, that the Council of Europe, through the Special Committee on Municipal and Regional Affairs of the Consultative Assembly – now the Parliamentary Assembly – should call for a structure through which local elected representatives could make their voice heard. After four years work by this Committee, a first meeting of local elected representatives of 13 European countries was held in 1957, then known as the European Conference of Local Authorities, predecessor of the Congress. From being a “committee of experts” in 1961, to the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities in 1975, the Congress progressed to becoming in 1994 a Council of Europe body in its own right officially mandated to represent local and regional authorities. In its more than 50 years existence, the Congress “has been able to

demonstrate that there can be no real democracy in Europe without promoting local democracy at the grassroots, which is not only practical, logical and economical, but also conducive to a closer relationship between the “governed” and the “governing” classes”.¹

Over the years, the Congress has addressed the local and regional dimension of issues facing European society, proposing action and possible solutions at decentralised government levels. A corpus of texts, the most important of which is the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ECLSG), has been adopted on issues ranging from local and regional finance, to health, to intercultural dialogue, to youth.

A new Secretary General for the Council of Europe, reform for the Congress

In 2008, the Congress decided to take a long hard look at its mission, its political role, its structures and working methods. Its first report on the subject in 2009 launched a reform process in order to be able to continue to play its vital role of monitoring, promoting and developing local and regional democracy amid the changes in the European society and political landscape. The Congress committed itself “to an ongoing process of adaptation and improvement with a view to further strengthening its implementation of the core values of the Council of Europe: democracy, rule of law and human rights”.²

This process coincided in 2009 with the election of Thorbjørn Jagland as Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in particular on the strength of his plans to reform the Organisation. His aim was to revitalise the Council of Europe as a political

body, to increase its impact by concentrating its work on fewer projects centred around its fundamental values, and to make the Council of Europe more visible and, very importantly, more relevant to the 800 million Europeans living in its 47 member states.

The Congress' commitment to reform is fully reflected in the political priorities adopted by the Congress for 2011-2012. Five key priority areas have been defined which, in the words of Keith Whitmore, Congress president, "lay the ground for a long-term framework of activities geared towards raising the quality of local and regional governance and thus making our towns, cities and regions a better place for people to live and work."³ As well as stepping up its monitoring of the implementation of the ECLSG and widening the scope of its election observation missions and considering human rights and democracy are interdependent the Congress has set about promoting the implementation of human rights and raising human rights awareness at local and regional levels. Human rights are not exclusively the responsibility of governments: human rights standards must be respected at all governance levels and protection must be afforded to all citizens. It is only when there is full respect for human rights at all levels of government that we will see inclusive and cohesive societies where all forms of intolerance and discrimination have been eradicated and where all citizens have equal access to public services and social rights. Achieving a democratic, cohesive and inclusive society at the grassroots level, with the full participation of all citizens, continues to be the aim of the Congress.

A new structure for addressing today's challenges

The reform has revised the Congress' working structures, reducing to three the number of committees in line with the refocused priorities: the Committee on the honouring of obligations and commitments by member states of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, or Monitoring Committee which, as its name

implies, monitors both the implementation of the ECLSG and specific questions related to local and regional democracy in member states; the Governance Committee which examines issues relating to governance and the functioning of local and regional authorities; and the Current Affairs Committee which prepares work on thematic issues such as social cohesion, intercultural dialogue, education, culture and sustainable development and studies the role of local and regional authorities in tackling the major challenges of modern society.

The Current Affairs Committee Policies for a democratic, inclusive and cohesive society

Witnessing the widespread discrimination against Roma,⁴ the lack of respect of their human rights and their social and economic marginalisation, the Current Affairs Committee is examining what local and regional authorities can do to promote the inclusion of Roma. Counting the cost, both human and economic, of the Fukushima disaster and in view of the rising oil prices resulting from the unrest in Arab countries, it is also looking into energy efficiency at local and regional level as a solution to Europe's energy problems. The recent events in the southern Mediterranean have led to a massive influx of migrants into Europe. What can local and regional authorities do to ensure these migrants' human and social rights are not trampled underfoot? How can they guarantee migrants' access to social rights and public services? How can they facilitate migrants' inclusion in the local community and ward against a rise in xenophobic behaviour? These are just some of the issues currently on the Current Affairs Committee's agenda, issues which, if left unsolved, will threaten the democratic society the Council of Europe has been forging for the past 60 years.

The current resurgence of intolerance and discrimination in Europe is posing a considerable challenge to this peaceful, democratic Europe the Council of Europe has strived to build over the past 60 years. So much so that the

Secretary General, Thorbjørn Jagland asked an independent “Group of Eminent Persons” (the Group) to prepare a report on the issue. The report assesses the seriousness of the risks, identifies their sources and makes a series of proposals for “living together” in open European societies. The Congress has cooperated closely with the Group in its research for this report and will take into consideration the responses it proposes when fixing its future priorities for action at local and regional levels to ensure Europe remains an area where citizens can live together in dignity. To help it, the Congress will no doubt call upon the experience and knowledge of Europe’s young people, experience they have gained from their daily activities to promote peaceful societies built on tolerance and respect for others, as well as from the two Council of Europe All Different-All Equal campaigns.

2012 – A big year for youth!

Youth also falls within the remit of the Current Affairs Committee. Youth issues first appeared on the Council of Europe’s agenda in the 1960s. When the Parliamentary Assembly discussed “the youth crisis” following the student uprising in 1968, it concluded that young people must be closely associated with the building of a democratic Europe.⁵ Activities with and for young people were stepped up and 2012 marks the fortieth anniversary of the launch of a European youth policy through the setting up of the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg and the European Youth Foundation in 1972.

“The participation of young people in civic life is a decisive factor for securing social cohesion and for living in a democracy in accordance with the values of a multicultural society in the spirit of the European Convention on Human Rights”. That sounds as if it has come straight out of the Congress’ priorities 2011-2012. In fact, it is a quotation from Resolution 237 (1992) of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, forerunner to the Congress, on the Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life. All

that time ago, the Congress had already realised the importance of promoting youth participation at local and regional levels, not only the act of voting in elections but also in taking part in public discussions and decision-taking. 2012 will thus mark another occasion: the Congress will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the youth participation Charter.

With these two “youth” anniversaries to be celebrated in 2012, it seems only fitting that the Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe’s decision-making body, supported the Secretary General’s proposal in his priorities for 2012-2013 that youth issues be mainstreamed into the various programmes.

Building sustainable democratic societies

In the “Democracy” pillar of the 2012-2013 programme, which will promote democratic governance and contribute to sustainable democratic societies, the youth dimension will seek “to increase social cohesion and inclusion of young people in society, access to working life and social rights, and fighting discrimination and marginalisation in multicultural urban environments”.⁶ The Congress addressed this issue in 2010 in its Resolution 319 (2010) on the integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. It was only natural that the Congress should address this issue, after all, these disadvantaged neighbourhoods are part of Europe’s cities and regions, and local and regional authorities, as the closest level of governance, are thus best placed to respond to their needs.

Aware that the transition of young people to adult life is not always an equal and smooth process, some benefiting from new opportunities whilst others experience vulnerability and exclusion, the Congress decided to address the challenge this poses to local and regional authorities. It was clear they must work to reduce this “youth divide” and to promote the social inclusion of all young people, regardless of their social, ethnic and

cultural background. The question was how local and regional government could do this in practise. Young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods face a constellation of difficulties, as such policies and methodologies cannot be transposed wholesale from one group to the next or even sometimes from one individual to the next. In this Resolution, the Congress invites local and regional authorities across Europe to invest in youth work and youth policy to develop a framework capable of delivering programmes and practice yielding positive outcomes for these young people. The objectives of such programmes would be to foster their self-belief and confidence, thus helping to lift them out of the social exclusion in which they live and to empower them to reach their full potential, to take their proper place and play a meaningful role in society.

The Congress Resolution reminded local and regional authorities that the active participation of young people at local and regional levels in policies which concern them, as actors and not just objects of youth policy, is a key objective of the Congress as laid down in the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, and thus urged them to raise awareness of and implement the Charter.

Helping young people to access their social rights

As a follow-on to this Resolution, and with a view to further developing policy recommendations for local and regional authorities to promote the inclusion of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, the Congress has been cooperating and will continue to cooperate in 2011 and 2012, with the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport (DYS) on the ENTER! Project. This three-year project aims to “develop youth policy responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods”.⁷ The Congress has already taken part in various activities organised within the framework of the ENTER! Project. In December 2010, the Congress participated in a seminar which brought together

practitioners, researchers, policy makers and elected representatives to explore the priority issues and areas of intervention of youth policy to improve access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The seminar identified the main issues and formulated proposals to be considered by an expert group set up to draft a Committee of Ministers' recommendation to member states. This recommendation will contain guidelines for youth policy to combat social exclusion and promote access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The Congress is playing an active role in this expert group, lending an attentive ear to what youth workers and researchers expect from youth policy at local/regional levels.

Authorities need to commit to finding solutions, inter alia by taking administrative and financial decisions but, in the spirit of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods must be involved in the search for the right solutions and in the decision-making processes. This is why the Current Affairs Committee decided to invite participants from the ENTER! Project long-term training course (LTC) to an exchange of views during its meeting in June 2011. The LTC is the central component of the ENTER! Project, its aim is develop the skills and competences of youth workers and leaders who work in disadvantaged neighbourhoods with young people facing difficulties in exercising their social rights. Operating at grassroots level, these youth workers are best placed to expose to local elected representatives the sort of policies they need and wish to see introduced to help them in their work.

Considering the importance of the ENTER! Project and the key role of local and regional authorities in devising and implementing policies to combat the violence, exclusion and discrimination experienced by these young people, the DYS and the Congress are currently exploring the possibility of co-operating on a joint activity within the ENTER! Project in 2012.

Promoting youth participation across Europe and beyond

Democratic citizenship through education, culture and youth policies is another programme line proposed by Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland for 2012-2013 which will, inter alia, focus on promoting active citizen participation. Was the Congress aware, in 1992, when it first adopted the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, of the importance this text would gain over the coming years? Across Europe, young people, youth NGOs, associations, international organisations quote the Charter in their demands to play a more active role in their societies. The original Charter was revised in 2003 at the request of the young participants in a conference on “Young people actors in their towns and regions”, organised by the Congress in Cracow (Poland) in March 2002 to take account of new challenges faced by young people in contemporary society.

The Congress’ understanding of youth participation goes beyond solely political involvement or participation in youth councils or parliaments. According to the Charter on youth participation, “participation in the democratic life of any community is about more than voting or standing for election, although these are important elements. Participation and active citizenship is about having the right, the means, the space and the opportunity and where necessary the support to participate in and influence decisions and engage in actions and activities so as to contribute to building a better society”.⁸

The Congress thus interprets participation for young people as having influence on and responsibility for decisions and actions that affect their lives or decisions and actions that are important to them. And as the Charter states, participation applies to **ALL** young people without discrimination.

The Congress’ Charter does not treat young people as victims or as a vulnerable group that needs protection. They are also not treated as objects of adults’ intervention, with the adults assuming they know what is best for young people – a common

misconception. Young people are now seen as active players in organisations or in community life. They are seen as partners with lots of potential, talents and strengths. They should have the opportunity to express their needs and to find ways of satisfying them. One African proverb hits the nail on the head: “the one wearing the shoes knows exactly where they hurt”⁹ – in other words, young people are best placed to know what they want and what they need. Youth participation is a sort of youth-adult partnership in which everyone’s voice is heard and taken seriously, in which aims, objectives, roles, responsibilities and decisions are negotiated and agreed upon collectively. The skills and talents of young people and the experience and wisdom of adults come together in a mutually supportive atmosphere, no one instructs the other.

Youth participation takes many different forms, from voluntary work to being active in organisations, from participation in non-formal education to campaigning activities. The Congress’ Charter specifically aims to promote youth participation at local and regional levels by providing concrete ideas and instruments. The Charter is not a sort of recipe on how to achieve effective youth participation, a recipe which must be followed step by step, as the situation in one country will be different to that in another, indeed situations will be different from one community to another. The Charter should therefore be seen as a set of principles, best practices and guidelines to enhance youth participation at local and regional levels. Although the Charter is not a legally binding instrument, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers adopted a recommendation supporting the implementation of the revised Charter, which means that the member states have a moral responsibility to implement it, even though they are not legally bound to do so.

The Charter three steps to effective participation

The Charter consists of three parts relating to different aspects of youth participation. Part I covers fourteen different sectoral policies and suggests ways in which local and

regional authorities can create conditions and infrastructure conducive to youth participation. Young people may be motivated to participate but if the structures and necessary systems do not exist, participation will be all the more difficult. The policy areas covered in the Charter range from sport to youth employment, from housing policy to health policy. To give a few examples, in policies to combat violence and crime, the Charter advocates authorities include young people in crime prevention councils. Or in the cultural field, to adopt policies which will facilitate young people's access to knowledge, the practice of culture and to creative activity. As part of anti-discrimination policy, the Charter proposes authorities include inter-religious dialogue, multicultural, anti-racist and anti-discrimination education as part of school curricula.

Part II of the Charter focuses on the instruments that can be used by authorities to enhance youth participation, such as training in participation, keeping young people informed, providing them with means of communication, supporting their projects, and so on. A few pragmatic examples would be to encourage and enable young people to engage in voluntary work by setting up volunteer centres or developing systems which recognise and validate voluntary activity in the formal education system and in employment. Information is often a key to participation and authorities should support information and counselling centres for young people, or assist in setting up such services where these do not exist. When information is provided by young people themselves rather than adults, it is of course more accessible to their peers because they talk the same language. It means that authorities should also support the creation and operation of local media developed by and for young people. Authorities should also support young people's projects and initiatives, for example by providing financial, material or technical assistance – this could be as simple as putting meeting rooms and technical equipment at young people's disposal.

Finally, Part III covers how authorities can facilitate the participation of young people in the definition and implementation of the sectoral policies listed in Part I. The revised Charter states that “effective participation of young people in local and regional affairs ... requires a permanent representative structure such as a youth council, a youth parliament or a youth forum”. These structures will take on different forms according to where they are being established – in villages, towns, regions – however, they should always aim to create a partnership between young people and authorities, a space for meaningful dialogue, and give youth the opportunity to become involved in the decisions affecting them. Young people must be able to freely express their opinions and concerns, and make proposals related to the policies and actions of the authorities in the area of youth work.

Twenty years of the youth participation Charter what's next?

The Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life then is a most important text for young people, and its twentieth anniversary deserves to be celebrated. The Congress Current Affairs Committee will reflect on how best to do this. Perhaps it is time to explore ways of taking the Council of Europe's policy of co-management even further in local and regional politics. This principle has been espoused by the Council's youth sector for nearly forty years and is the principle behind the youth participation Charter. But to what extent is it really being implemented at local and regional levels in our 47 member states? When truly representative, democratically elected youth councils and parliaments sit down around the same table with democratically elected local/regional representatives, working out together policies and priorities in the frame of a genuine collective decision-making mechanism, then the ultimate aim of the Congress in the field of youth participation will have been reached.

In conclusion

One often hears how today's youth are tomorrow's leaders and it is true that many great politicians started out life in youth organisations, indeed Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland was elected leader of the Norwegian Labour Party's youth organisation in the 1970s. The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, however, also sees today's youth as the young people of today. As such, it will continue to work to improve the lives of young people by promoting youth participation and mainstreaming youth issues into its activities, and to propose to local and regional authorities policies that will help build democratic, cohesive and inclusive societies.

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For further information about the ENTER! Project: <http://enter.coe.int/>

For further information about the report of the Group of Eminent Persons: Living together: Combining diversity and freedom in 21st-century Europe

Notes

- 1 "50 years of local and regional democracy", (December 2007), Council of Europe Publishing, ISBN 92-871-5716-2.
- 2 Congress Resolution 309 (2010) on the reform of the Congress: structure and working methods.
- 3 Priorities of the Congress 2011-2012, January 2011, brochure of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.
- 4 The term "Roma" used throughout the present text refers to Roma, Sinti, Kale, Travellers, and related groups in Europe, and aims to cover the wide diversity of groups concerned, including groups which identify themselves as Gypsies.
- 5 The Council of Europe and youth, thirty years of experience, Council of Europe Publishing, ISBN 92-871-4976-3.
- 6 Priorities for 2012-2013 and their budgetary implications, CM(2011)48 rev, https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1769953&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383#P10_120
- 7 <http://enter.coe.int/>
- 8 Preamble of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life.
- 9 "Have your say!", manual on the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, Council of Europe Publishing, ISBN 978-92-871-6239-7.

Bâtir des sociétés démocratiques, solidaires et favorisant l'inclusion – la politique du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe en faveur de la participation des jeunes

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Créé en 1949, le Conseil de l'Europe est la plus ancienne organisation européenne dont la vocation est de garantir que les citoyens européens n'aient plus jamais à vivre l'horreur et la souffrance infligées par deux guerres mondiales au XXe siècle. Pour parvenir à cet objectif, l'Organisation s'est attachée à unifier les pays européens sur la base de valeurs partagées, et notamment le respect des droits de l'homme, de la démocratie et de la primauté du droit – valeurs qui, aux yeux du Conseil de l'Europe, sont les fondements de sociétés tolérantes et civilisées et sont indispensables à la création de sociétés stables, opérationnelles, solidaires et favorisant l'inclusion.

Au cours des années, le Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux s'est intéressé à la dimension locale et régionale des problèmes auxquels est confrontée la société européenne, en proposant des actions et des solutions possibles aux échelons gouvernementaux décentralisés. Un corpus de textes, dont le plus

important est la Charte européenne de l'autonomie locale, a été adopté sur des questions qui vont des finances locales et régionales en passant par la santé, jusqu'au dialogue interculturel et à la jeunesse.

Les questions de jeunesse sont apparues au programme du Conseil de l'Europe pour la première fois dans les années 60. Lorsque l'Assemblée parlementaire a débattu de la « crise » touchant la jeunesse suite aux événements de 1968, elle a conclu que les jeunes devaient être étroitement associés à la construction d'une Europe démocratique. Les activités avec et pour les jeunes ont ainsi été multipliées ; 2012 sera l'année du 40e anniversaire du lancement d'une politique européenne de jeunesse avec la création, en 1972, du Centre européen de la jeunesse et du Fonds européen pour la jeunesse à Strasbourg.

Entwicklung demokratischer, kohärenter und inklusiver Gesellschaften – die Politik des Kongresses der Gemeinden und Regionen des Europarats zur Förderung der Teilhabe junger Menschen

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Der im Jahre 1949 gegründete Europarat ist die älteste europäische Organisation und wurde geschaffen um sicherzustellen, dass die Bürger Europas nicht nochmals die durch die zwei Weltkriege des 20. Jahrhunderts ausgelösten Schrecken und Leiden würden durchleben müssen. Im Sinne dieses Ziels hat der Europarat für die Einigung der Länder Europas auf der Grundlage gemeinsamer Werte wie der Achtung der Menschenrechte, Demokratie und Rechtsstaatlichkeit gearbeitet, wobei diese Werte in den Augen des Europarates die Grundlage für eine tolerante und zivilisierte Gesellschaft bilden und für den Aufbau eines stabilen, funktionierenden, inklusiven und kohärenten Europas unabdingbar sind.

Im Laufe der Jahre hat sich der Kongress der Gemeinden und Regionen mit der kommunalen und regionalen Dimension von Themen befasst, mit denen die europäische Gesellschaft konfrontiert war, und hat dazu Maßnahmen und mögliche Lösungen auf der Ebene der dezentralen Regierungseinheiten

vorgeschlagen. Zu Themen, die von der Finanzierung der Kommunen und Regionen bis zu Gesundheit, interkulturellem Dialog und Jugend reichten, hat der Kongress ein Urkundenwerk verabschiedet, dessen wichtigster Bestandteil die Europäische Charta der kommunalen Selbstverwaltung (ECKS) ist.

Jugendpolitische Themen erschienen zuerst in den 1960ern auf der Tagesordnung des Europarats. Als die Parlamentarische Versammlung nach den Studentenrevolten im Jahre 1968 über „die Jugendkrise“ debattierte, kam sie zu dem Schluss, dass junge Menschen in den Aufbau eines demokratischen Europas eingebunden werden müssen. Aktivitäten mit und für Jugendliche wurden intensiviert, und das Jahr 2012 markiert mit der Gründung des Europäischen Jugendzentrums in Straßburg und des Europäischen Jugendwerks im Jahre 1972 den 40. Jahrestag des Beginns einer europäischen Jugendpolitik.

Построение демократического, сплоченного и свободного от дискриминации общества – политика Конгресса местных и региональных властей Совета Европы в продвижении участия молодежи

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Совет Европы, основанный в 1949 году, является старейшей европейской организацией, основанной для обеспечения того, чтобы граждане Европы никогда больше не жили в условиях ужаса и страданий, вызванных двумя мировыми войнами 20-ого столетия. Совет Европы работает для достижения этой цели во имя объединения европейских стран на основе общих ценностей уважения прав человека, демократии и верховенства права, – ценностей, которые, по мнению Совета, формируют основу толерантного и цивилизованного общества и которые необходимы для строительства стабильной, функциональной, всеобъемлющей и сплоченной Европы.

Все эти годы Конгресс местных и региональных властей обращается к вопросам, стоящим перед европейским обществом на местном и региональном уровнях, предлагая действия и возможные решения на децентрализованных правительственных уровнях. Конгрессом был

принят ряд документов (наиболее важным из которых является Европейская хартия местного самоуправления (ECLSG) по целому ряду вопросов, начиная от финансирования на местном и региональном уровнях и заканчивая вопросами здравоохранения, межкультурного диалога и молодежи.

Проблемы молодежи впервые появились на повестке дня Совета Европы в 1960-е годы. Парламентская Ассамблея, обсуждая «молодежный кризис» после восстания студентов в 1968 году, заключила, что молодые люди должны быть тесно связаны со строительством демократической Европы. Начались проводиться мероприятия для молодежи и с участием молодежи, и в 2012 году исполнится 40 лет с момента начала европейской молодежной политики, что было ознаменовано учреждением Европейского молодежного центра в Страсбурге и Европейского молодежного фонда в 1972 году.



Sechster Bericht zur Lage der Jugend in Österreich (2011)

Im sechsten österreichischen Jugendbericht wird eine umfassende Perspektive auf Prozesse und Anforderungen des Aufwachsens in der österreichischen Gesellschaft entworfen. Jugendpolitik wird dabei als Querschnittsmaterie erkennbar: Überall dort, wo sich Jugendliche aufhalten, wo sie zentrale Lebenserfahrungen machen, gilt es, entwicklungsförderliche Rahmenbedingungen für alle Jugendlichen herzustellen und Ressourcen und Kompetenzen situationsangemessen und lebenslagenspezifisch zu fordern. Dies betrifft im engen Sinn die Bereiche Jugendarbeit, Jugendförderung und Jugendwohlfahrt. Dies betrifft aber darüber hinaus auch z.B. die Familien-, Bildungs- und Arbeitsmarktpolitik, die Gesundheits- und Kriminalpolitik und gesellschaftspolitische Aktivitäten in den Bereichen Konsum, Freizeit und Medien.

Zu den unterschiedlichen, für das Aufwachsen und die Lebenssituation von Jugendlichen relevanten Themenbereichen haben Experten und Expertinnen aus Wissenschaft und Praxis in Österreich vorhandene Daten und Erkenntnisse zusammengetragen, um den Grundstein für die Entwicklung einer wissenschaftsbasierten Jugendpolitik zu legen. Die vorliegende Zusammenstellung von Expertisen zu Einzelthemen versucht, das vorhandene Wissen zu sammeln, zu systematisieren und in ein mosaikartiges Gesamtbild zu integrieren. Erstmals in der österreichischen Jugendberichterstattung, zeichnet eine unabhängige Sachverständigenkommission für die Auswahl der Themenbereiche und der Expertisen verantwortlich.

Der Jugendbericht steht zum download bereit unter:

6. Bericht zur Lage der Jugend in Österreich Jugend aus Sicht der ⇒ Wissenschaft (Teil A), der ⇒ Jugendarbeit (Teil B)
http://www.bmfwj.gv.at/Jugend/Forschung/jugendbericht/Documents/Sechster_Jugendbericht_Teil_A_B.pdf

6. Bericht zur Lage der Jugend in Österreich – auf einen Blick
http://www.bmfwj.gv.at/Jugend/Forschung/jugendbericht/Documents/Sechster_Jugendbericht_Auf_einen_Blick.pdf

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Shaping Youth Policies in Nordic Countries – Main Orientations of the Finnish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers

Nordic Council of Ministers

The official Nordic co-operation

The formal co-operation between the Nordic countries is amongst the oldest and most extensive regional cooperation in the world. The political co-operation is built on common values and a willingness to achieve results that contribute to dynamic development and increase Nordic competencies and competitiveness.

Nordic co-operation involves Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden as well as the three autonomous areas, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and the Åland Islands.

The countries and the autonomous territories have different relationships to international organisations. Denmark, Iceland, and Norway are members of NATO. Denmark, Finland, and Sweden are members of the EU. Norway and Iceland are members of the EEA. Finland is the only Nordic country that has adopted the common European currency, the euro. All the countries are part of the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

History

The Nordic countries are closely linked through their history. Going back a thousand years, the countries have alternated between co-operation, fighting wars against each other, entering into alliances, and conquering each other.

The first step to the current formal, political co-operation was taken after World War II in 1952 when the Nordic Council was formed. The Nordic

Council of Ministers, which is an equivalent co-operation between the Nordic governments, was established in 1971.

The prime ministers of the Nordic countries and the leaders of the Faeroe Islands, Greenland, and the Åland Islands have overall responsibility for Nordic inter-governmental co-operation. The Ministers for Nordic Co-operation assume responsibility for the co-ordination of inter-governmental co-operation. The chair of the Ministers for Co-operation is the minister of the country holding the presidency.

There are 10 councils of ministers for specific policy areas. Each council consists of the ministers responsible for the particular policy area in the five Nordic countries and the three autonomous areas.

The Ministers for Co-operation are assisted by senior officials, who constitute the Nordic Committee for Co-operation. They see to the co-ordination of the co-operation.

Strategy for children and young people in the Nordic countries

Children and young people are the Nordic Council of Ministers' prioritised focus group. The work is based on shared fundamental values such as justice, equality, democracy, transparency, and commitment. The definition of children and young people covers everyone from birth to age 25.

Adopted on 1 March 2006, the Nordic Councils of Ministers' current strategy for children and young people was the first joint strategy for the sector. On 3 December 2009, the strategy was slightly amended to incorporate the globalisation

strategy. The leading vision of the strategy is as follows: “The Nordic Region should be the best place for children and young people”. The aim is to ensure that children and young people have good living conditions and the opportunity to have an influence, regardless of gender, ethnicity, cultural or socio-economic background, domicile, sexual orientation, or physical disability. In addition, the operations shall be based on a legal perspective.

The Strategy includes the following areas of priority:

- foods
- environment
- the primary sector
- culture
- social and health issues
- equality
- education
- co-operation with adjacent areas

A general policy on the children and youth perspective means that all initiatives within the Nordic Council of Ministers’ areas of priority are obliged to include children and young people in their activities.

The Ministers for Nordic Co-operation and, consequently, the Nordic Committee for Co-operation, are responsible for the overall co-ordination of the Nordic co-operation relating to children and young people. The actual contents of this work, and its visible results, are managed by the particular Council of Ministers for the area of priority in question, which will give an annual report on the operations.

The Finnish Presidency

The main theme of the Finnish Presidency 2011 is the climate

Finland holds the Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2011, the main theme of which is addressing climate change on all levels. The objective is to make the Nordic countries’ role as a strong and united front on climate issues even more visible.

In its programme for the presidency, Finland has identified three main priorities: dealing with climate change, supporting Nordic globalisation initiatives, and stressing the importance of grassroots activity as the foundation for Nordic co-operation. The programme consists of sector specific programmes and goals.

Management of climate change

The Nordic countries have the required expertise and will to be at the forefront of efforts to curb climate change. They are also dedicated to promoting the efforts on both the national and international level. To be successful, work on climate change calls for comprehensive and cross-sectoral commitment and cooperation. A stronger link should be established between environmental aspects and economic decision-making. At the same time, it is necessary to consider ways to improve our standard of living while reducing emissions. Green growth is the trend for the future.

Consolidation of the globalisation initiatives

Finland will contribute to develop, and finalise existing concrete globalisation initiatives with a view to reinforcing the green profile of the Nordic countries internationally.

Annual globalisation forums have been organised since 2008 and Finland will continue the tradition. The forum offers a platform for the Nordic prime ministers and representatives from business, research communities, politics, the media, and different organisations to jointly discuss the strengths and common challenges of the Nordic region.

Grassroots action as the cornerstone of Nordic co-operation

Finland will strive to encourage active citizenship of children and young people and to improve concrete opportunities for wide involvement in grassroots action. To ensure continuity, it is especially important that young people become committed to Nordic cooperation. This can be achieved by strengthening their Nordic identity and knowledge of the Nordic languages.

With regard to the Ministry of Education and Culture, the main focus areas of the presidency are the following:

- culturally diverse and internationally oriented Nordic countries
- international skills, mobility, and catering for Nordic co-operation
- competence in the Nordic countries
- strengthening the information society
- creativity and global orientation in the Nordic countries
- mobility of the Nordic culture
- the Nordic impact on cultural policies
- the library of the future
- children and young people – the future of the Nordic cultural co-operation
- reforming the structures of cultural co-operation

The aim of the Finnish presidency is to increase the operative and strategic role of NORDBUK in multi-sectoral operations. Moreover, the Finnish presidency will arrange two presidency conferences in 2011: the Nordic–Benelux Expert seminar on child and youth indicators and a conference on strengthening Nordic co-operation in the field of youth information. In addition to these, there will be a number of other conferences and seminars in other areas, for example, a presidency seminar related to the Nordic Circus Year 2011: Circus as a force in society.

Nordic children's and youth committee (NORDBUK)

NORDBUK is the Nordic Council of Ministers' Advisory and Co-ordinating body for Nordic and international matters related to children and young people. Each of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) has a government representative and a youth representative in NORDBUK, and each of

the three autonomous areas (the Faeroe Islands, Greenland, and the Åland Islands) has one representative. The guideline for NORDBUK's is the Strategy for Children and Young People. The strategy is complemented by the Nordic Children's and Youth Committee Action Plan 2010–2013. In addition to these, the activities adhere to priorities defined by the country holding the presidency.

The current action plan was adopted by the Council of Ministers along with the amended strategy on 3 December 2009. NORDBUK has been given the task of co-ordinating and monitoring the Strategy for Children and Young People, including collating annual reports from the sectors on activities that have a bearing upon children and young people, evaluating these activities, and suggesting improvements and changes. The report is presented to the Council of Ministers every year.

Activities planned by NORDBUK in 2011

In 2011, the Finnish presidency will review the possibility to promote the Danish initiative on the outer regions and to continue along the lines of the decisions taken during the Danish presidency in 2010 related to the development of the **Norden förr och nu** Web site. The intention is also to employ a research co-ordinator who will manage the implementation of NORDBUK's new research strategy.

NORDBUK is also looking forward to receiving the results of Professor Peter Waara's comprehensive study on the national and local youth policies in the Nordic countries and the autonomous areas. NORDBUK may also launch various activities following the results of the study mentioned above.

Elaboration des politiques de jeunesse dans les pays nordiques – orientations de la présidence finlandaise du Conseil nordique des ministres

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La coopération formelle entre les pays nordiques est la structure de coopération régionale la plus ancienne et la plus étendue au monde. Sur le plan politique, elle repose sur des valeurs communes et la volonté d'atteindre des résultats susceptibles de contribuer au développement dynamique et à l'accroissement des compétences et de la compétitivité nordiques. La coopération nordique regroupe le Danemark, la Finlande, l'Islande, la Norvège et la Suède, ainsi que les trois territoires autonomes, les îles Féroé, le Groenland et les îles d'Åland.

Il y a dix conseils des ministres chargés de domaines politiques spécifiques. Chaque conseil est composé des ministres responsables des questions pertinentes dans les cinq pays nordiques et les trois territoires autonomes. Les enfants et les jeunes forment le groupe prioritaire du Conseil nordique des ministres. Son action repose sur des valeurs fondamentales partagées comme la justice, l'égalité, la démocratie, la transparence et l'engagement. Par définition, les enfants et les jeunes entrent dans le groupe de population des 0-25 ans.

Ausgestaltung von Jugendpolitik in den nordischen Ländern – Wichtige Orientierungen der finnischen Präsidentschaft des nordischen Ministerrates

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Die formale Kooperation zwischen den nordischen Ländern zählt zu den ältesten und umfangreichsten regionalen Kooperationen in der Welt. Die politische Kooperation baut auf gemeinsamen Werten und der Entschlossenheit auf, Ergebnisse zu erreichen, die zu einer dynamischen Entwicklung beitragen und die Kompetenz und Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der nordischen Länder stärken. Die nordische Kooperation umfasst Dänemark, Finnland, Island, Norwegen und Schweden sowie die drei autonomen Gebiete, d.h. die Färöer Inseln, Grönland und die Åland Inseln.

Es gibt zehn Ministerräte für spezielle Politikbereiche. Jeder Rat besteht aus den für den speziellen Politikbereich in den fünf nordischen Ländern und den drei autonomen Gebieten zuständigen Ministern. Kinder und Jugendliche bilden eine prioritäre Schwerpunktgruppe des Nordischen Ministerrates. Die Arbeit baut auf gemeinsamen Grundwerten wie Gerechtigkeit, Gleichheit, Demokratie, Transparenz und Engagement auf. Die Definition von Kindern und Jugendlichen umfasst alle Menschen von der Geburt bis zur Vollendung des 25. Lebensjahres.

Формирование молодежной политики в Северных странах – основные направления председательства Финляндии в Совете Министров Северных стран

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Формальное сотрудничество между Северными странами относится к числу старейших в мире и наиболее широких региональных форм сотрудничества. Политическое сотрудничество выстраивается на основе общих ценностей и готовности к достижению результатов, способствующих динамичному развитию, увеличению благосостояния и конкурентоспособности Северных стран. Северное сотрудничество охватывает Данию, Финляндию, Исландию, Норвегию и Швецию, а также три автономные области: Фарерские острова, Гренландию и Аландские острова.

Имеется 10 Советов министров Северных стран по определенным областям политики. Каждый Совет состоит из министров пяти Северных стран и трех автономных областей, ответственных за соответствующие области политики. Дети и молодежь являются приоритетной целевой группой Совета министров. Работа основана на общих ключевых ценностях, таких как справедливость, равенство, демократия, прозрачность и обязательства. Под детьми и молодежью понимается возрастная группа от рождения и до 25 лет.

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Developing the Legislative Framework of Youth Policy in Estonia

The New Youth Work Act

Youth situation in Estonia

By 1st of January 2011 there were 321 705 young people living in Estonia, which makes 24% of the total population of 1, 34 million. Defined in

the Youth Work Law young people represent the age-group from 7 to 26. The developments in demographics show similarly to the wide-spread trend all over Europe the continuing drop in percentage of youth among the population.

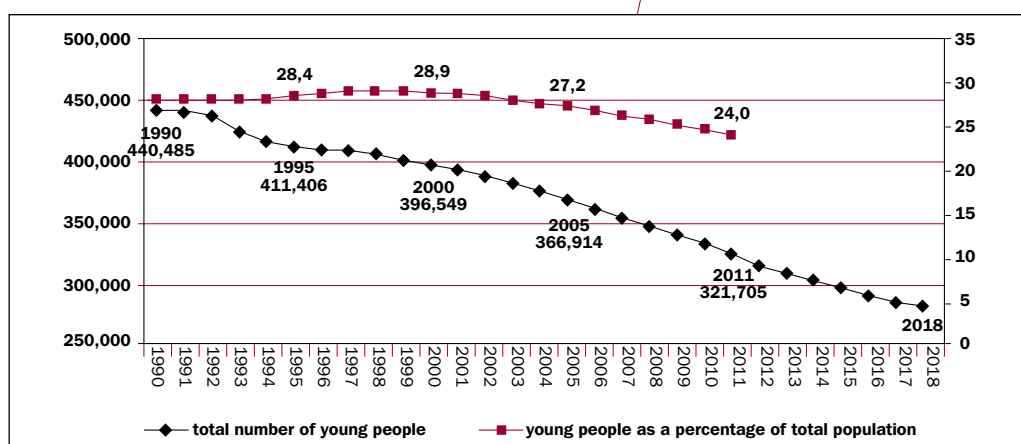


Figure 1. Total number of 7 to 26 year old young people and the percentage of young people of the total population

Young people until 20 mostly study, however the youth unemployment is a serious problem among older youth and the number of young people,

who have not been successful in entering labour market and have left the education and training system, has increased.

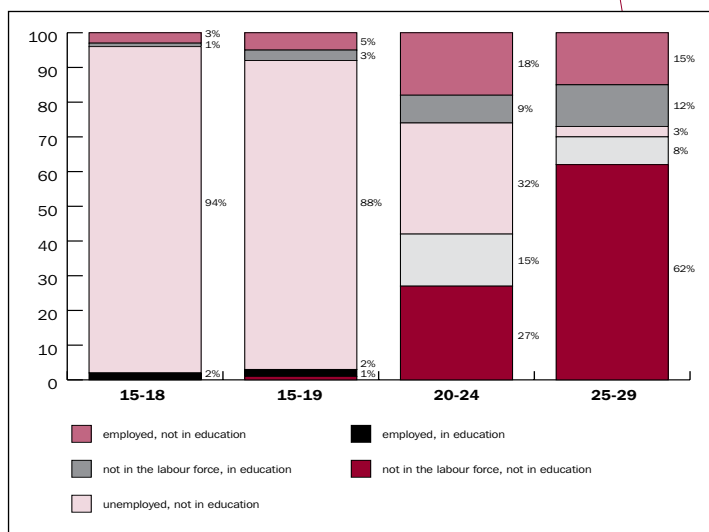


Figure 2. Estonian young people in employment and education, 2010 (%)

The number of young Estonians leaving the country hasn't significantly changed since 2005 and remains at the level around 2000 persons while the number of incoming youth is rising. However the rate is still negative i.e. more young people leave than come (back) in.

While the economic crisis hasn't caused young people to leave, it has definitely caused changes in the income of the families. The most worrying trend affecting especially under 15 years old is the increase of children and young people living in families combating on the edge of poverty; the level is as high as 20,4% of 0-15 years old.

In the area of youth work numbers show no drastic changes compared with the last years: approximately 7 % of all young people belong to the youth organisations, 16% take part in activities of hobby schools (a form of non-formal learning establishments in music, dance, sports etc); approx 25% of youth visits at least once a month a youth centre.

This short overview of some most significant statistics show besides a small picture of Estonian youth also the arguments for the two current priority areas in youth policy and youth work:

- tackling social exclusion threats involving young people whose parents and local municipalities are at the time no longer capable of supporting participation in youth work and other activities which help to develop among others one's competencies and widen the choices in life ahead;
- helping youth field to acknowledge and rise its capabilities and knowledge on how to work with young people who have fallen into problems (be it unemployment, troubles with law etc), work more and more long-term with this target group and get recognised as an important actor in this area by other sectors and larger society.

Youth field in Estonia: youth work and youth policy framework

Youth work is provided locally and local governments are responsible for its provision.

At national level the legal framework, funding schemes, strategic goals and objectives are set. As not many youth work activities take place at regional level, national and local partnerships both in governmental and non-governmental sector play the most important role in youth work.

Non-governmental sector has gained significant place in youth field as an organiser of youth work (a large number of youth centres and hobby schools are NGOs), an advocate for youth field groups (giving voice to the concerns of youth centres, hobby schools, youth workers etc) and a partner in policy-making. The Estonian National Youth Council is a key-actor bringing together youth organisations and local youth councils in representing youth opinion.

Administratively the youth field is an area of responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Research. Implementation of defined measures is the task of substructure of the Ministry – Estonian Youth Work Centre. In Estonia like in many other countries the EU programme Youth in Action and its National Agency (Sihtasutus Archimedes Euroopa Noored Eesti Büroo) is widely integrated into the youth field policy development and implementation.

Legal base for the youth work comes from the Youth Work Act, several specific fields of youth work are regulated by separate acts, for example Hobby Schools Act (2007), Juvenile Sanctions Act (1998) (establishes the sanctions to be applied to juveniles and the competences of the juvenile committees) etc. All the laws and regulations related to the youth field are available electronically from the State Gazette (www.riigiteataja.ee), and an overview is also available on the website of the Ministry of Education and Research (www.hm.ee).

The strategic vision for youth field in Estonia is based on the Youth Work Strategy for 2006–2013 (approved by the Government in July 2006). The document determines the principles and directions of development for youth policy and youth work. The goal of the youth policy is to

guarantee the participation of young people in the decision-making process and the consideration of their interests and needs.

The goal of the youth work is to support the development of young people, and its main principles are:

- youth work is done for young people and together with young people, by involving them in the decision-making;
- youth work is based on the needs, interests, and wishes of young people
- youth work is based on the participation, initiative, and free will of young people.

Young people can primarily participate in youth work in hobby schools, open youth centres, youth organisations and youth camps. In 2010, the number of youth work institutions and agencies reached over 700, however, the availability of youth work opportunities still differs from region to region.

A recent development in youth field in Estonia, which has influenced especially the commitment of local governments to youth but also cooperation and networking of different actors at state level in youth field has been the usage of EU structural funds. Besides the obvious – more opportunities for youth and youth work – the exercise of detailed programming for 7 year period and cooperation-based delivering has provided many valuable experiences and a comparable platform for work with other sectors.

To support youth employability and reduce problems entering and competing at the labour market, Estonia has decided to implement a complex of measures in the years 2007-2013 supported through EU structural funds. The measures are based on the understanding that non-formal learning and specifically youth work play important role in supporting skills and knowledge necessary to develop one's own life project which includes personal development, integration into the working life and managing problems.

The measures are taken in 3 interlinked areas: developing youth work quality; ensuring guidance

and counselling and building and renovating youth infrastructure.

1. **Infrastructure:** building and renovating youth centres, information and counselling centres and hobby schools. The Government decided to open a call for youth infrastructure development in spring 2008 based on the positive experience during the period 2004-2006, when supported by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 7 youth centres and 5 information and counselling centres were (re)built. 193 owners (mainly municipalities) applied for the support in 2008. In June the Government decided to finance 47 projects in amount of 19 million EUR, including 33 youth centres, 4 information and counselling centres and 10 hobby schools.
2. **Youth work quality:** training for youth workers and knowledge about youth and youth work. Ministry of Education and Research initiated in 2007 a programme “Developing youth work quality” covering the period 2008-2013. The programme is implemented by the governmental institution Estonian Youth Work Centre in partnership with the Estonian National Agency for Youth in Action programme. The major action lines of the programme are
 - ▶ training of youth workers and developing the training system for youth field
 - ▶ developing youth work quality assessment scheme
 - ▶ establishing a youth monitor and youth policy analyse system.

To develop the training system for youth field there are steps taken to train the trainers, develop training materials, create trainers network and internet-based methodological centre all both for the trainers in formal and non-formal settings. The programme also includes policy development in cooperation with different actors to define framework for and describe principles of youth field training, assess and study quality of training, set priorities for trainings and target groups. Training for youth workers is provided in both long-term and short-term period in different

geographical locations based on the widely consulted yearly training plan. With an aim to assess youth work and to increase visibility and recognition of youth field, indicators of quality youth work and assessment methods for youth work providers have been developed. Establishing youth monitor is another part of the programme including both regularly updated information on selected indicators on youth life situation and a yearly youth report.

Some additional elements of the programme are implementing a plan to enhance recognition and visibility of youth work profession and developing a tool for validation of non-formal learning in youth field.

- 3. Guidance and counselling:** ensure accessibility and quality of career guidance and educational counselling. As part of implementing integrated policy on guidance and counselling in formal education, youth field and social service field, two programmes were started in 2007 based on the mutual agreement of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Research: “Development of a System of Career Services” and “Development of a system of Educational Guidance”. Both programmes set their main aim to provide first and foremost youth, but also adults, parents, teachers and youth workers with accessible career and educational guidance services ensuring the quality of services.

Services are provided through regional and local information and counselling centres and methodological training and working materials are developed centrally.

New Youth Work Act

Legal regulation of youth work is not a new thing in Estonia as the first legal act in this field was adopted in 1936, when a 18-year-old Republic of Estonia issued a law called Act on Organising the Youth. Besides the regulations of youth

organisations there were also youth participation, guidance support and coping competencies mentioned in the Act – issues still on the agenda today.

In 1999 a new modern-days legal base was created by the Parliament adopting a Youth Work Act, which only went through mostly technical changes during 11 years until 2010, when the new text of the act was passed.

To sum up the changes two most significant are the following:

- The new Act provides a more specific description of youth work, its principles and provision bases compared to earlier regulations. This opens new opportunities for quality development and specific support for local governments. Throughout the years of developing youth work infrastructure, services and its content, it has always been rather a choice for the main organisers of youth work (i.e. local governments) to set actual content to services provided, to the youth work developed. This has been a good way to correspond with local needs and opportunities, however sometimes the interpretations have been very creative. Therefore this new and more precise description (even though still open to creative interpretations) was a next necessary step on the way to more equal opportunities for young people despite their place of living.
- Youth councils, consultative bodies at local level, have been legally defined in the new Act. During the last 13 years several local youth councils have been established, but without any common legal base for their existence and work, the developments have been hectic. Youth Work Act now defines what youth councils are, how they are created and supported. There is no obligation for a local government to create one, but if young people have created a youth council, there is an obligation to support and consult it. Already today – a little bit more than half a year since the adoption of the regulation, one

can see its influence as local governments have acknowledged (for many) a new understanding on youth participation through youth councils and an understanding of a new partner – the Estonian National Youth Council as a coordinating body for youth councils.

The Youth Work Act adopted in 2010 is another step on the way towards the integrated youth policy Estonia has decided to pursue and towards young people feeling safe, involved and motivated in the whole society.

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Développer le cadre législatif de la politique de jeunesse en Estonie La nouvelle loi sur le travail de jeunesse

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D'après la loi sur le travail de jeunesse, la jeunesse est formée du groupe d'âge des 7-26 ans. Le travail de jeunesse s'effectue à l'échelon local et les collectivités locales ont la responsabilité de sa fourniture. Le cadre juridique, les schémas de financement, les objectifs et finalités stratégiques,

en revanche, sont fixés au niveau national. Etant donné que peu d'activités relevant du travail de jeunesse sont conduites au plan régional, des partenariats locaux et nationaux, dans le secteur tant gouvernemental que non gouvernemental, jouent le rôle principal en la matière.

Entwicklung des gesetzlichen Rahmens für die Jugendpolitik in Estland Das neue Jugendarbeitsgesetz

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Laut Definition im Jugendarbeitsgesetz sind Jugendliche Angehörige der Altersgruppe zwischen 7 und 26 Jahren. Die Jugendarbeit erfolgt lokal, und die Kommunen sind für dieses Angebot zuständig. Auf nationaler Ebene werden der gesetzliche Rahmen, die Finanzierungssysteme, die strategischen

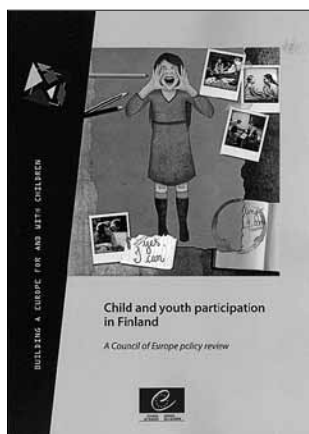
Ziele und Zielvorstellungen formuliert. Weil es in der Jugendarbeit auf regionaler Ebene nicht viele Aktivitäten gibt, spielen sowohl im staatlichen als auch im nichtstaatlichen Sektor nationale und kommunale Partnerschaften die wichtigste Rolle in der Jugendarbeit.

Разработка законодательной базы молодежной политики в Эстонии Новый закон по молодежной работе

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По определению Закона о молодежной работе, молодежь означает возрастную группу от 7 до 26 лет. Молодежная работа осуществляется на местном уровне, и местные органы власти несут ответственность за ее реализацию. На национальном уровне установлены правовые рамки, механизмы

финансирования, стратегические цели и задачи. Поскольку на региональном уровне осуществляется не так много видов деятельности, национальное и местное партнерство правительственного и неправительственного сектора играет существенную роль в молодежной работе.



Child and youth participation in Finland – A Council of Europe policy review

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Taking as a starting point a the child's right to be heard, as set out in Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the report undertakes a legal and policy analysis of child and youth participation in Finland and assesses how child participation functions in different settings: the family, alternative care, health care, education, recreation and cultural life, in situations of violence, judicial and administrative proceedings, and public life and civil society. As the review highlights, legal obligations for child and youth participation are well in place in Finland and significant achievements have been made in promoting the child's right to be heard. However, improvements can be made by encouraging more bottom-up participatory initiatives, strengthening the involvement of young children and of children from disadvantaged backgrounds, investing in the training of professionals working with children and making sure that wherever possible children are consulted at the beginning of decision-making processes.

Children and young people themselves played an important role in the drafting of this report. In addition to an online survey in which more than 700 children participated, the report reflects the outcomes of the discussions of children's focus groups and the input from a children's reflection group, which was involved in the whole process leading to this report.

This publication is available in English only. It is not for sale. To download the policy review please visit:
http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/participation/PolicyReview_en.pdf

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Revisiting China's Youth Policy

2011 was designated as the EU-China Year of Youth with a view to “further promoting and deepening partnership between Europe and China”, at the 12th EU-China Summit, held in Nanjing on 30 November 2009. A joint action plan for the Year of Youth was signed on 6 October 2010 by Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou and the Vice President of the All China Youth Federation. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao attended the opening ceremony of the China-EU Year of Youth in Beijing on 23 February 2011, encouraging young people from China and the EU to build a brighter future for bilateral strategic partnerships.

One of the main objectives of the Year is to achieve extensive and positive impact and help ensure that cooperation between policy makers as well as between youth organizations is sustainable beyond 2011.

The publication of the results of our research in Forum21 shall contribute to broaden the knowledge of youth policy and policy dialogue as well as of other youth-related issues in China.

Youth Policy in the Changing Society

Over the past three decades since China officially implemented its open door and economic reform policies since early 1980s, it has transformed from a closed society to an opening up society and has brought drastic social change in various social strata. Economically, China has shifted from the highly centralized planned economy to a socialist market economy which has gained remarkable achievements in social constructions and quality of livelihood of citizens. However, in parallel with the success and opportunities of reforms, there came the challenges to young people who are in the disadvantaged position in society, have not fully matured their physical, intellectual, social and mental development, and “in a series of transitions from childhood to adulthood” (Cole, 1995:79) that requires adult guidance, social support, and privileged policies and rights to protect.

The contemporary challenges to young people in China can be comprehended in three aspects.

Firstly, the intrusion of western ideology such as democracy, liberalism, justice, capitalism, science and belief in diversity of social values confronts communism, socialism, collectivism, traditional Chinese values, socialist education, and socialization of communist ideology. There is confusion in the belief of political ideology and traditional social values. Secondly, the realistic and materialistic values contest the ideal, spiritual, and moral values. There is a tension in balancing the values of idealism and pragmatism. Thirdly, the wide-spread of Internet, popularity of various mass media and information explosion have accelerated the conflicting values of young people in choosing their social life and ways of living. There is a need to address the problems of internet-media-generated impact on young people and understand their changing lifestyles.

In this connection, policies and services that can help young people to face the challenges and grasp the opportunities for development, meet their needs and resolve problems, improve

their relationship with the ruling party and the government, and promote a harmonious and united society are supported and adopted by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the government. Traditionally, the Chinese Communist Youth League (CYL) both at central and local levels which are under the auspices of CPC, and commissioned by the governments at different levels is assigned as the sole youth work organization to assist in formulating relevant policies and in managing youth affairs.

The CYL has to enhance its attractiveness among its 75 million members, in particular those young people aged between 14 and 28 years old, with the aims to uphold socialist education and guidance to the thinking of young people, increase capacity to serve youth needs, interests and protecting rights, explore effective ways to contact and mobilize members of various youth organizations to participate in positive social activities or political campaign, and organize training programs to enhance the leadership, knowledge and skills of youth workers in working with young people, especially members of the CYL.

In 1990s, the CYL Central Committee confirmed the direction and policy of its youth work by formulating two strategic development documents, namely, **“Our Strategic Development of Youth Work in the Process of Establishing the Socialist Market Economic System”** and **“Outline for the Trans-century Development of CYL’s Work”**. In line with the rapid urban development and the blooming of social organizations at grassroots level, a document entitled, *“The CYL Central Committee’s Opinions on Strengthening the Urban Community-based Organizations”*, was issued in 2000. Moreover, in 2008, the 16th National Congress of CYL further requested to speed up the development of urban CYL. Currently, there are more than 200 laws, rules and regulations, and official notifications relating to young people, e.g., education, employment, marriage, family, criminal offenses, cultural activities, etc. which direct various government departments to address youth affairs and protect

the rights and welfare of young people. Thus we find that there are youth policies in China despite the fact that they are existed in an uncoordinated way and implemented through a ruling party based or semi-official youth work organization (Ngai, 1998).

The key areas of current youth policy can be identified as follows:

① Ideology and directions of youth policy

Presently, China doesn’t have an explicitly written, unified national youth policy or official executive mechanism for carrying out and monitoring national or regional youth affairs. Youth policy is regarded as a component of the overall policy of the CPC which is ideologically oriented and politically dominated. It is always reflected in the state leaders’ speeches or written instructions pertaining to youth issues or youth work, stipulated in the laws, rules and regulations, incorporated in the specific youth-related policies issued by various government departments, and laid down in the CPC’s guiding ideology and action guidelines, aiming to promote the positive development, autonomy, civic responsibility, and social adaptability of young people (Ngai, Cheung and Li, 2001).

Since China follows the communist ideology and adopted the so-called “socialism with Chinese characteristics” as the guiding ethos of political development and economic reform and social education, the basic philosophy and overall direction of its youth policy obviously are to uphold the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and strengthen ideological, patriotic and moral education, so that young people would believe in communism and become the CPC’s genuine supporters and “qualified citizens”.

In practice, though theoretically the communist ideology is viewed as the central guideline in formulating the direction of youth policy, the

ideological influence has gradually become less significant and more emphasis has been placed on the practical social situation and youth needs in recent times. Youth policy tends to focus on involving young people in making contributions to socialist economic, political, cultural and social construction so as to achieve a civilized and well-off society through developing their capability, creativity, civic responsibility, and hard working attitude.

② Youth policy: the role of Communist Youth League (CYL)

Youth policy in China is historically a part of the CPC's policy and is considered as support to the ruling of CPC. In order to implement the Party's policies on young people, the CYL has been set up and assigned as a quasi-official youth work organization under the CPC and supported by the government to lead and coordinate youth affairs. The CYL Charter (2008, revised) stipulates that the CYL fully exercise the function to connect the link and bridge between the Party and youth, and to actively assist the government to manage youth affairs, safeguard the national interests of the people, and represent and protect the specific interests of youth. The CYL helps young people develop their abilities and potentials, provides timely social services, promotes work ethics, encourages learning, and involves in activities to make contributions to socialist economic, political, cultural and social construction through various channels both at central, regional and local levels, aiming to achieve an advanced, prosperous and modern socialist society.

In practice, there are numerous functions which the CYL is expected to perform. As the CPC's assistant and reserve army, it has the political function to support and follow the political and ideological orientation of the Party and to educate young people with communism and socialism. As an assistant to the government in managing youth affairs, it has the administrative function to directing, leading, organizing, planning and evaluating youth related policies and services. As a mass organization for young people, it has

the social and cultural function to provide a wide variety of social, cultural, leisure and recreational services for young people (Lu 2003).

However, there are a number of outstanding issues that have affected the CYL in performing the aforesaid functions. For examples, lacking of formal administrative position and power in helping the government to manage youth affairs, insufficient legitimate authority to propose or monitor youth related policies for the protection of youth interests, inadequate channels for youth participation in the decision making on youth affairs, and adaptation to the service demand for multifarious youth problems due to advanced technological change and globalization, such as internet addict, mental health, drug and delinquency.

In other words, the current role and functions of the CYL as the sole recognized semi-official youth work organization in deciding youth policies and delivering youth services has faced challenge that demands for urgent reform and creates opportunities for innovative ideas, new development, and a shift towards a pragmatic and scientific approach to work with young people and deal with youth affairs (To, Ngai, Wu, Zhang and Yang, 2010).

③ Blossoming of self-organized youth organizations (SYOs) and youth policy

In 2008, there are more than 400,000 registered non-governmental organizations (NGOs), nonprofit making organizations (NPOs) or mass organizations in China in which a large percentage is self-organized youth organizations (SYOs). The number of SYOs and their scope of activities have gained great development in the past thirty years. The blossoming of the SYOs reflected their significant functions and services in meeting multifarious youth needs and engage young people in interacting with other people, participating in social affairs, and involving in charitable activities (Ai, 2010). They are regarded as the second home of young people,

a social venue for young people to participate in community affairs, and an organized group to voice out and protect the rights and welfare of vulnerable youth. They promote mutual help among young people with similar difficulties or problems, provide non-formal education for the children of migrant workers, offer financial assistance to needy students, improve teaching facilities, and provide technical supports, information and services for young people.

In view of the rising number and significance of SYOs, it seems to inform that future challenge of youth policy has to cater for the needs of SYOs and meet youth demands. It is opined that the effective management and coordination of SYOs will not only change the relationship between SYOs and CYL or the government which in turn will influence the provision of youth services, but also have effect on the development of political socialization and civil society in China (Li and Chen, 2009). Therefore, the seizure of the opportunity to coordinate and work with the SYOs might bring about social inclusion of different youth organizations and meet young people's diverse demand for self-fulfillment, search for self-identity, social identity, and a just, equal and humanistic society. Currently, there is no specific youth policy on SYOs. Thus it needs to fully recognize the positive contributions of SYOs and give particular concern with the development of SYOs by formulating relevant policy with explicit monitoring strategies, guidelines, rules, regulations, and procedures. The CYL has to strengthen its role and capabilities in managing the SYOs by providing necessary administrative, financial and tangible support to assist its positive growth and development (He and Ma, 2010).

④ Protection of youth rights and welfare

Before 1990s, China did not have a comprehensive law or policy to deal with legal rights or welfare pertinent to young people. The protection of youth rights and welfare is lagged behind the social development and economic prosperity. The government realizes the need to

use legal power to protect the interests and rights of young people. In 1991, the promulgation of "Juvenile Protection Law" (revised in 2006) laid down the legal policy covering a wide range of youth welfare including family, school, judicial protection and legal responsibilities. In 1999, the enactment of the "Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency" law further sets out the rights and interests protection, guiding principles and legal liability. Thereafter, 29 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, and 318 cities had established Committee on Protection of Juvenile, and 26 provincial CYL Committees and all the municipal CYL Committees set up the Protection of Juvenile Office, with the aims to promote and enforce the laws and regulations governing the rights and welfare of young people.

In line with the continuous opening up of the country, the development of rights consciousness of young people, the demand for greater protection of youth welfare and the rights of young people are expected. The root of current youth problems such as the exploitation and violation of rights, the inadequacy of democratic political participation, and the ineffective rights and welfare protection must be given priority for public education, legislation and policy intervention as they may affect social instability and challenge the political leadership.

According to a report on Juvenile rights published by the China Children and Youth Research Center Task Force on Juvenile Rights (2009), there were problems in youth rights protection such as imperfect protection mechanism, incomplete legal system, inadequate social mechanism, insufficient protection and support for young people to realize their rights, especially the young migrant workers.

In order to ensure the provision of the rights and welfare of young people is effectively protected, youth policy has to improve the current practice: ① improving the operational mechanism by setting up steering or coordinating committees on youth affairs at different levels of the governments to handle issues relating to the protection of youth rights and welfare; ② organizing different kinds of

youth forums via diverse channels to understand the problems of protecting youth rights and welfare, and providing free of charge legal support to young people who have encountered violation of rights or involved in legal disputes; ③ enhancing the awareness of right and welfare protection among CYL cadres and its members through non-formal education, and to use the CYL publications and mass media to publicize important youth policies; and ④ establishing administrative offices in the governments at varied levels with designated staff to handle youth issues related to right and welfare protection which can facilitate the implementation youth policy and boost its effectiveness in practice.

Thus the issue of protecting youth rights and welfare in China is a critical problem which involves varied legislations, policies, and services. The development of a national or regional youth policy has to consider multifarious aspects of youth protection and the executive mechanism of implementation.

In fact, Ngai (1996) has pointed out the potential restraints of the development of youth policy and youth work might include: legal ideals versus social reality, legal flexibility versus legal rigidity, cultural paternalism versus democratic justice and legal ignorance versus legal consciousness. Thus, youth policy needs to address these controversial issues by promoting a sense of ruled by law, changing the views of party leaders, officials, and emphasizing the involvement of all walk of people and different parties in society to advocate legal protection and justice for young people, which will finally make contribution to the development of a Chinese society truly ruled by law.

⑤ Youth unemployment

In the early years of the Chinese Communist regime, the government played an active role in employment issues and assumed the responsibility of providing jobs for all young people. As a result, there was no unemployment problem, or the problem was insignificant since

every young person of a working age would be assigned with a job. In the wake of market-oriented economic reforms, technological changes, and an increasingly integrated global economy, youth unemployment has become an epochal challenge in China. The youth unemployment rate for working persons under aged 25 stood at 28.1 per cent in 2009, which is much higher than other age group (National Bureau of Statistics of China, 2010). As millions of rural laborers flocked to cities to find jobs, and the need to find new jobs for tens of thousands of new university graduates, the problem of youth unemployment has become a vital issue of social concern. This, in turn, can determine the attitude of young people toward the Party and the government. It can also lead to a decline of young people's mental and physical health and create undesirable problems and may commit anti-social behaviors.

Since the economic recession due to global financial crisis has not fully recovered and the surplus of youth labor force is expected, the problem of youth unemployment will continue to exist in the coming years. Thus the youth employment policy must provide an effective solution to the demands of employment by providing a well-organized plan to enhance the employability of young people in the global competitive market, especially in the industrial, commercial and service sectors. It has to cover multifarious areas such as education on employment, vocational and technical training, on-the-job training, life career development guidance, and self-employed enterprise training (Cao, 2009). In other words, a far-sighted youth policy with solid education and training components may be able to assist young people to cope with employment problems which are brought about by the fast economic, social, global, and technological changes.

In tackling the youth unemployment challenges, current youth policies have located diverse measures:

➤ Implementing College Students' Employment Projects by organizing "Volunteer Service Project in the Western Region", "College Students

Internship Employment Action”, and “One Hundred Cities Thousand Enterprises into Campus”;

➤ Promoting youth employment activities and the spirit of enterprises by implementing International Youth Enterprise Program, and organizing various employment educational and entrepreneurial skills training programs; and

➤ Setting up special funds for supporting youth enterprises.

⑥ Youth development

Youth development refers to the process by which young people grow through various spheres of growth into autonomous adulthood with reasoning independent thinking, and mature personality. The growth of young people closely ties to the fulfillment of their needs which consists of a number of areas such as education, physical and mental health, social, cultural and recreational development, community and political participation, national identity or integration and development of global perspective, which demand the CYL and society to help and support them to achieve.

In order to satisfy the educational need of young people, since 1980s, numerous education laws have promulgated to protect youth's right to education and promote equal opportunity for education of young people: “Compulsory Education Law”, “Teachers Law”, “Education Law”, “Vocational Education Law”, “Higher Education Act”, etc (Xi, 2003). The CYL assumes its role to monitor the implementation of the youth education related laws and policies.

In promoting physical and mental health, youth mental health education and counseling activities were carried out to discourage drug abuse, alcoholism, smoking, and anti-social behavior, and promote personal hygiene, food nutrition and poverty alleviation. The CYL tries to create a positive environment for youth development through diverse moral and legal educational programs.

Within the social, cultural, and recreational aspects, the CYL urges the government to formulate policies to meet the social, cultural and recreational needs of youth by promoting social, recreational, leisure and sports activities, advocating the improvement of cultural venues and supporting the development of youth cultural organizations, youth centers and various hobby clubs so that they can become a link to contact youth and cultural organizations.

In social and community participation aspects, the CYL launches the Hope Project, Hand in Hand Project, and Helping the Poor and Needy Students Project, Youth Cultural Festival, Youth of China Series of Activities, Volunteer Service Project in the Western Region, Going to the Rural Areas, Hand in Hand Project, and Youth Environmental Protection Project.

In view of the speeding up of the integration of Hong Kong and Macao into mainland China and the rapid development of globalization, the CYL also encourages and supports exchange programs among youths in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan by organizing the “Chinese Dragon Festival”, “Cross-Strait Youth Festival”, “Cross-Strait Youth Forum” and other exchange activities. Moreover, the CYL also tries to establish friendly relations with overseas youth work organizations and organizes international youth exchange program and overseas volunteer service program for young people.

In recent years, the CYL assumes the role to facilitate young people to realize these positive development by using varied youth policies and services, which comprise, for example, developing youth affairs (youth work), promoting education through monitoring the effective implementation of Compulsory Education Law, encouraging volunteering among youth, educating youth to love natural environment, promoting youth mental health, preventing juvenile delinquency, and organizing youth exchange program. In this connection, Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai Pudong New Area and other 13 cities in China were identified by a high level trans-departmental agreement as the first batch of pioneering areas

to implement the idea of youth affairs (youth work) to provide youth services through the joint efforts committed by the government and the CYL (Wang and Zhao, 2009). In other words, the CYL were granted with the official status, power and responsibility to deal with youth affairs in the above mentioned cities.

Challenges ahead

China's youth policy must find some effective ways to cater for the rising needs and problems of young people. The youth policy formulated should be able to deal with complex youth affairs, meet the need of young people and improve their quality, satisfy the expectations of society and the CPC, and make substantial contribution to the modernization of the country.

Thus the solution is not easy and there are many challenges ahead both for the CPC, the government and the CYL at all levels, which may include:

- Coming up with an explicit, comprehensive and written national youth policy with the support of specific laws and detailed operational definitions of youth rights, responsibilities and welfare, in meeting distinctive youth needs and in tackling unique youth problems;
- Changing or modifying the CYL's ambiguous status in between the Party and the government, political function and role in policy formulation, provision of services, and management of youth affairs;
- Recognizing the position and impact of the SYOs and exploring ways for achieving positive development and contributions;
- Developing varied services for youth development and encouraging youth participation in youth affairs;
- Boosting professional standards of youth work through professional accreditation and continuous on the job training; and
- Setting up a Department of Youth Affairs or Ministry for Youth in the governments both at national, provincial and metropolitan

city level, with the aim to interface among different government departments to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate youth policies and services.

Conclusion

Challenges and opportunities are opening up in China's youth policy as social context, youth needs, and youth problems in the country change due to its open door to the external world, rapid expansion of the market economy, drastic social change, relaxation of social control, speedy rising number of SYOs, significant youth unemployment, and emphasis on youth welfare and rights. As a result, a new generation of modern youth with a sense of liberal values and need for self-fulfillment has shed critical queries to the conventional politically and ideologically orientated youth policy and the contents of youth work or services. The provision of youth services has to foster a new wisdom of working approach with young people. Thus it is anticipated that the original concept of youth policy, youth work or services, operating systems, mechanisms and methods, and the substance of youth policy and youth services will be enriched, modified and developed towards youth-orientated direction. The CYL and its youth workers have to adopt a practical youth policy and youth work approach in order to perform their role and functions effectively and efficiently.

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La politique de jeunesse chinoise revisitée

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La Chine n'est pas dotée d'une politique nationale de jeunesse cohérente énoncée sous la forme d'un document, pas plus que d'un mécanisme exécutif officiel pour la gestion et le suivi des questions de jeunesse à l'échelon régional ou national. La politique relative à la jeunesse est appréhendée à la manière d'une composante de la politique d'ensemble de la Chine, qui est imprégnée de l'idéologie et dominée par la politique. Cette situation se reflète encore dans les allocutions des dirigeants ou les instructions écrites relatives aux questions de jeunesse ou au travail de jeunesse, telles qu'énoncées dans les lois, les règles et les règlements, intégrées dans les politiques spécifiques en relation avec la jeunesse promues par les divers services gouvernementaux et empreintes de l'idéologie qui guide le parti communiste chinois et ses lignes d'action.

L'objectif de cette politique est de promouvoir le développement positif, l'autonomie, la responsabilité civique et l'adaptabilité sociale des jeunes.

Dans la pratique ces derniers temps, bien que théoriquement perçue comme la colonne vertébrale de la politique de jeunesse, l'idéologie communiste a progressivement perdu de son importance au profit d'une priorité accordée à la situation sociale des jeunes et à leurs besoins. La politique de jeunesse vise à inciter les jeunes à apporter leur contribution à la construction socialiste – sur les plans économique, politique, culturel et social –, afin de parvenir à une société civilisée et aisée, basée sur les capacités, la créativité, la responsabilité et les attitudes positives des jeunes en faveur du travail.

Neue Überlegungen zur Jugendpolitik in China

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China verfügt nicht über eine explizit niedergelegte einheitliche Jugendpolitik oder einen offiziellen Regierungsmechanismus zur Umsetzung und Überwachung von nationalen oder regionalen jugendpolitischen Angelegenheiten. Jugendpolitik wird als eine Komponente der generellen Politik der Kommunistischen Partei Chinas (CPC) betrachtet, die ideologisch orientiert und von der Politik dominiert ist. Sie spiegelt sich immer in den Reden oder schriftlichen Weisungen der Staatsführer zu Jugendfragen oder Jugendarbeit wider, wird in den Gesetzen, Regeln und Vorschriften vorgeschrieben, in die speziellen jugendpolitischen Maßnahmen der diversen Regierungsstellen einbezogen und in den Leitlinien für Politik und Handeln der Kommunistischen Partei Chinas in dem Bestreben festgelegt, die positive Entwicklung, Eigenständigkeit, bürgerschaftliche Verantwortung und gesellschaftliche

Anpassungsfähigkeit von jungen Menschen zu fördern.

In der Praxis wird zwar die kommunistische Ideologie theoretisch als zentrale Leitlinie für die Gestaltung der jugendpolitischen Ausrichtung betrachtet, aber der ideologische Einfluss ist allmählich weniger signifikant geworden und in der jüngsten Vergangenheit wurde ein größeres Schwergewicht auf die praktische gesellschaftliche Lage und die Bedürfnisse der Jugend gelegt. Die Jugendpolitik konzentriert sich eher auf die Einbindung junger Menschen in Beiträge zum Aufbau der sozialistischen Wirtschaft, Politik, Kultur und Gesellschaft, um eine zivilisierte und wohlhabende Gesellschaft zu erreichen, indem man deren Fähigkeiten, Kreativität, bürgerschaftliche Verantwortung und auf harte Arbeit ausgerichtete Einstellung entwickelt.

Пересмотр молодежной политике Китая

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В Китае отсутствуют четко прописанная единая национальная молодежная политика или официальный механизм исполнительной власти по проведению и мониторингу национальных и региональных вопросов по делам молодежи. Молодежная политика рассматривается как компонент общей политики КПК, идеологически ориентированной и политически доминирующей. Молодежная политика всегда находит отражение в выступлениях государственных лидеров или письменных руководствах, относящихся к проблемам молодежи и молодежной работы, предусмотрена в законах, правилах и положениях, заложена в конкретных документах молодежной политики, изданных различными правительственными ведомствами, изложена в руководящей идеологии и практических рекомендациях Китайской коммунистической партии,

направленных на продвижение позитивного развития, автономии, гражданской ответственности и социальной адаптации молодых людей.

На практике, хотя теоретически коммунистическая идеология рассматривается как центральный ориентир в разработке направления молодежной политики, идеологическое влияние становится постепенно менее значительным и больший акцент переносится на реальную социальную ситуацию и текущие потребности молодежи. Молодежная политика направлена на вовлечение молодых людей в процесс социалистического, экономического, политического, культурного и социального строительства, нацеленный на достижение цивилизованного и зажиточного общества, через развитие способностей, творчества, гражданской ответственности и трудолюбия.

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Employment of young people – One main goal of Greek youth policy

Dealing with the problem of unemployment brought about by the economic crisis in Greece, is the primary goal of the government's policy, which makes great efforts these days to rationalise economy and restore the country's growth path.

Unemployment affects all age groups of the labour force. However, the problem is bigger for young people, especially those entering the labour market for the first time without previous job experience. The rates of unemployment, between young people aged 15 to 24 years as reflected by the Hellenic Statistical Authority data in 2010, are rising. The youth unemployment rate relative to the total number of the unemployed, from 30.9% in the first quarter of 2010 amounted to 36.9% in the fourth quarter of the same year.

The State is working hard to stem this alarming rise through institutional interventions and programmes, such as:

- Continuous vocational training of the unemployed in the sectors of sustainable management and development, reduced energy consumption, green products trade, etc., to meet the need for developing new skills. The programmes last 400-800 hours, providing mandatory, guaranteed employment and focus on increasing the participation of young people.
- Financial support for 10,000 unemployed aged 16-24 years, new entrants to the labour market, in private companies or employers of the private sector, in order to gain work experience, with a subsidy of social security contributions by the Greek Manpower Employment Organisation (O.A.E.D.). The contract may be up to 12 months. However, there is the possibility to continue the financial support for an additional 12 months, if the work experience contract is turned into an employment contract.
- Promotion of employment in order to hire a total of 45,000 unemployed, subsidising their insurance contributions, with special emphasis on young people up to 30 years of age and especially young women, an action focused on geographic areas experiencing severe economic and employment difficulties and on small businesses clusters.

It should be noted here that almost 30,000 unemployed are already employed through the two and four-year programme for the promotion of employment.

- Financial support programmes for business initiatives, under the name: "Young people and entrepreneurship" for the promotion of unemployed young people (aged 22-32 years) in employment. These are:
 - ▶ The financial support programme for 4,000 Self-employed Young Women aged 22-64 years, under the name: "ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR UNEMPLOYED WOMEN AGED 22-64". Priority, among others, will be given to unemployed women: 1. entitled to unemployment benefits, 2. who will initiate business activities in innovative industries, particularly in green development.
 - ▶ Programmes supporting young people who are self-employed and those starting up new businesses (Youth Entrepreneurship, Young Scientists, New Entrepreneurs and Women Entrepreneurship) with a total of 23,500 beneficiaries, mostly young people up to 32 years.

Actions that are also promoted:

- ① Start up business financial support,
- ② Action-specific counseling (drafting a business plan, sustainability principles, etc.) for those who receive financial aid,

- ③ Specific actions to support youth entrepreneurship in the sectors of tourism, culture and environment, according to the specific needs of the local economy and
- ④ Financial support actions for youth cooperatives and social enterprises.

Moreover, the O.A.E.D¹ Programme “One start, one Chance” provides the opportunity to 40,000 young people aged 16-25 years who have graduated or left school and did not intend to continue their studies, to be promoted in the labour market and new hirings are encouraged in the tourism sector through the conversion of seasonal unemployment benefits to employment benefits.

More specifically, the General Secretariat for Youth contributes to combat youth unemployment through programmes and european and national resources amounting to 30 million EUR that aim at:

- The scientific and social support of young farmers in order to encourage them to remain in rural areas. The special programme of the General Secretariat for Youth “FARMERS in Connection with Higher Education Institutions (A.E.I.-T.E.I.)” in support of young farmers, initiates a process of systematic cooperation with the young people in rural areas, their institutions and organisations, with benchmarks of technological and scientific support, the emergence of a “new culture of the countryside” and promoting specific features of local character.

The General Secretariat for Youth brings new farmers in contact with the University community, aiming at partnerships that introduce new ideas, methods and techniques in all stages of agricultural production, such as implementing a study on rural energy independent farm units or installation of sensors in a field to provide personalised information to the farmer regarding the needs of the field in watering, etc. The focus is on technological and scientific support for young farmers, encouraging innovation and outward orientation as well as promoting the model of

the farmer who takes care of nature. The key areas of cooperation between the two sides are: a) new forms of distribution, advertising and packaging of agricultural products, b) new crop varieties, c) the use of electronic media and the Internet, d) sensitisation and familiarisation of children with natural products and promoting the nutritional value of local products through a computer game. The results of this cooperation will be presented to the public during three exhibitions dedicated to young farmers.

- Promoting entrepreneurial culture among young people so that it is not a last minute job but an option. The Youth Entrepreneurship Support Structures operate towards this direction. These structures provide customised advisory information (National Strategic Reference Framework Programme), support and training for youth entrepreneurship and will operate again reformed this summer, in the capitals of the 13 regions of the country, as well as in all the Technological Educational Institutes.
- Providing legal aid for free, through the Legal Aid for Young People programme, at judicial or extrajudicial level, as well as friendly dispute resolution for personal or collective labour matters in cooperation with the Hellenic Labour Inspectorate and the local Bar Associations participating in the Programme. The Programme is for young people up to 30 years old who need legal aid but are lacking financial resources. All participant lawyers are up to 35 years old.
- Promoting academic mobility of young people and its connection with employment, through the Mediterranean Office for Youth, a pilot programme of three years duration (2011-2014), which focuses on three main areas:
 - A) Facilitating the free movement of students (certain areas of studies) at a postgraduate level (MA & PhD) and establishing a connection with the labour market, through the participating businesses.
 - B) Managing the access of students to the “Mediterranean” scholarships system.
 - C) Promoting a first paid work experience for students in a Mediterranean country

of their choice, in the participating businesses, as well as an internship during their studies.

In the Education Sector, the government has set up and implements different programmes in order to establish closer links between education and vocational rehabilitation. The Greek State is already attempting to:

- ▶ reform education (New School project), especially higher education, to reduce the mismatch between the skills demanded in the labour market and those offered, as this mismatch is considered a major reason for the high rate of youth unemployment:
- ▶ develop lifelong learning in order to achieve an interaction with employment,
- ▶ implement programmes co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) for 2007-2013, which strengthen, directly or indirectly, the employability of young people, such as:
 - Expanding the financial and institutional support of internships at all educational levels leading to the labour market.
 - Development of Career Offices at all Higher Education Institutions, the Vocational Training Institutes (IEK), the Vocational High Schools (EPAL) and Vocational Schools (EPAS), in network with the Employment Promotion Centres of OAED and municipalities.
 - Promoting entrepreneurship at all post-compulsory education schools, creating, among other things – virtual enterprises, encouraging regular visits from students in business, entrepreneurship development shops, creating incentives for measures

of social entrepreneurship for young people.

- Promoting the establishment of a Social Economy Fund – a new financial tool is created to provide microcredit and micro-loans on concessional terms to vulnerable social groups.

Finally, Greece as all EU Member States, informs young people about the possibility to seek work in countries of the EU, an *acquis communautaire* and not a last minute option as it may appear, due to the country's current economic status.

Young people in Greece are informed that the European strategy "Europe 2020" encourages among others mobility, on the basis of employment:

- A)** Developing the EURES portal (www.eures.europa.eu) which offers a database with direct access to almost half a million job vacancies.
- B)** Establishing from 2010, the monitoring system for job vacancies, which will provide an information system regarding demand in the labour market across Europe for job seekers and career counselors and
- C)** Monitoring the implementation of EU legislation to ensure that Member States shall take the necessary measures for young employees.

Note

- 1 O.A.E.D – Greek Manpower Employment Organisation.

L'emploi des jeunes, un objectif prioritaire pour la politique de jeunesse grecque

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Gérer le problème du chômage provoqué par la crise économique en Grèce est l'un des objectifs essentiels de la politique gouvernementale, qui s'efforce actuellement de rationaliser l'économie et de restaurer la croissance du pays. Plus spécifiquement, le Secrétariat général à la jeunesse aide à combattre le chômage des jeunes au moyen de programmes et de ressources nationales et

européennes représentant une somme de 30 millions d'euros. La Grèce, comme tous les pays membres de l'UE, informe également ses jeunes des possibilités d'emploi dans les pays de l'UE – ce qui apparaît non pas comme une option de dernière minute mais bien comme un acquis communautaire, compte tenu de la situation économique actuelle du pays.

Beschäftigung von Jugendlichen – ein Hauptziel griechischer Jugendpolitik

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Der Umgang mit dem durch die Wirtschaftskrise in Griechenland ausgelösten Arbeitslosigkeitsproblem ist das vorrangige Ziel der Politik der Regierung, die derzeit große Anstrengungen unternimmt, um die Wirtschaft zu rationalisieren und das Land wieder auf den Wachstumspfad zurückzubringen. Im Einzelnen leistet das Generalsekretariat für Jugend im Rahmen von Programmen und europäischen und nationalen Ressourcen in Höhe von 30

Millionen € seinen Beitrag zur Bekämpfung der Jugendarbeitslosigkeit. Wie alle EU-Mitgliedsstaaten informiert auch Griechenland junge Menschen über die Möglichkeit, sich in EU-Ländern einen Arbeitsplatz zu suchen, wobei diese Möglichkeit Teil des Acquis Communautaire und nicht eine Option in letzter Sekunde darstellt, wie dies aufgrund der aktuellen Wirtschaftslage im Lande den Anschein haben könnte.

Занятость молодежи – основная цель молодежной политики Греции

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Решение проблемы безработицы, вызванной экономическим кризисом в Греции, является основной целью политики правительства, которое в настоящее время прилагает большие усилия по рационализации экономики и восстановлению пути развития страны. В частности, Генеральный секретариат по делам молодежи вносит вклад в борьбу с молодежной безработицей

посредством программ и выделения европейских и национальных ресурсов объемом 30 млн евро. Греция, как и все другие члены ЕС, также информирует молодых людей о возможности поиска работы в странах ЕС, как права принадлежности к общему рынку, а не как сиюминутного варианта, как это может показаться из-за текущего экономического положения страны.

Moncef Belkhayat

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Jeunes du Maroc : le challenge du développement

Les jeunes ont changé. Ils ne sont plus aujourd'hui ce qu'ils étaient dans le passé. Ils sont actuellement et de façon effective les acteurs du changement. Les différentes mutations que connaît la région arabe sont la meilleure preuve de l'émergence d'une nouvelle catégorie de besoins exprimés par les jeunes. Les médias et les supports de communication autant les classiques que les nouveaux sont aujourd'hui utilisés par les jeunes pour faire entendre leur voix. Internet est sans nul doute le canal de prédilection de millions de jeunes. Ils l'ont adopté et en ont fait un mode d'action qui défie toutes les frontières et toutes les limites. La technologie est devenue un réel élément d'action pour chaque jeune.

La jeunesse marocaine a beaucoup évolué ces dernières années sous l'influence de plusieurs paramètres. Les changements sont dus essentiellement à une exposition continue aux influences internationales et à une ouverture voulue par notre pays aux tendances comportementales mondiales et aux évolutions tant humaines que technologiques que connaissent les sociétés et l'environnement.

MAROC – Le challenge « jeune »

Au Maroc, les jeunes ont toujours été au cœur du débat. Assurer leur participation au développement et à l'action politique a été pendant longtemps notre principal souci. L'évolution de la jeunesse marocaine n'a cependant pas été accompagnée par le développement d'une offre de services à la hauteur de leurs attentes. Les principaux problèmes de cette offre se situent à deux niveaux : **l'infrastructure et les contenus**.

L'infrastructure dédiée à la jeunesse est aujourd'hui dans un état insatisfaisant. En effet,

les structures d'accueil des jeunes ne sont plus adaptés ni d'un point de vue architectural ni d'un point de vue conceptuel.

Les contenus développés n'ont pas non plus évolué. Les concepts utilisés aujourd'hui sont restés figés dans le temps et n'ont pas encore été touchés par la révolution technologique de la fin du vingtième siècle.

Faire face à ces problèmes suppose une action à plusieurs dimensions.

- Il est urgent de mettre à niveau l'infrastructure de la jeunesse à travers le développement de nouveaux espaces mieux adaptés aux besoins ;
- Il est aussi très important de revoir les contenus et de leur donner une orientation claire qui vise le développement personnel de tous les jeunes. Cela passe par une révision intégrale de l'action des intervenants dans le domaine de la jeunesse et plus précisément celle des associations ;
- Tout ceci ne peut se faire sans une revalorisation des ressources humaines. La formation est de ce fait un point central. Elle est utile autant pour développer les compétences du personnel œuvrant dans le champ de la jeunesse que pour mettre à niveau les capacités d'encadrement et de gestion des associations de la jeunesse ;
- La bonne gouvernance est un élément tout aussi important si nous considérons que l'arsenal juridique qui régit l'action de cette population date des années 40. Il est devenu complètement obsolète ;
- Il est, enfin, nécessaire de développer un nouveau système de gestion des flux monétaires.

Toutes ces considérations montrent bien la nécessité d'élaborer une politique pour la

jeunesse qui intégrerait l'ensemble de ces composantes et des intervenants à travers l'élaboration de « **la stratégie nationale intégrée de la jeunesse** ».

Pour cela, nous avons initié en 2009 l'élaboration de la charte nationale 2020 de la jeunesse où seront stipulés les droits et obligations ainsi que les modes de participation de chacun. Il est question pour nous d'élaborer le cadre global d'action à travers une stratégie nationale intégrée de la jeunesse où nous prévoyons d'harmoniser l'action de l'ensemble des intervenants et de développer une « offre jeunesse » globale où chaque jeune trouvera une réponse à ses attentes. Pour cela, nous avons démarré par une action prospective qui visait à mieux connaître les jeunes et leurs besoins actuels. Nous avons organisé plusieurs manifestations et rencontres avec les jeunes, nous avons créé des espaces d'interaction et de discussion, nous avons réalisé des études... nous avons aussi adopté les médias et Internet comme moyen de communication privilégiés.

Toutes ces actions réalisées en partenariat avec l'ensemble des acteurs de la jeunesse autant institutionnels, politiques qu'associatifs et avec les jeunes eux-mêmes nous ont permis de mieux appréhender les attentes de cette jeunesse.

Nous pouvons affirmer aujourd'hui que nous connaissons les attentes des jeunes. Nous nous réjouissons de constater tout l'intérêt que portent ces millions de jeunes à la chose politique et au développement de notre pays. Nous avons, en effet, pu mettre le point sur les préférences de notre jeunesse et nous pouvons aujourd'hui mettre à profit toutes les opportunités d'action qui se présentent.

Le discours de Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI du 09 Mars 2011 a été pour nous tous le signe d'un changement majeur. Ce changement porte en lui les éléments nécessaires pour faire de notre jeunesse un vrai levier de développement. La révision de la constitution voulue par notre Roi donne

la vraie mesure du changement initié et une réponse directe aux attentes du peuple et principalement de sa jeunesse.

CHABABNA – Le lancement

Le Ministère de la jeunesse et des sports du Maroc a lancé depuis le mois de novembre 2009 une consultation nationale qui vise à identifier les attentes des jeunes afin de mieux répondre à leurs besoins. Notre objectif a été de mettre en œuvre une dynamique participative à laquelle ont été associés les différents acteurs dans le domaine de la jeunesse. Pour cela, nous avons tenu à faire participer les départements gouvernementaux concernés, les associations de jeunes, les associations professionnelles, les entreprises privées et les jeunes eux-mêmes.

Notre action a porté sur trois niveaux :

- Développer des canaux d'interaction avec les jeunes ;
- Améliorer la gestion de l'appui offert aux associations ;
- Réaliser un état des lieux exhaustif des besoins des jeunes.

1 – Parler avec les jeunes : Notre objectif a été d'instaurer des interfaces d'interaction pour mieux positionner notre action. Nous avons besoin de mieux comprendre les attentes des jeunes et de construire une image du ministère où la proximité prend une place très importante. Nous voulions être à l'écoute.

Ainsi, nous avons développé des produits et des espaces d'expression et de communication. J'M magazine, la revue mensuelle distribuée gratuitement à 50000 jeunes, a certainement été un des premiers espaces visibles de notre action. Nous avons organisé plusieurs rencontres, des débats ainsi que de multiples manifestations avec les jeunes. « Li9aate chababna » ou les rencontres du vendredi ont été un vrai succès. C'est aussi le cas de toute notre politique Internet à travers le site du ministère ou via les espaces Facebook où nous sommes présents de façon

quasi continue pour répondre en temps réel aux diverses questions posées par les jeunes.

2 – Développer les capacités des associations : Nous avons veillé à mettre en place une vision contractuelle de la coopération entre le ministère et les associations. Notre but a été d'instaurer une approche projet. De cette façon les associations ne peuvent plus bénéficier de l'appui du ministère que si elles proposent des projets qui permettront de répondre de façon directe aux attentes des jeunes. Cette collaboration se matérialise par la signature d'une convention où nous avons intégré des composantes qui favorisent l'intégration des jeunes et des femmes au niveau des sphères de prise de la décision.

L'organisation du système d'appui aux projets des associations a aussi été standardisée de façon à permettre un meilleur traitement des demandes. Nous avons intégré à ce niveau un système d'évaluation pour améliorer l'impact de notre appui qui s'oriente désormais en priorité vers des projets à haute valeur ajoutée pour les jeunes. Cette façon de faire nous permet aussi aujourd'hui d'avoir une meilleure répartition géographique de notre action, une typologie plus large des projets portés par le ministère et une classification objective de l'action des associations. Ce système nous permet, enfin, de mieux contrôler les flux financiers à travers un contrôle et un suivi rigoureux des dépenses.

3 – Mieux connaître les attentes des jeunes : nous avons réalisé plusieurs études et enquêtes.

Nous avons démarré par réaliser 16 forums dans toutes les régions du Maroc. Ces forums ont été des espaces de discussion avec plus de 4500 jeunes marocains. Ils ont représenté pour nous une réelle occasion de contact avec ces jeunes et une opportunité pour mieux communiquer nos objectifs et nos attentes. Nous avons aussi pu recueillir les attentes de l'ensemble de ces jeunes qui ont été choisis de façon à constituer un échantillon représentatif de la jeunesse marocaine.

En effet, nous avons veillé à respecter des critères comme le genre, le niveau de scolarité, le milieu de vie... pour nous assurer de la qualité des échanges.

Nous avons aussi réalisé d'autres enquêtes. Nous avons administré un questionnaire à 2000 jeunes. Nous avons recueilli plus de 1000 formulaires remplis sur Internet par des jeunes marocains vivant au Maroc et ailleurs. Nous avons mené des « focus groups » pour traiter des aspects qualitatifs propres aux besoins des jeunes. Nous avons, enfin, réalisé des entretiens individuels avec plus de 2000 jeunes marocains venant de toutes les régions du Maroc.

Ces études ont traité huit thèmes : l'emploi / la scolarisation / les loisirs / la santé / la religion / la citoyenneté, les valeurs et la politique / les fléaux sociaux / les relations entre générations.

Les résultats sont pertinents. Nous pouvons affirmer que nous connaissons les attentes des jeunes aujourd'hui.

CHABABNA – Une offre intégrée

Les résultats des études menées nous permettent aujourd'hui d'identifier de façon claire les voies à suivre pour développer des programmes et des actions à la hauteur des attentes des jeunes. Aborder la jeunesse marocaine revient à regrouper l'ensemble des actions en faveur de cette population. En effet, les intervenants sont divers et variés et Les programmes multiples. Avoir une « offre jeunesse » revient à mettre ensemble tous les programmes développés, à harmoniser les actions et à s'adresser de façon homogène à tous les jeunes. La stratégie de la jeunesse ne pouvait donc être que nationale et intégrée. Réussir sa mise en œuvre nécessite de ce fait l'implication et la participation de l'ensemble des intervenants.

Pour réussir la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de la jeunesse, et afin de préparer l'infrastructure d'accueil de cette offre, nous avons élaboré un nouveau type d'établissement. Il s'agit du « **centre au service de la jeunesse – CSJ** ».

L'idée est de regrouper l'offre unifiée de l'ensemble des intervenants dans un « **espace jeunesse** ». Le centre au service de la jeunesse est conçu de façon à être une plate forme centrale d'orientation vers les services de l'Etat au sein de cet espace jeunesse. Son architecture, complètement jeune, est un élément distinctif qui représente un nouvel aspect de différenciation. Son organisation spatiale intègre parfaitement la séparation entre trois besoins exprimés par les jeunes : les espaces de développement / les espaces de loisir / les espaces culturels.

Pour conclure

Nul doute que les jeunes participent aujourd'hui directement à l'action politique et de là au développement. Personne n'a envie aujourd'hui de taire ces millions de voix des jeunes qui s'expriment enfin ni occulter leur besoin manifeste de prendre part à la construction des nouveaux modèles de gestion de la chose publique.

Satisfaire les attentes des jeunes a toujours été une préoccupation majeure des décideurs. Le challenge aujourd'hui est de raccourcir les délais de réaction et d'accélérer la cadence d'action pour apporter des solutions immédiates rapidement exécutables.

Cela s'explique par les comportements actuels des jeunes. Ils ont évolué dans un

environnement où les temps de réponse sont extrêmement courts. Internet n'est une découverte pour aucun d'entre eux mais plutôt un outil de communication avec le monde. Les frontières physiques n'ont pas non plus le même impact puisque leurs « amis » sont sur ce monde virtuel qu'ils ont créé et dans lequel ils évoluent. Facebook et Twitter sont pour eux juste une autre façon d'interagir. Ce monde virtuel impacte encore plus leurs actions. Même si souvent ils sont attachés à leurs valeurs, ils ont tendance à créer d'autres bases de comportements et même un nouveau langage. Les valeurs et principes qui font leur culture et leur identité se retrouvent mis à l'épreuve des influences d'Internet. Leur monde est devenu en partie virtuel et c'est là qu'ils développent l'essentiel de leurs aptitudes à faire face au monde.

La multiculturalité des interactions sur le net compliquent les modes de raisonnement et poussent les jeunes parfois à adopter des façons de penser qui ne sont pas toujours adaptées à la réalité. Internet reste, toutefois, un excellent moyen de communication et d'interaction pour les jeunes. Interagir avec eux suppose de ce fait une forte réactivité. Le développement des nations dépendra désormais de nos méthodes d'action qui devront mettre en avant les vrais fondements de la démocratie qui suppose que la minorité accepte et respecte le point de vue de la majorité. Et c'est là le vrai challenge du futur.

Youth in Morocco: The Challenge of Development

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Influenced by a number of parameters, youth in Morocco has undergone a profound transformation in recent years. The developments are mostly a result of a sustained orientation towards international influences, of an intentional opening of our country towards global trends in behaviour, and of changes

in human interaction and technology which we can observe in our societies. All these considerations illustrate the need for designing a youth policy, which will integrate all these components and players by developing "a national integrated strategy for youth".

Jugend in Marokko : die Herausforderung der Entwicklung

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In den letzten Jahren hat sich die marokkanische Jugend unter dem Einfluss einiger Parameter sehr stark verwandelt. Die Entwicklungen sind meistens auf eine andauernde Ausrichtung gegenüber den internationalen Einflüssen und auf eine von unserem Land gewollte Öffnung gegenüber den Verhaltenstrends in der Welt und den Veränderungen

sowohl menschlicher als technologischer Art, die in den Gesellschaften vorhanden sind, zurückzuführen. Alle diese Betrachtungen zeigen die Notwendigkeit, eine Jugendpolitik zu gestalten, die durch die Entwicklung « einer nationalen integrierten Strategie für die Jugend » alle diese Komponenten und Akteure integrieren würde.

Молодежь Марокко: вызовы развития

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Под влиянием ряда параметров в последние годы молодежь Марокко претерпела глубокие преобразования. Развитие явилось главным образом результатом устойчивой ориентации на международное влияние, а также преднамеренного открытия нашей страны в сторону мировых тенденций в поведении, изменений во взаимодействии между людьми

и технологиях, которые происходят в наших обществах. Все эти данные свидетельствуют о необходимости формирования молодежной политики, объединяющей все эти компоненты и вовлеченные стороны, путем развития «национальной интегрированной стратегии для молодежи».



Euromed Migration II (2008-2011) Women Migration between MEDA Countries and the European Union

This new study, carried out by the EU-funded Euromed Migration II project and published in April 2011, examines the patterns and challenges of female migration between southern Mediterranean countries and Europe, in relation to the Project's core aspects of legal migration, illegal migration and women's role in the migration-development nexus.

Euromed Migration II aims at strengthening cooperation in the management of migration so as to build up the Mediterranean Partners' capacity to provide an effective, targeted and comprehensive solution to the various forms of migration. It assists them in creating mechanisms to promote opportunities for legal migration, support for measures to promote the linkage between migration and development and the stepping up of activities to stamp out human trafficking and illegal immigration, and to manage mixed flows.

To download the study (204 pages), please visit:
http://www.euromed-migration.eu/sites/euromed-migration.eu/myzms/content/e1152/e4867/e4868/GIZ_EUROMED_II_ENG_LR_eng.pdf

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Youth Policy in Georgia

Youth is the most important resource for the state, without the development of which the existence of a strong and successful state is not possible.

The role of the Georgian youth in the public, political and cultural spheres considerably increased during the last several years. With the purpose of full-fledged development of the youth, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs was created in summer 2010 by the Decision of the Government of Georgia. The creation of this agency is a great achievement of the State from the point of view of developing the Georgian sports and our youth.

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia had undertaken the function of a bridge between the government of Georgia, Georgian youth and athletes. Based on this, we are ready to consider all good ideas and innovative approaches to important issues.

Georgian Youth

Since the end of 80s the Georgian youth has been actively involved in nearly all political processes underway in the country. The signs of political activity were also numerous during the times of the Soviet Union, especially at the end of 1970s when the assaults by the Soviet leadership on the Georgian language led to severe popular protests.

The attitude of the state itself toward the youth is reflected in the quality of organization of different state agencies responsible for development and implementation of the youth policy; in the quality of the legislation; and also in how well the youth organizations are developed and so on.

The first state agency responsible for youth affairs was created in Georgia in 1994: State Department for Youth Affairs and Sports, however, naturally, was not as effective from the onset as

to work in all areas of youth affairs simultaneously and neither has become a state policy priority.

The attitude toward youth in Georgia has drastically changed after the “Rose Revolution”. During the recent years a lot of important steps have been made for the youth development, for their inclusion in the contemporary developments, and to increase their role in public and political lives. In particular, they have now better opportunities for the youth employment, quality education and use of state services. Today, the youth is included in the decision-making processes, which is clearly visible in different spheres of public life. Among the numerous good examples of youth inclusion is high-school and college self-governance, for which the state has created adequate bases. Many young people also work in different public offices and hold leading positions. This shows that youth are viewed as decision-makers.

Currently the following state agencies are responsible for development and implementation of the youth policy: the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia and the Parliamentary Committee on Sport and Youth Affairs.

Legal framework

There are different approaches to the types of legal framework that shall be in place for ensuring effective management of the youth sector. In some countries an independent law regulates the youth affairs, which details all those rights and responsibilities of the state in this field. Other countries' youth laws are limited only by giving the main principles and definitions of the administrative terms from the sector governance. Some countries do not have youth laws and

youth affairs are regulated by state normative acts. Notwithstanding this, youth affairs in these countries are on a quite high level. The experience of each country is depending on its specifics, traditions, cultures, state structures, administrative divisions and the state's vision in the youth affairs.

Creation of the specific legal frameworks in youth affairs in Georgia and the activities in the matter of adopting regulatory acts started only after the end of 1990s. Until now very important steps have been taken in this direction; however, there is a lot more to do in this regard. Currently, legal basis of the youth sphere in Georgia includes: the Law on State Support to Children and Youth Unions (April 27, 2001); the Law on Protection of the Underage Children from Negative Influence (September 28, 2001); other normative acts providing additional regulation to the youth affairs.

The Georgian legislation indirectly defines the youth age. According to the current legislation, any citizen is considered as young from 18 to 26 years old.

Creation of the legal environment requires wide-spread consultations and full public involvement for the law can be considered as effective if it provides for equal development opportunities for any subject working in the youth affairs.

For a proper legal coverage of the youth affairs the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia initiates frequent and active consultations with both state agencies as well as non-governmental and international organizations.

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia: Goals, objectives and challenges

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia was created on June 29, 2010. The creation of the Ministry was a very important step done by the government regarding the facilitation of the development of the Georgian youth. The creation of the Ministry marked a new stage of the relationships between the State and its Youth.

The coordination in the youth sector and its development is extremely difficult because the youth as one of the most prominent part of the society require full service from all state agencies and programs. Therefore, in many instances there are a lot of difficulties in relation to the youth affairs in the country's executive government – reallocation of competencies and definition of agencies responsible for various issues. Many European countries do not have a separate structure (ministry) regulating sports and youth affairs. There are management models according to which the youth affairs are included within education, culture or other ministries. Based on international experience, youth affairs management is most effective when there is a separate entity responsible for youth affairs in the country.

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia is the main body implementing youth policy in the country; its main functions are definition of the youth policy, taking care of the youth; creation of own state program and, on the other hand, coordination of effective management of youth affairs in the whole state sector.

The attitude previously existing in Georgia toward youth did not allow the implementation of unified, efficient and effective policy. Therefore, youth sector management was less effective and successful. Establishment of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia had the aim of full coordination of the youth sector and implementation of the targeted programs in this sphere. The challenges facing the youth sector require long-term vision, complex and organized efforts from the state.

From the day of its creation, the Ministry started working actively on facilitation of regional development and strengthening the youth in the regions. Eight centers were created so far, which are located in different regions. The functions of these centers include promotion of youth employment in the regions, vocational education and rational usage of their free time. The Ministry as well promotes youth initiatives by supporting

several dozens of initiatives, aiming at promoting youth development. These activities supported by the Ministry include those of local importance as well as international programs.

The Ministry is actively involved in international youth activities and as such participated in many international events which aimed at developing mutual interests in the partner countries in the fields of youth affairs and planning of joint programs. The Ministry is also actively involved in youth affairs of the Council of Europe, UN, and Eastern Partnership.

National Youth Policy of Georgia

Georgian local civil sector and the international community jointly implemented a number of projects and events targeting youth. Until now the absence of the state policy and its development caused frequent overlap of the projects. Increased communication between the subjects implementing the above-mentioned projects was necessary. Insufficient quality of communications decreased resource efficiency. Today there are regions which, due to objective or subjective reasons, are completely or partially outside of civil or public initiatives. Also, the projects were frequently duplicated. The absence of coordination of uniform strategy decreased the efficiency; the needs of the target groups were not fully satisfied; efficiency of the activities was partially understudied and the projects, in some cases, were a mere formality.

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia from the very beginning started working on the document on the National Youth Policy of Georgia. The Ministry has developed drafts of the documents which from September 2010 are being publicly reviewed among different representatives of civil society. The work over the document is an open process and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs invites all interested individuals and organizations to actively participate in reviewing and developing the document.

The Document on the National Youth Policy of Georgia is based on the manuals of

different international organizations (11 Indicators of a National Youth Policy, The European Youth Forum Jeunesse; Youth Policy – Formulation Manual, United Nations, 1999; Guide to the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, United Nations; The EU Youth Strategy) and sociological research conducted in Georgia (2010 Need Assessment of the Youth in the Georgian regions, World Bank; 2009 Nation-wide Assessment of the Georgian Youth; 2006 Post-educational Employment and Youth Participation in Labor Activities, 2004 Youth Activities Research in Georgia).

Development of the Document on the National Youth Policy of Georgia is an interactive process. During the hearings the Ministry has received a number of interesting and useful suggestions. For example, at the meetings with the youth in the regions a special focus was made on the national values and traditions. The most interesting areas for the student self-governance bodies are development of the university life, rational spending of free time, support of organizations of the events and increase of the educational standards. Youth non-governmental organizations consider lack of financing and limited resources as the most vital and important issue, which is the most hindering factor for the organizations.

The Document on the National Youth Policy is essentially and qualitatively an unprecedented event in the modern history of Georgia. The Document gives clear details those values, principles, norms and vision that should guide the youth policy. It defines all stakeholders involved in the youth affairs; it describes their activities and main directions. The Document describes priorities in the Action Plan which will start after approval of the Policy.

Youth policy priorities include the following spheres: optimization of coordination and management in the youth sector; development of the youth in the regions; accessibility of education, fostering international cooperation,

development of vocational education, prevention of youth crimes, protection of different marginalized groups and promoting their integration in the society.

Today, with regard to the Document on the National Youth Policy, the Ministry actively cooperates with the UN Office in Georgia and other international agencies. The process of consultations is very important for the goal of our Ministry is harmonization of the Georgian National Youth Policy with the policies of advanced European Union member-states. We try to take into account the practice of international community in this sphere. We also want to bring the document into compliance with modern European standards. After completion of the consultations, we plan to adopt the Document on the National Youth Policy in 2011.

Having in view the cooperation with international organizations, we can mention the strategic partnership between the Ministry and The United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF. Together with UNICEF the Ministry prepares the grounds for moving to a new stage of working on the Youth Policy Document. Within this stage we plan to create different long-term working groups, which will contribute from different directions in coordination and implementation of the youth policy. We plan to enact inter-agency and several topical groups which will study specific problems and react accordingly.

International cooperation

Integration of Georgia into the Euro-Atlantic (suggested: European, Atlantic and international) structures is a strategic interest for the country and one of the state priorities. On the path to this process of integration Georgia implemented and continues to implement consistent and target reforms in different spheres. Notwithstanding several reform waves in many spheres and the society can already receive positive results from them, the momentum of the process shall be retained.

Within the EU Neighborhood Policy, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia is planning important events, which will facilitate fulfillment of the obligations of the 4th platform of the EU Neighborhood Policy – “Youth in Action”. Since 2010 the Ministry actively tries to deepen and develop partnership relations with the relevant bodies of the European Union, the Council of Europe and the UN. We also actively cooperate with USAID.

From the very establishment of the Ministry we try to actively participate in the efforts of the international community to facilitate the development of the intercultural dialogue between the youth. With this aim our Ministry signed agreements with 50 countries of Europe, Asia, North and South America.

Programs

Taking into account the problem of territorial integrity – currently approximately 20% of the Georgian territory (Abkhazia and South Ossetia) is occupied. The youth living on this land is partially without any prospects for development. Another challenge for our Government represent the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) from those regions, because the IDP youth has special needs.

With the purpose of satisfaction of the youth needs and creating the necessary conditions, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs started and continues several important initiatives.

Among international activities we can mention the European Youth Parliament Summit conducted in the seashore Georgian town of Batumi Summer 2010; in August 2010 representatives of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia actively participated in World Youth Conference conducted in the Mexican city Lion under the UN aegis where he Georgian side acted as Presiding State; in February 2011 the Summit of the European Law Students' Association, ELSA took place with the representatives from 27 states.

Below are listed several important and long-term programs undertaken by the Ministry. Apart

from that, the Ministry is involved in many other initiatives and projects aiming at cultural-artistic, intellectual and professional skills development of the youth fostering intercultural dialogue. A number of youth focus-groups are beneficiaries and participants of these initiatives.

Program “The Patriot”

The special program was developed on the basis of the decree of the President of Georgia to solve the problems and challenges in the lives of the Georgian youth, which has been successful since 2005. “The Patriot” gave the youth the opportunity to apply their skill, to get to know their fellow youth and share their ideas. “The Patriot” has established the system of youth camps in different regions of Georgia.

“The Patriot” aims at developing healthy lifestyle within youth, increase of patriotic spirit, facilitation of vocational training and promotion of international cooperation in the youth sphere.

Within the framework of “The Patriot”, summer camps were created in the Georgian cities (Lagodekhi, Bazaleti, Tskhaltubo, Bakuriani, Vartsikhe, Khelvachauri, Skuri, Sagarejo, Ganmukhuri, Qvavilnari, Kodori, Shaori, and Anaklia) where the youth can get to know their fellow youth from other regions, develop their intellectual, artistic and physical abilities. With the purpose of developing inter-cultural dialogue, organizers of “The Patriot” included youth representatives from other countries in the 2010 program.

Participants of “The Patriot” include advanced students and youth from 15 to 23 years old and those from socially unprotected communities from the Georgian regions and the Georgian Diasporas abroad.

In 2005-2010, 93 000 students and youth participated in the program. In addition to local youth, the students from foreign countries – Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Armenia – participated in “The Patriot”.

In 2005-2010 youth summer camps were opened in different regions of Georgia, their infrastructures and living conditions were changed and improved. If in 2005-2006, “The Patriot” summer camps were held in field conditions, in 2007-2009 wooden cottages were built; in 2010 the international camp “Anaklia” was built in accordance with the European standards.

The “Anaklia” patriotic camp is a hotel-type 3-floor building complex, which can receive up to 300 youth at once. The camp include cafeteria, bungalow, amphitheatre, soccer, volleyball, basketball, boxing, sand soccer and volleyball courts. In 2010 up to 3000 youth stayed in the “Anaklia” patriotic camp.

With the purpose of improvement and management optimization of “The Patriot” program, reorganization of the program is planned in 2011. The expected changes would include thematic groups in the camps. The program participants would be able to choose the groups there are interested in, which would develop specific sets of skills.

Youth Center for Regional Development

In June 2008 the government of Georgia received a grant from the Japanese Social Development Fund. Within this grant the Japanese side has allocated 1 219 350 USD for the development of the youth living in the Georgian regions. The World Bank was asked to supervise the administration of these funds. Within the framework of financial assistance of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs', as legal person of public law, the “National Center for Children and Youth” started the implementation of the project “Youth Development and Inclusion”.

The main goal of the project “Youth Development and Inclusion” is facilitating the integration of the ethnic, regional and village communities into the nation-wide social, economic and political lives. The project allocated small grants for the buildings and business initiatives of the youth

groups in Georgia. The beneficiaries of the grant are the youth in less developed regions of Georgia and ethnic groups living in the country.

The project funded by the Japanese side consisted of three main components:

Opening of the regional centers: opening of 8 regional youth centers in Georgia. The local youth will be able to spend their time rationally and develop their skills in the centers. The task of the centers is fostering active participation of the youth in the public life and support to their business ideas.

Facilitation of young entrepreneurs: this component of the project aims at creation of the conditions facilitating development of knowledge and skills for the employed or unemployed youth. This component creates additional possibilities for the youth in the following directions: development of professional skills; self-employment; facilitation of implementation of business ideas and applying for small grants.

Facilitation of the state youth policy in the regions: the project envisages facilitation of the state youth policy of Georgia through the regional centers, in particular, active participation of the youth in the process of public socio-economic life and political decision-making.

Implementation of the project “Youth Development and Inclusion” started in September 2009, including the Western and Eastern Georgia. Youth centers were opened in the eastern regions (Gori, Marneuli, Gurjaani and Akhaltsikhe) and in the western regions (Lentekhi, Ambrolauri, Bakhdadi and Zugdidi). Geographic locations of the centers were chosen by different principles. In Zugdidi and Gori it was the existence of a large number of IDP youth (IDP-Internally Displaced Persons); in Akhaltsikhe and Marneuli – dense population of ethnic minorities. The choice was also made for those regions where the youth is faced with problems of development and inclusion in public life.

Currently the buildings of 8 regional youth centers have been reconstructed, furnished and computerized. Also, the employees of the centers were selected for taking special training courses. All centers have volunteer groups actively participating in operations of their centers.

In May 2010 the World Bank conducted the sociological research. The main goal of the research was to study the needs of youth in the Georgian regions. The results of this research became the basis for the Action Plan of regional centers. Currently several important projects are implemented and the new ones are being planned.

Program “I am helping”

In January 2011 representatives of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and the legal person of public law the “State Care Agency” informed the Georgian society about the program “I am helping!” Within the program “I am helping!” university students shall conduct several events for the children in asylums in the field of art and sports. Students’ participation in this program is voluntary, which will facilitate development of the voluntarism in Georgia.

Within the first stage of the program students-volunteers will conduct music, literature, art classes in the children asylums in Tbilisi and Rustavi. With respect to sports, the volunteers will conduct soccer, basketball, rugby, wrestling and other sport events. The program also includes intellectual games.

The program “I am helping!” aims at promoting a healthy lifestyle and increasing the interest for arts among the children living in residential centers (asylums).

“Green Box”

The project “Green Box” was presented in February 2011. The project envisages installations of so-called “Green Boxes” in the state and other agencies (schools, universities) where the employees of the organizations shall

place the wastepaper. When the boxes are filled the wastepaper will be taken to the special warehouse. After the wastepaper is collected in the warehouse, technical personnel of the project (children from asylums) will take it to the processing plant. The plant will process the paper, after which money will be transferred to a special account. This money will be used for the project needs.

The “Green Box”, with its scale, environmental and economic impact differs from other similar projects. At the first stage already 20 children from the Tbilisi asylum have been included in the “Green Box”. In the nearest future the project will extend to the Georgian regions.

The “Green Box” project aims at developing the culture of collection of wastepaper by the population and its processing; popularization of usage of paper bags and also fostering the spirit of voluntarism within the youth.

“Fund for Children and Youth Development”

With the purpose of supporting children’s and youth unions, a legal person of public law, the “Fund for Children and Youth Development” was set up in 2000. Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia is responsible for the administrative control of the Fund. The goals and objectives of the “Fund for Children and Youth Development” include funding of the programs, events and projects of the organizations registered within the Fund.

In 2011 one of the priorities of the Ministry was the promotion of youth organizations. With this purpose, the fund developed an unprecedented budget for tenders – 500 000 GEL (\$ 290 000), an amount, which according to the Ministry will be increased in the future.

Until 2010 the Fund’s budget mainly consisted of the money from the State budget. From the day of establishment of the Fund, due to a number of reasons other resources could not be attracted;

it was also difficult to get grants. From 2011 one of the main priorities of the Fund is seeking for additional financial aid from international organizations. Thus, the Fund is developing cooperation with international funds acting both in Georgia and abroad.

Non-profit organizations registered in the Fund and whose goals are protection of the rights and freedoms of children may apply for financial support from the Fund. Also, those non-governmental organizations can apply for grants whose founding documents define that no less than 2/3 of its members are young citizens under 25 with common interests united by the wish to protect their interests.

Currently the registry of the “Fund for Children and Youth Development” includes 83 organizations. Material and financial support of the Fund is not intended for professional and political unions.

Conclusion

For 2011 the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia has planned a number of international events in Georgia, including:

- ① Organization of international contact conference: Representatives of different European youth non-governmental organizations will take part in the conference, who will discuss youth-related issues for 4 days.
- ② GUAM Youth Summit in Georgia: During 3-day Summit the members of the organization will be able to discuss the problem common to the youth, define future plans for cooperation and joint projects.
- ③ European Youth Parliamentary Assembly in Georgia: Up to 100 delegates from different European countries and up to 30 public officers will participate in this event. The Assembly’s aim is development of civic awareness in the youth; training international politics and relations among the youth.

La politique de jeunesse en Géorgie

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Ces dernières années, le rôle de la jeunesse géorgienne dans les sphères culturelle, politique et publique s'est considérablement renforcé. Dans l'objectif de l'épanouissement plein et entier de sa jeunesse, le ministère du Sport et des questions de jeunesse a été créé le 29 juin 2010 par décision du gouvernement de Géorgie. Sa création est une réalisation significative de l'Etat en faveur du développement de la jeunesse géorgienne, qui a marqué un tournant dans les relations entre l'Etat et sa jeunesse.

Le ministère du Sport et des questions de jeunesse de Géorgie est le principal organe chargé de la mise en œuvre de la politique de jeunesse à l'échelle nationale. Ses principales fonctions sont la définition de la politique de jeunesse, la protection de la jeunesse, la conception de son propre programme et la coordination d'une gestion effective des questions de jeunesse au niveau de l'Etat dans sa globalité.

Jugendpolitik in Georgien

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Die Rolle der georgischen Jugend im Staat, Politik und Kultur hat sich in den letzten Jahren wesentlich erweitert. Mit dem Ziel einer umfassenden Entwicklung der Jugend wurde durch Beschluss der georgischen Regierung am 29. Juni 2010 das Ministerium für Sport und Jugend geschaffen. Die Einrichtung dieser Regierungsstelle ist unter dem Gesichtspunkt der Entwicklung der georgischen Jugend eine große staatliche Leistung, die ein neues Stadium in den Beziehungen zwischen dem Staat und seiner Jugend kennzeichnet.

Das Ministerium für Sport und Jugend ist die wichtigste Stelle zur Umsetzung der Jugendpolitik im Lande; seine Hauptaufgaben sind die Definition der Jugendpolitik, die Betreuung der Jugend; die Entwicklung eigener staatlicher Programme und die Koordinierung der wirkungsvollen Verwaltung von Jugendfragen im gesamten staatlichen Sektor.

Национальная молодежная политика Грузии

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Последние несколько лет были отмечены значительным ростом активности молодежи Грузии в общественной, политической и культурной сферах. С целью полноценного развития молодежи, 29 июня 2010 года, по постановлению Правительства Грузии, было создано Министерство спорта и по делам молодежи. Создание министерства является важнейшим шагом со стороны власти, который был сделан для того, чтобы способствовать развитию молодежи Грузии, что положило начало новому этапу в отношениях между государством и

молодежью. Министерство спорта и по делам молодежи представляет собой главный орган, осуществляющий молодежную политику в стране, главная функция которой это определение молодежной политики, забота о молодежи, создание собственной государственной программы и координирование эффективного управления молодежной сферой во всем государственном секторе.

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Poverty of migrant children in the European Union¹

The article analyses the occurrence of risk-of-poverty among migrant households with children. Children with migrant background are exposed to a particularly high risk of poverty, reaching over 30% in the majority of countries. In general, the higher poverty risk of migrant children is not attributable to their larger share. Non-EU migrant children tend to have the largest relative disadvantage. In Denmark, Finland and Luxembourg, non-EU migrant children have a poverty risk six times higher than local children. Taking the EU as a whole, children with lone parents tend to be most at risk of poverty, although “large” households with three or more children among the non-EU migrants are also affected by a high poverty rate (52%).

The analysis is based on the EU-SILC and defines migrants in terms of their country of birth. Migrant children are defined as those who live in households where all adult members were born outside the country of residence.

① Measurement of migrants in the EU-SILC survey

The measurement of migrants is somewhat limited on the basis of the EU-SILC survey² for various reasons. Conceptually, the current EU-SILC question only explores the stock of migrants, with no information on how long they have been in the country. In addition, there is no information on ethnic status of respondents. In addition, the categorization of the migrant groups into “EU” and “non-EU” is rather broad: and the groups distinguished too large and heterogeneous, though sample sizes would need to be much larger for any more detailed breakdown. The number of observations per country, therefore,

especially for those born in another EU Member State, is very small in most countries.

The definition of migrants adopted is based on country of birth (grouped into EU or non-EU countries) and has, in addition, a household dimension, in the sense that migrants are defined as those who live in households where all adult members were born outside the country of residence. This enables us to attribute migrant status to children in the household, as there is no information on their country of birth in the dataset. Note that this definition of migrants includes those who have acquired citizenship in the meantime.

This definition based on country of birth is preferable to the alternative, citizenship-based definition. Problems in comparing migration data based on nationality (citizenship) stem from the different rules and requirements which govern the acquisition of citizenship in different countries.

Definition of migrants

- ▶ based on country of birth, rather than citizenship
- ▶ children: it is generated based on adult household members’ status (original EU-SILC variable: only for household members aged 16 or over)
- ▶ measures stock, not flow
- ▶ does not measure how long they have been in the country, thus no proxy for the extent of assimilation or integration
- ▶ migrants, but illegal or temporary migrants in particular are likely to be underrepresented compared to their actual share within the population

The share of the foreign-born population accounts for 7% of the total population in the EU. Their

share is relatively low, below 5%, in Finland and in some of the new member states, and with the exception of Luxembourg, the share of foreign-born never surpasses more than 18% in Austria.

Regarding the size of the foreign-born population, our estimates based on EU-SILC data suggest that it is the largest in Germany (6.7 million), followed by the United Kingdom (5.6 million), Italy (4.4 million) and Spain (3.5 million). Foreign-born migrants living in these four countries make up 68% of the total foreign-born population in the EU.

The EU-SILC 2008 used in this analysis covers 25 countries (EU27 except Malta and Romania which was omitted because of the sample size problems). Total sample size is 513.000, and the number of observations varies between 59 (Lithuania) and 4699 (Luxembourg) for EU migrants, and between 62 (Bulgaria) and 2433 (Germany) for non-EU migrants. We omitted Romania altogether due to the small number of observations). For Bulgaria, EU migrants are not distinguished for the same reason while for Slovakia, non-EU migrants were omitted. As there is no micro data available for France for 2008, the data used are from the 2007 survey. Migrants are not distinguished by country of birth in Germany, Estonia, Latvia and Slovenia, where all migrants are grouped together (under the category of “non-EU” migrants). (Similarly there is also no breakdown of foreign *citizenship* for these countries either.)³

② The risk of poverty among households with children

Children with migrant background are exposed to a particularly high risk of poverty. As children usually do not have incomes of their own, they are assumed to share the income of their parents and others in the household. In the majority of countries children with migrant background, have a risk-of-poverty rate of over 30%. In, Spain, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Finland, at least half of

the children born outside the EU live in households with incomes below the poverty threshold. In Spain, this is partly attributable to the relatively large share of children in the migrant population (23-24%) as compared to “local” children (who account for 17-18% of the population born in the country). In general, however, the higher poverty risk of migrant children is not attributable to their larger number. The calculations suggest that the share of children within both the non-EU and EU migrant groups is smaller on average than within the local population (18.1% and 12.4%, versus 19.6%, respectively).

The at-risk-of-poverty rates of children with a migrant background are not only high in absolute terms, but also relative to “local” children. In most countries, the risk of poverty is much higher among non-EU migrant children than among local children. In Denmark, Finland and Luxembourg, non-EU migrant children have a poverty risk six times higher than local children.

③ Poverty risk by household types

What types of household are exposed to a high risk of poverty in the different groups? Are there specific features of the migrant communities in this respect? Taking the EU as a whole, it is among EU migrants and the local population, that children with lone parents tend to be most at risk of poverty (47% and 39%, respectively). Lone-parent households face a similar risk of poverty among non-EU migrants (48%), however, the specific feature of this migrant group is the high poverty rate of “large” households with three or more children (52%).

Households with dependent children have a higher risk of poverty than those without children, particularly so in the case of non-EU migrants.³ More than 30% of non-EU migrants living in households with dependent children are at risk of poverty in 10 out of 21 countries. The at risk of poverty rate is particularly high, over 40%, in Finland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece and Spain. The situation of EU migrant households with children is more favourable.

We also explored the demographic composition of migrant groups to see whether there were any striking differences across countries. In Ireland and Belgium, over 70% of non-EU migrants live in households with children, while in Germany, Estonia Lithuania and Latvia, this figure is only between 32 and 40%. In Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Spain, Italy, Austria, Finland, Sweden and the UK, the share of non-EU migrant children is over 30% exceeding that of the local children. On the other hand, in a number of countries, the Baltic States, Germany and Slovenia especially, there is a relatively large share of elderly among the migrant population.

Non-EU migrants are more likely than average to live in larger, atypical households (with more than two adults) across the EU. In Belgium, Denmark, Spain and Austria, the share of non-EU migrants living in large households reaches 30%.

Notes

- 1 The entire research paper titled "Poverty and Social Exclusion of Migrants in the European Union" has been published by the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research as Policy Brief March 2011 and can also be requested from the authors: **lelkes@euro.centre.org** and **zolyomi@euro.centre.org**
- 2 The EU-SILC (Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) provides cross-sectional micro data on income poverty and social exclusion. The target population of EU-SILC is all persons living in private households within the national territory of the country concerned. Income data and other detailed information are collected from household members aged 16 and over. The income reference period is 1 January – 31 December 2007 for all countries, except Ireland, where the period is 12 months prior to the date of interview.
- 3 Alternative data sources on these countries confirm that there is *no significant EU migrant population* in Estonia, Latvia and Slovenia, though there is a significant population in Germany. For Germany, it is known that most EU migrants come from Poland as seasonal guest workers, and these are very likely to be underrepresented in surveys in general, but there are significant migrant groups from other EU countries as well.
- 4 We grouped household types together to these three categories due to the small number of observations. Some specific household types (household with three or more children) might have a higher risk of poverty than single person households, but we cannot test this with the data available.

La pauvreté des enfants d'immigrés dans l'Union européenne

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L'article analyse l'occurrence du risque de pauvreté parmi les ménages d'immigrés avec enfants. Les enfants issus de l'immigration sont exposés à un risque particulièrement élevé de pauvreté, qui dépasse 30 % dans la majorité des pays. D'une manière générale, le taux de pauvreté supérieur des enfants d'immigrés n'est pas imputable à leur proportion plus importante. Les enfants d'immigrés issus de pays non membres de l'UE tendent à être relativement plus pénalisés. Au Danemark, en Finlande et au Luxembourg, les enfants issus de pays non membres de l'UE ont un risque de pauvreté

six fois plus élevé que les enfants autochtones. Si l'on prend l'UE dans son ensemble, les enfants de parents isolés ont tendance à être les plus exposés à la pauvreté bien que, parmi les migrants issus de pays non membres de l'UE, les familles nombreuses avec trois enfants ou plus soient également affectées par un fort taux de pauvreté (52%). L'analyse, basée sur des statistiques EU-SILC, définit les immigrés sur la base de leur pays de naissance. Les enfants d'immigrés sont définis comme vivant dans des ménages dans lesquels l'ensemble des adultes sont nés hors du pays de résidence.

Armut unter Migrantenkindern in der Europäischen Union

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Der Artikel analysiert die Häufigkeit des Armutsrisikos in Migrantenhaushalten mit Kindern. Kinder mit Migrationshintergrund haben ein besonders hohes Armutsrisiko, das in der Mehrzahl der Länder mehr als 30 % erreicht. Generell ist das höhere Armutsrisiko von Migrantenkindern nicht auf deren größeren Anteil zurückzuführen. Migrantenkinder aus EU-Drittländern weisen tendenziell die größte relative Benachteiligung auf. In Dänemark, Finnland und Luxemburg ist das Armutsrisiko von Migrantenkindern aus EU-Drittländern sechsmal so hoch wie bei einheimischen Kindern. Wenn man die EU insgesamt

betrachtet, haben Kinder von alleinerziehenden Eltern tendenziell das größte Armutsrisiko, obwohl „große“ Haushalte mit drei oder mehr Kindern unter Migranten aus EU-Drittländern auch von einer hohen Armutsquote (52 %) betroffen sind. Die Analyse stützt sich auf die Statistik der Europäischen Union über Einkommen und Lebensbedingungen (EU-SILC) und definiert Migranten nach ihren Geburtsländern. Kinder von Migranten werden als Personen definiert, die in Haushalten leben, in denen alle erwachsenen Haushaltsmitglieder nicht im Land ihres Wohnsitzes geboren sind.

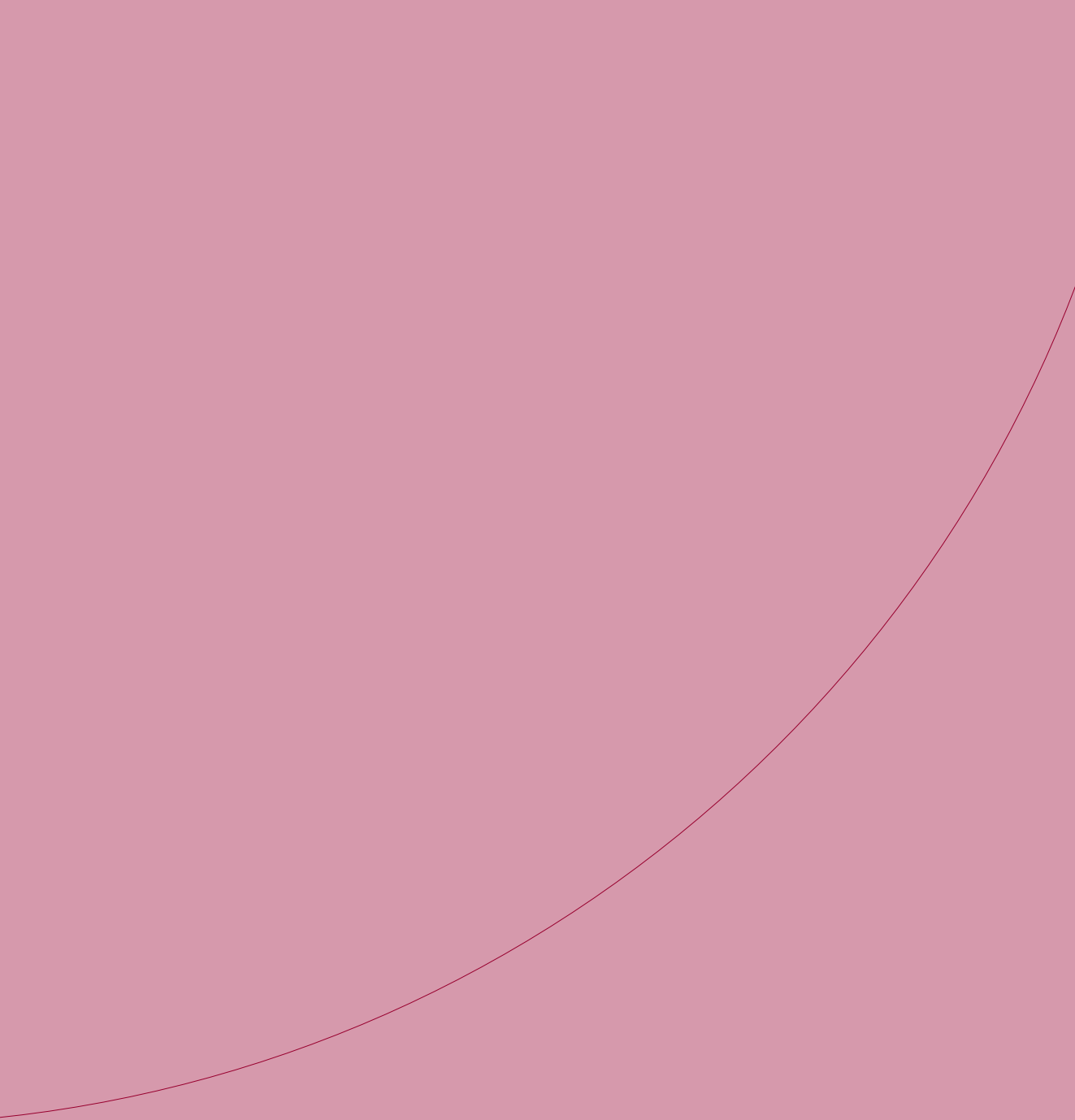
Бедность детей-мигрантов в странах Европейского Союза

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В статье анализируется возникновение риска а бедности среди домовладельцев из числа мигрантов с детьми. Дети с миграционным фоном подвергаются особенно высокому риску бедности, который достигает свыше 30% в большинстве стран. В целом высокий риск бедности детей мигрантов не связан с их большой долей. Дети мигрантов из стран, не входящих в ЕС, находятся в относительно более непривилегированных условиях. В Дании, Финляндии и Люксембурге дети мигрантов из стран, не входящих в ЕС, имеют риск бедности в шесть раз выше, чем дети

местного происхождения. В целом по ЕС дети, проживающие с одним из родителей, подвержены наибольшему риску бедности, хотя «большие» домохозяйства с тремя или более детьми среди мигрантов из стран, не входящих в ЕС, также имеют высокий уровень бедности (52%). Анализ основан на EU-SILC и определяет мигрантов с точки зрения страны рождения. Под детьми мигрантов понимаются те, кто проживает в домовладениях, где все взрослые члены семьи родились за пределами страны проживания.



Youth political events,
resolutions and
documents

Manifestations, résolutions
et documents de politique
de jeunesse

Jugendpolitische Events,
Resolutionen und
Dokumente



European Commission sets out EU agenda for the rights of the child

The European Commission on 15 February 2011 presented an EU agenda for reinforcing the rights of the child by putting the principles of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights into practice. It includes a series of concrete actions where the EU can provide added value to policies for children's well-being and safety, including promoting child-friendly justice, better informing children about their rights, and making the internet safer for kids.

The EU Agenda lists 11 actions that the Commission will take over the coming years. The initiative aims to reaffirm the strong commitment of EU institutions and Member States to promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of the child in all relevant EU policies and to turn them into concrete results. In the future, EU policies that affect children directly or indirectly should be designed, implemented, and monitored taking into account the principle of children's best interests.

Children can face severe obstacles when they are involved with justice systems. Their rights may even be violated if they face non child-friendly justice systems. In addition, particularly vulnerable children – either growing up in poverty, social exclusion or disabled – require special protection. The Commission will take special account of children as part of a proposal on protecting victims of crime, proposing safeguards for child suspects and revising existing rules in cross-border custody cases.

The Commission will actively protect and empower children as users of online technologies and counter cyber-bullying, grooming, exposure to harmful content, and other uncomfortable experiences of using online technologies. To raise awareness and promote active citizenship among children, the Commission will establish a single entry point for children on the EUROPA portal with easily accessible information on children's rights and EU policies.

The Commission's action on the rights of the child is part of its efforts to implement the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which is legally binding on the EU's institutions when they propose laws and on Member States when they are implementing EU law.

The Treaty of Lisbon requires the EU to promote the protection of the rights of the child. The rights of the child also form part of the fundamental rights that the EU is committed to respect under Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. In addition, all 27 EU countries have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Europe 2020 Strategy and the Commission's Action Plan to implement the Stockholm Programme set out a vision for the 21st century of a Europe in which the children of today will have a better education, access to services and resources that they need to grow up as well as a solid protection of their rights.

Overview of 11 actions

The Commission will contribute to making the justice systems in the EU more child-friendly and to improving children's well being notably by:

1. adopting, in 2011, **a proposal for a Directive on victims' rights** raising the level of protection of vulnerable victims, including children;
2. tabling, in 2012, **a proposal for a Directive on special safeguards** for suspected or accused persons **who are vulnerable**, including children;
3. revising, by 2013, the **EU legislation facilitating the recognition and enforcement of decisions on parental responsibility** with a view to ensuring, in the interest of the child, that decisions can be recognised and enforced as quickly as possible, including, where appropriate, the establishment of common minimum standards;
4. **promoting the use of the Council of Europe Guidelines of 17 November 2010 on child-friendly justice** and taking them into account in future legal instruments in the field of civil and criminal justice;
5. supporting and encouraging the **development of training activities for judges** and other professionals at European level regarding the optimal participation of children in judicial systems.
6. supporting the exchange of best practices and the **improvement of training for guardians, public authorities** and other actors who are in close contact with unaccompanied children (2011-2014);
7. paying particular attention to children in the context of the **EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies**, which will be adopted in spring 2011 and will notably promote the more efficient use of structural funds for the integration of Roma;
8. strongly encouraging and providing support to all Member States to ensure the **swift introduction and full functioning of the 116 000 hotline for missing children** and the child alert mechanisms (2011-2012);
9. supporting Member States and other stakeholders in **strengthening prevention, empowerment and participation of children to make the most of online technologies and counter cyber-bullying** behaviour, exposure to harmful content, and other online risks namely through the Safer Internet programme and cooperation with the industry through self-regulatory initiatives (2009-2014);
10. continuing the implementation of the 2007 **EU Guidelines on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child that focus on combating all forms of violence against children**. The EU will also evaluate the implementation of the Guidelines. The EU will implement the **EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflicts** based on the 2010 Revised Implementation Strategy;
11. setting up, in the course of 2011, **a single entry point on EUROPA with information for children on the EU and on the rights of the child**. The Commission will invite other EU institutions to join this initiative.

La Commission européenne présente le programme de l'Union en matière de droits de l'enfant

La Commission européenne a présenté le 15 février 2011 le programme de l'UE visant à renforcer les droits de l'enfant par la mise en pratique des principes énoncés dans la charte des droits fondamentaux de l'UE. Ce programme comporte une série d'actions concrètes par lesquelles l'UE peut conférer une valeur ajoutée aux politiques pour le bien-être et la sécurité des enfants, notamment en faisant la promotion d'une justice plus adaptée aux enfants, en informant mieux les enfants de leurs droits et en rendant l'internet plus sûr à leur égard.

Le programme de l'UE énumère onze actions que la Commission entreprendra dans les prochaines années. Cette initiative vise à réaffirmer le ferme engagement des institutions de l'Union et des États membres en faveur de la promotion, de la protection et du respect des droits de l'enfant dans toutes les politiques de l'UE qui s'y rapportent et à traduire cet engagement en résultats concrets. Dorénavant, les politiques de l'Union qui auront des répercussions directes ou indirectes sur les enfants devront être élaborées, mises en œuvre et supervisées dans le respect du principe de l'intérêt supérieur de l'enfant.

Lorsque les enfants sont confrontés au système judiciaire, ils peuvent rencontrer d'importants obstacles. Leurs droits risquent même d'être bafoués si ce système ne leur est pas adapté. En outre, les plus vulnérables d'entre eux – élevés dans la pauvreté, l'exclusion sociale, ou atteints d'un handicap – requièrent une protection particulière. La Commission tiendra spécialement compte des enfants dans la proposition qu'elle présentera concernant la protection des victimes de la criminalité, en suggérant l'instauration de garanties pour les enfants suspects et en modifiant les règles existantes applicables aux affaires de garde parentale revêtant une dimension transfrontière.

La Commission veillera activement à protéger et responsabiliser les enfants utilisateurs de technologies en ligne et à lutter contre le cyberharcèlement, la manipulation psychologique des enfants, l'exposition à des contenus préjudiciables et les autres formes d'expérience désagréable liées à l'utilisation de ces outils. Pour sensibiliser les enfants et susciter chez eux une citoyenneté active, la Commission créera sur le portail EUROPA un guichet unique mettant à leur disposition des informations facilement accessibles concernant leurs droits et les politiques de l'Union.

L'action que la Commission mène en matière de droits de l'enfant s'inscrit dans les efforts qu'elle déploie pour mettre en œuvre la charte des droits fondamentaux, juridiquement contraignante pour les institutions de l'UE lorsqu'elles proposent des instruments législatifs et pour les États membres lorsqu'ils appliquent le droit de l'Union.

Le traité de Lisbonne fait obligation à l'UE de promouvoir la protection des droits de l'enfant, lesquels font également partie intégrante des droits fondamentaux que l'UE s'engage à respecter en vertu de l'article 24 de sa charte des droits fondamentaux. Par ailleurs, l'ensemble des 27 États membres ont ratifié la convention des Nations unies relative aux droits de l'enfant. La stratégie Europe 2020 et le plan d'action de la Commission pour la mise en œuvre du programme de Stockholm présentent une vision, pour le XXI^e siècle, d'une Europe où les enfants bénéficieront d'un meilleur enseignement, auront accès aux services et ressources dont ils ont besoin pour grandir et où leurs droits seront fermement protégés.

Aperçu des 11 actions

La Commission va s'attacher à faire en sorte que les systèmes de justice de l'UE soient plus adaptés aux enfants, mais aussi à améliorer le bien-être de ces derniers, notamment grâce aux actions ci-après :

1. en adoptant, en 2011, un **projet de directive sur le droit des victimes** afin d'améliorer le niveau de protection des victimes vulnérables, dont les enfants ;
2. en présentant, en 2012, une **proposition de directive prévoyant des garanties spécifiques** pour les **personnes vulnérables** suspectes ou accusées, y compris les enfants ;
3. en révisant, d'ici 2013, la **législation européenne qui facilite la reconnaissance et l'application des décisions relatives à la responsabilité parentale** en vue d'assurer, dans l'intérêt de l'enfant, que les décisions puissent être reconnues et appliquées au plus vite, y inclus, le cas échéant, la mise en place de normes minimales communes ;
4. en promouvant **l'utilisation des Lignes directrices du Conseil de l'Europe sur une justice adaptée aux enfants du 17 novembre 2010**, et en les prenant en considération dans les futurs instruments juridiques relatifs à la justice civile et pénale ;
5. en soutenant et en encourageant le **développement d'activités de formation pour les juges** et les professionnels de la justice au niveau européen, en vue d'une meilleure participation des enfants au système judiciaire ;
6. en favorisant l'échange de bonnes pratiques et **l'amélioration de la formation des professionnels (tuteurs, autorités publiques et autres acteurs)** qui sont en contact avec des enfants non-accompagnés (2011-2014) ;
7. en accordant une attention particulière aux enfants dans le contexte du **Cadre européen pour l'intégration des stratégies nationales en faveur des Roms**, qui sera adopté au printemps 2011 et promouvra notamment une plus active utilisation des fonds structurels pour l'intégration des Roms ;
8. en encourageant fortement et en soutenant la **mise en œuvre pleine et effective, dans tous les États membres, de la hotline 116 000 pour les enfants disparus** ainsi que des mécanismes d'alerte en cas de disparition d'enfants (2011-2012) ;
9. en encourageant les États membres et les autres parties prenantes à **renforcer la protection et la responsabilisation des enfants utilisateurs de**

technologies en ligne, la lutte contre le cyber-harcèlement, l'exposition à des contenus préjudiciables et d'autres risques liés à l'utilisation de ces outils, entre autres à travers le programme Safer Internet et la coopération avec l'industrie (2009-2014) ;

10. en poursuivant la mise en œuvre en 2007 des **Orientations pour la politique de l'UE à l'égard des pays tiers concernant la promotion et la protection des droits de l'enfant, qui visent la lutte contre toutes les formes de violence à l'encontre des enfants** ; l'UE se chargera d'évaluer leur mise en œuvre. Par ailleurs, l'UE mettra en application les **Orientations de l'UE sur les enfants face aux conflits armés**, basées sur la Stratégie de mise en œuvre révisée de 2010 ;
11. en créant sur le portail EUROPA, dans le courant 2011, **un guichet unique mettant à la disposition des enfants des informations concernant leurs droits et les politiques de l'Union**. La Commission invitera d'autres institutions de l'UE à se joindre à cette initiative.

Europäische Kommission präsentiert EU-Agenda für die Rechte des Kindes

Wie kann die EU die Rechte des Kindes vor Gericht schützen? Was kann sie tun, damit Entscheidungen in grenzübergreifenden Sorgerechtsfällen so schnell wie möglich vollstreckt werden? Wie kann verhindert werden, dass unsere Kinder online drangsaliert werden?

Die Europäische Kommission hat am 15. Februar 2011 eine EU-Agenda zur Stärkung der Rechte des Kindes vorgelegt. Dieses Ziel soll durch die Umsetzung der Prinzipien der EU-Charta für Grundrechte erreicht werden. Eine Reihe der in der Agenda enthaltenen konkreten Maßnahmen, z. B. die Förderung einer kindgerechten Justiz, verständlichere Informationen für Kinder über ihre Rechte und ein besserer Schutz für Kinder im Internet, betreffen das Wohlergehen und die Sicherheit von Kindern, also Bereiche, in denen ein Tätigwerden der Union einen echten Mehrwert bewirken kann.

Die EU-Agenda sieht elf Aktionen vor, die die Kommission in den nächsten Jahren durchführen wird. Ziel ist es, dass sich die EU-Organe und die Mitgliedstaaten erneut verpflichten, die Rechte des Kindes in allen relevanten Politikbereichen der EU zu stärken, zu schützen und in konkrete Ergebnisse umzumünzen. Künftig sollten Maßnahmen der EU, die Kinder mittelbar oder unmittelbar betreffen, in einer Weise konzipiert, umgesetzt und überwacht werden, die dem Grundsatz des Kindeswohls Rechnung trägt.

Kinder können sich beim Kontakt mit der Justiz mehreren Schwierigkeiten gegenübersehen. Ist das System nicht auf Kinder ausgerichtet, können

schlimmstenfalls ihre Rechte verletzt werden. Darüber hinaus benötigen insbesondere benachteiligte Kinder, die in Armut aufwachsen, sozial ausgegrenzt werden oder behindert sind, besonderen Schutz. Die Kommission wird im Rahmen eines Vorschlags zum Opferschutz Kinder besonders berücksichtigen und spezielle rechtliche Garantien für Kinder, die einer Straftat verdächtigt werden, vorsehen und die Vorschriften für grenzübergreifende Sorgerechtsfälle überarbeiten.

Die Kommission wird Kinder im Umgang mit dem Internet schützen und sich bemühen, sie zu kompetenteren Nutzern zu machen und sie vor Cyber-Bullying und – Grooming, schädlichen Inhalten und sonstigen negativen Erfahrungen bei der Nutzung von Online-Technologien zu bewahren suchen. Sie will die Kinder sensibilisieren und bei ihnen ein aktives staatsbürgerliches Verhalten fördern. Deshalb wird sie auf dem Webportal EUROPA eine gesonderte Einstiegsseite für Kinder mit leicht zugänglichen Informationen über die Rechte von Kindern und einschlägigen EU-Maßnahmen einrichten.

Das Engagement der Kommission für die Rechte von Kindern ist im Rahmen ihrer Bemühungen zur Umsetzung der Grundrechtecharta zu sehen, die für die EU-Organe rechtsverbindlich ist, wenn sie Gesetze vorschlagen, und die Mitgliedstaaten bei der Umsetzung von EU-Recht bindet.

Gemäß dem Vertrag von Lissabon ist die EU verpflichtet, den Schutz der Rechte des Kindes zu fördern. Die Rechte des Kindes gehören zu den Grundrechten, die die EU nach Artikel 24 der EU-Grundrechtecharta achten muss. Außerdem haben alle 27 EU-Mitgliedstaaten das Übereinkommen der Vereinten Nationen über die Rechte des Kindes ratifiziert. Die Strategie Europa 2020 und der Aktionsplan der Kommission zur Umsetzung des Stockholmer Programms haben für das 21. Jahrhundert die Vision eines Europa entwickelt, in dem die Kinder bessere Bildungschancen und einen besseren Zugang zu den Leistungen und Ressourcen erhalten, die sie benötigen, um erwachsen zu werden, und in dem ein wirksamerer Schutz ihrer Rechte gewährleistet ist.

Überblick über die elf Maßnahmen

Die Kommission wird insbesondere durch Folgendes zu kindgerechteren Justizsystemen in der EU und zum Wohlergehen der Kinder beitragen:

1. Annahme eines **Vorschlags für eine Richtlinie zum Opferschutz**, durch die das Schutzniveau für besonders schutzlose Opfer wie Kinder erhöht werden soll (2011);
2. Vorlage eines **Vorschlags für eine Richtlinie über spezielle rechtliche Garantien für schutzwürdige** Tatverdächtige oder Angeklagte, einschließlich Kinder (2012);
3. Überarbeitung der **EU-Rechtsvorschriften zur Erleichterung der Anerkennung und Vollstreckung von Entscheidungen in Fragen der elterlichen Verantwortung** mit dem Ziel, im Interesse des Kindes dafür zu sorgen, dass die Entscheidungen so schnell wie möglich anerkannt und vollstreckt werden, und gegebenenfalls gemeinsame Mindeststandards festzulegen (bis 2013);

4. Förderung der **Publizität der Leitlinien des Europarates vom 17. November 2010 für eine kinderfreundliche Justiz**, die in künftigen Rechtsinstrumenten im Bereich Zivil – und Strafjustiz berücksichtigt werden sollen;
5. Unterstützung und Förderung von **Fortbildungsmaßnahmen** auf europäischer Ebene **für Richter** und Angehörige anderer einschlägiger Berufsgruppen im Hinblick auf die bestmögliche Partizipation von Kindern im Rahmen der Justiz.
6. Die Kommission wird den Austausch bewährter Verfahren und die Verbesserung der Ausbildung von Betreuern und Behörden, die engen Kontakt zu **unbegleiteten Kindern** haben, fördern (2011-2014).
7. Die Kommission wird innerhalb des **EU-Rahmens für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma**, der im Frühjahr 2011 angenommen werden soll, den Kindern einen besonderen Stellenwert einräumen und vor allem auf eine intensivere Nutzung der Strukturfonds zur Integration der Roma hinwirken.
8. Die Kommission wird alle Mitgliedstaaten nachdrücklich dazu zu bewegen suchen, für die **rasche Einführung und Betriebsbereitschaft der Hotline 116 000 für vermisste Kinder** und der Systeme zur Alarmierung der Öffentlichkeit zu sorgen, und sie dabei unterstützen (2011-2012).
9. Die Kommission wird die Mitgliedstaaten und sonstigen Akteure dabei unterstützen, **noch mehr vorbeugende Maßnahmen zum Schutz der Kinder gegen Drangsalierungen und Cyber-Bullying**, schädliche Inhalte und sonstige negative Erfahrungen bei der Nutzung von Online-Technologien zu ergreifen, wobei sie vor allem auf das Programm für mehr Sicherheit im Internet zurückgreifen und bei der einschlägigen Industrie auf eine Selbstregulierung hinwirken wird (2009-2014).
10. Die Umsetzung der **EU-Leitlinien für die Förderung und den Schutz der Rechte des Kindes**, in deren Mittelpunkt die Bekämpfung jeglicher Art von Gewalt gegen Kinder steht. Die EU wird deren Umsetzung evaluieren und die Leitlinien zum Thema Kinder und bewaffnete Konflikte umsetzen, die auf der überarbeiteten Umsetzungsstrategie von 2010 basieren.
11. Die Kommission wird im Laufe des Jahres 2011 auf dem **Webportal EUROPA eine gesonderte Einstiegsseite mit Informationen für Kinder und über die Rechte von Kindern einrichten**. Sie wird die übrigen EU-Organen dazu ermuntern, sich der Initiative anzuschließen.



EU education report: good progress, but more effort needed to achieve targets

EU countries have improved their education systems in key areas over the past decade but they have achieved only one out of five benchmarks set for 2010, the European Commission's new progress report on education and training revealed on 19 April 2011. The EU has succeeded in its target to increase the number of maths, science and technology graduates, with a 37% rise since 2000 – easily outstripping the target of 15%. Significant, but insufficient, progress was made on reducing the school drop-out rate, increasing the number of pupils completing upper secondary education, improving reading literacy skills and increasing the share of adults participating in education or training. For a detailed breakdown of the figures for each country, see annex below. The Europe 2020 jobs and growth strategy retains the target of reducing the school drop-out rate to under 10%, as well as increasing the share of graduates to at least 40%.

Five education benchmarks for 2020

In 2009, EU Education Ministers agreed on five education and training benchmarks to be attained by 2020:

- ⇒ the share of early leavers from education and training should be less than 10% (based on the current rate of 14.4% this would mean at least 1.7 million fewer school drop-outs);
- ⇒ the share of 30-34 year olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 40% (at the current rate of 32.3% this would mean an additional 2.6 million graduates);
- ⇒ at least 95% of children between the age of four and the age for starting compulsory primary education should participate in early childhood education (now 92.3%, achieving this target would mean over 250 000 more young children in education);
- ⇒ the share of 15-years olds with insufficient abilities in reading, mathematics and science should be less than 15% (from around 20% for all three now. Achieving the target would mean 250 000 fewer low achievers);
- ⇒ an average of at least 15% of adults (age group 25-64) should participate in lifelong learning (current share is 9.3%. Achieving the target would mean 15 million more adults in education and training).

Annual report on progress towards the benchmarks

In its annual report on indicators and benchmarks the Commission analyses Member States' performance against these targets, while also reviewing how countries have performed in relation to an earlier set of benchmarks agreed for 2010.

Key results

- ⇒ **2020 benchmarks:** although it is too early for precise projections, past trends suggest that most of the benchmarks for 2020 should be attainable if Member States continue to give them high priority and invest efficiently in education and training. This is true, in particular, for the two education headline targets on early school leaving and graduates.
- ⇒ **2010 benchmarks:** EU countries have made progress but only achieved the target on the number of graduates in maths, science and technology. (Full data for 2010 will be available early next year).
- ⇒ **Participation and attainment:** since 2000, overall participation in education has increased as well as the qualification levels of adults. The share of children in pre-primary education has risen as well.
- ⇒ **Gender gaps remain significant** both in performance and in choice of subjects. For instance, girls outperform boys in reading, and boys account for most early school leavers. Men outnumber women among graduates in maths, science and technology subjects.

The report, which covers all EU Member States, plus Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Turkey, Norway and Liechtenstein, contains overviews and detailed statistics identifying which countries perform above or below the EU average and which are catching up or falling behind compared to the others.

Next steps

Member States will submit their national reform programmes to the Commission, in which they will set national targets on early school leaving and higher education graduates, spelling out how they want to achieve their goals. The Commission will present proposed new benchmarks on employability and learning mobility.

For further details please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc2881_en.htm

Rapport sur l'éducation dans l'UE: des progrès, mais des efforts restent nécessaires pour atteindre les objectifs

Le nouveau rapport d'avancement sur l'éducation et la formation, publié le 19 avril 2011 par la Commission européenne, révèle que les pays de l'UE ont amélioré leurs systèmes d'éducation dans des domaines essentiels au cours des dix dernières années, mais qu'ils n'ont satisfait qu'à un seul des cinq critères de référence définis pour 2010.

Depuis 2000, l'Union est parvenue à relever de 37 % le nombre des diplômés en mathématiques, sciences et technologie, ce qui est largement supérieur à l'objectif de 15 % qu'elle s'était fixé. Des progrès importants, mais encore insuffisants, ont été réalisés en ce qui concerne la réduction du décrochage scolaire, l'augmentation du nombre d'élèves parvenant à la fin du second cycle de l'enseignement secondaire, l'amélioration des compétences en lecture et l'augmentation de la proportion d'adultes suivant un enseignement ou une formation. L'annexe ci-après fournit une ventilation détaillée des chiffres par pays. La stratégie « Europe 2020 » pour l'emploi et la croissance prévoit à son tour de réduire le taux de décrochage scolaire à moins de 10 % et de faire passer le taux des diplômés de l'enseignement supérieur à 40 % au moins.

Cinq critères de référence pour 2020

En 2009, les ministres de l'éducation de l'UE se sont entendus sur cinq critères de référence à réaliser à l'horizon 2020 en matière d'éducation et de formation:

- ⇒ la proportion des jeunes en situation de décrochage vis-à-vis du système d'éducation ou de formation devrait être inférieure à 10 % (ce qui signifierait, en se basant sur le taux actuel de 14,4 %, au minimum 1,7 million d'abandons scolaires en moins);
- ⇒ la proportion des personnes âgées de 30 à 34 ans diplômées de l'enseignement supérieur devrait s'élever à au moins 40 % (soit 2,6 millions de diplômés supplémentaires par rapport au taux actuel de 32,3 %);
- ⇒ au moins 95 % des enfants ayant entre quatre ans et l'âge de la scolarité obligatoire devraient fréquenter l'enseignement préscolaire (le taux actuel étant de 92,3 %, cela signifierait l'intégration de plus de 250 000 jeunes enfants supplémentaires dans le système éducatif);
- ⇒ la proportion des jeunes de 15 ans ayant une maîtrise insuffisante de la lecture, des mathématiques et des sciences devrait descendre sous le niveau des 15 % (ce taux est actuellement de 20 % dans chacun des trois domaines; la réalisation de cet objectif signifierait que le nombre des jeunes ayant un niveau insuffisant baisserait de 250 000);
- ⇒ une moyenne d'au moins 15 % des adultes (de 25 à 64 ans) devrait participer à des activités d'éducation et de formation tout au long de la vie (la proportion actuelle étant de 9,3 %, la réalisation de cet objectif correspondrait à 15 millions d'adultes supplémentaires dans l'éducation et la formation).

Rapport annuel sur les progrès accomplis dans la réalisation des critères de référence

Dans son rapport annuel sur les indicateurs et critères de référence, la Commission examine les réalisations des États membres à la lumière de ces objectifs et d'un ensemble de critères de référence plus anciens, définis pour 2010.

Principaux résultats

- ⇒ **Critères de référence 2020:** bien qu'il soit encore trop tôt pour des prévisions précises, l'évolution passée autorise à penser que la plupart des critères de référence pour 2020 sont réalisables si les États membres continuent à leur accorder une priorité élevée et investissent efficacement dans l'éducation et la formation. C'est particulièrement vrai pour les deux grands objectifs concernant l'abandon scolaire précoce et le nombre de diplômés.
- ⇒ **Critères de référence 2010:** les pays de l'UE ont accompli des progrès mais n'ont atteint que l'objectif du nombre de diplômés en mathématiques, sciences et technologie (les données complètes pour 2010 seront disponibles au début de l'année prochaine).
- ⇒ **Participation et niveau atteint:** depuis 2000, la participation globale au système d'éducation et de formation et le niveau de qualification des adultes ont progressé. La proportion d'enfants fréquentant des établissements préscolaires a également augmenté.
- ⇒ **Les disparités entre les sexes demeurent importantes,** tant en ce qui concerne les performances que dans le choix des matières. Les filles obtiennent ainsi de meilleurs résultats en lecture et les garçons constituent la majorité des jeunes en situation de décrochage scolaire. Les diplômés en mathématiques, sciences et technologie sont plus souvent des hommes que des femmes.

Le rapport, qui couvre l'ensemble des États membres de l'UE ainsi que la Croatie, l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine, l'Islande, la Turquie, la Norvège et le Liechtenstein, contient des synopsis et des statistiques détaillées permettant de voir quels sont les pays dont les résultats sont inférieurs ou supérieurs à la moyenne de l'UE, et quels sont ceux qui rattrapent leur retard ou marquent le pas sur les autres.

Étapes suivantes

Les États membres soumettront à la Commission leurs programmes de réforme nationaux, dans le cadre desquels ils définiront des objectifs en matière de lutte contre le décrochage scolaire et de nombre de diplômés de l'enseignement supérieur, en décrivant la manière dont ils comptent atteindre ces objectifs. Quant à la Commission, elle présentera bientôt de nouvelles propositions de critères de référence concernant l'employabilité et la mobilité des apprenants.

Pour en savoir plus :

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc2881_en.htm

EU-Bildungsbericht: Trotz guter Fortschritte mehr Anstrengungen erforderlich

Im vergangenen Jahrzehnt gelang es den EU-Ländern, ihre Bildungssysteme in den Kernbereichen zu verbessern, doch erreichten sie nur eine der fünf Benchmarks, die für 2010 festgelegt wurden – dies geht aus dem Fortschrittsbericht für die allgemeine und berufliche Bildung hervor, den die Europäische Kommission am 19. April 2011 vorgelegt hat. Seit 2000 ist die Anzahl der Absolventen mathematischer, naturwissenschaftlicher und technischer Fächer in der EU um 37 % gestiegen. Das angestrebte Ziel von 15 % wurde damit problemlos übertroffen. In anderen Bereichen wurden zwar erhebliche, aber dennoch zu geringe Fortschritte erzielt: So verließen weniger Schüler die Schule vorzeitig, mehr Schüler beendeten die Sekundarstufe II, Lese – und Schreibfähigkeiten wurden verbessert, mehr Erwachsene bildeten sich allgemein oder beruflich weiter. Eine genaue Aufstellung der Ergebnisse für jedes Land findet sich im Anhang. Die Senkung der Schulabbrecherquote auf unter 10 % und die Erhöhung des Anteils der Hochschulabsolventen auf mindestens 40 % ist Teil der Strategie „Europa 2020“ für Beschäftigung und Wachstum.

Fünf Bildungsbenchmarks für 2020

Im Jahr 2009 haben sich die EU-Bildungsminister auf fünf Benchmarks im Bereich der allgemeinen und beruflichen Bildung geeinigt, die bis 2020 erreicht werden sollen:

- ⇒ Der Anteil frühzeitiger Schul – und Ausbildungsabgänger sollte weniger als 10 % betragen (bei einer aktuellen Quote von 14,4 % würde dies mindestens 1,7 Mio. weniger Schulabbrecher bedeuten).
- ⇒ Der Anteil der 30 – bis 34-Jährigen mit einem Hochschulabschluss sollte mindestens 40 % betragen (bei einer aktuellen Quote von 32,3 % wären dies 2,6 Mio. zusätzliche Absolventen).
- ⇒ Mindestens 95 % der Kinder im Alter zwischen vier Jahren und dem Beginn des Pflichtschulalters sollten an der frühkindlichen Bildung teilhaben (derzeit 92,3 %; über 250 000 Kinder mehr würden beim Erreichen des Ziels eine Vorschulbildung erhalten).
- ⇒ Der Anteil der 15-Jährigen mit unzureichenden Fähigkeiten in den Bereichen Lesen, Mathematik und Naturwissenschaften sollte weniger als 15 Prozent betragen (aktuell ca. 20 % für diese drei zusammen, das wären 250 000 weniger Schüler mit schlechten Leistungen).
- ⇒ Im Durchschnitt sollten mindestens 15 % der Erwachsenen (Altersgruppe 25-64 Jahre) am lebenslangen Lernen teilnehmen (aktuell beträgt der Anteil 9,3 %; beim Erreichen des Ziels wären dies 15 Mio. Erwachsene mehr in der allgemeinen und beruflichen Bildung).

Jährlicher Fortschrittsbericht zu Benchmarks

Die Europäische Kommission hat in ihrem jährlichen Bericht zu Indikatoren und Benchmarks die Leistung der Mitgliedstaaten im Hinblick auf diese Ziele gemessen. Gleichzeitig überprüfte sie die Ergebnisse der Länder bei den Benchmarks, die für 2010 vereinbart worden waren.

Wichtigste Ergebnisse

- ⇒ **Benchmarks für 2020:** Auch wenn es für genaue Vorhersagen zu früh ist, kann angesichts vergangener Entwicklungen davon ausgegangen werden, dass die Benchmarks für 2020 im Großen und Ganzen erreicht werden können, vorausgesetzt, die Mitgliedstaaten messen ihnen weiterhin eine hohe Bedeutung bei und investieren effizient in allgemeine und berufliche Bildung. Dies gilt insbesondere für die zwei Bildungskernziele zu Schulabbrechern und Hochschulabsolventen.
- ⇒ **Benchmarks für 2010:** Trotz der erzielten Fortschritte ist es den EU-Ländern nur gelungen, eines der Ziele zu erreichen, nämlich die Anzahl der Absolventen mathematischer, naturwissenschaftlicher und technischer Fächer zu erhöhen. (Vollständige Daten für 2010 werden zu Beginn des nächsten Jahres vorliegen).
- ⇒ **Teilnahme und Schulerfolg:** Seit 2000 haben die allgemeine Bildungsteilnahme sowie das Qualifikationsniveau der Erwachsenen zugenommen. Außerdem ist der Anteil von Kindern in der Vorschulbildung gestiegen.
- ⇒ **Erhebliche geschlechtsspezifische Unterschiede bestehen weiterhin** in Leistung und in Fächerwahl. So übertreffen Mädchen die Jungen im Bereich der Lesekompetenz, und die Jungen stellen die Mehrzahl der Schulabbrecher. Mehr Männer als Frauen schließen zudem ein Hochschulstudium in mathematischen, naturwissenschaftlichen und technischen Fächern ab.

Der Bericht deckt alle EU-Mitgliedstaaten plus Kroatien, die ehemalige jugoslawische Republik Mazedonien, Island, die Türkei, Norwegen und Liechtenstein ab. Er enthält Übersichten und detaillierte Statistiken und zeigt, welche Länder über bzw. unter dem EU-Durchschnitt liegen und welche Länder im Vergleich aufholen bzw. zurückfallen.

Nächste Schritte

Die Mitgliedstaaten werden ihre nationalen Reformprogramme der Europäischen Kommission übermitteln, in denen sie nationale Ziele zur Senkung der Schulabbruchquote und zur Erhöhung der Anzahl der Hochschulabsolventen festlegen und erläutern, wie sie ihre Ziele erreichen möchten. Die Europäische Kommission wird die vorgeschlagenen neuen Benchmarks zur Beschäftigungsfähigkeit und zur Mobilität zu Lernzwecken vorlegen.

Weiterführende Informationen unter:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc2881_en.htm



The African Report on Child Wellbeing 2011 Budgeting for Children

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This report was prepared by a team of experts at The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) composed of: Assefa Bequele, Negussie Dejene, Dharam Ghai, Yehualashet Mekonen, David Mugawe, Shimelis Tsegaye

This 2011 edition of The African Report on Child Wellbeing is the second in a series of reports published biennially by The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) as contribution to putting Africa's children on the public and political agenda, and to holding African governments accountable to their obligations – to their children.

This report explores in greater depth the obligations of African countries to invest in their children, the arguments for doing so – from a moral, social, political, and economic perspective – and, the importance of the national budget (as a key policy document of the government) in: (1) positively impacting upon the wellbeing and quality of life of children, through budget allocations to sectors that most impact upon children's lives; and (2) representing an effective barometer of true government commitment to the rights of the child.

The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) is a leading, independent, not-for-profit, pan-African centre of policy research and dialogue on the African child. To view or download the report (202 pages) please visit: http://www.africanchildforum.org/africanreport/attachements/article/47/AfricanReport2011_english.pdf



Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue Integration

2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices

This report provides encyclopedic detail on human rights conditions in over 190 countries for 2010. 2010 marks the 35th year that the U.S. State Department has produced the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

In 2010, governments around the world continued to commit severe human rights violations and abuses.

One main trend that points in a negative direction, was the continuing escalation of violence, persecution, and official and societal discrimination of members of vulnerable groups, often racial, religious, or ethnic minorities or disempowered majorities. In many countries this pattern of discrimination extended to women; children; persons with disabilities; indigenous; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons; and members of other vulnerable groups who lacked the political power to defend their own interests. Often members of these groups were denied economic opportunity or the ability to abide by their social or cultural traditions or practices or were restricted in their ability to speak freely, to assemble peacefully, or to form associations or organizations.

In many countries religious freedom violations and violence and discrimination against religious minorities continued. There were reports of increases in anti-Semitic acts around the world, including the desecration of cemeteries, graffiti, and blood-libel rhetoric, as well as Holocaust denial, revisionism, and glorification. There have also been spikes in expressions of anti-Semitism during events in the Middle East.

Persons around the world continue to experience discrimination and intimidation based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

For further details please visit:

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/frontmatter/154329.htm>

Holocaust Remembrance Day

International Holocaust Remembrance Day – known officially in Israel as Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day – is commemorated worldwide on 27 January in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. On 27 January 1945, the advancing Red Army entered the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp complex, liberating more

than 7,000 remaining prisoners, who were for the most part ill or dying. Days earlier, the SS had forced nearly 60,000 prisoners to evacuate the camp and embark on the infamous 'Death Marches,' in which many thousands lost their lives.

The United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 60/7 on 1 November 2005 to designate 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, the day upon which every year the world would mark and remember the Holocaust and its victims. 66 years on from the liberation of Auschwitz, it is more important than ever to remind ourselves of the universal lessons of the Holocaust and to foster a shared culture of remembrance. It is vital that everyone and especially educators and young people take the time to remember those who were incarcerated, persecuted and murdered at the many Nazi work, labour and killing camps as this helps to understand the full scale of the horrific crimes of the Nazis.

In 2011, the International Day of Commemoration was marked by a number of national and international events. The UN focused its 2011 events on the central theme "Women and the Holocaust: Courage and Compassion," paying tribute to the bravery and ingenuity of the women who faced Nazi persecution with strength and dignity during the Second World War.

Zoni Weisz, 73, a Roma man whose parents were murdered in Auschwitz, addressed the German Parliament, the Bundestag, on Holocaust Day on 27 January 2011 to remind of the crimes of the past and the suffering of his people in the present. Weisz said the mass murder of Roma during the Nazi era was the 'forgotten Holocaust' as they continue to suffer across Europe.

It was the first time that a non-Jewish man led ceremonies in Berlin in remembrance of the six million victims of the Nazi extermination programme in World War 2. While most victims were Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, Slavs and political dissidents were also earmarked for death.

Mr. Christian Wulff, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, was the first Federal President to make a speech in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp on 27 January 1945. In his address, he appealed to all young people: "Today's youth must be familiar with the truth about the National Socialist terror regime. Young people will then clearly and categorically oppose all those who deny or falsify the facts. They will stand up against all those who do not want to understand, who are contemptuous of the dead and ridicule the survivors." On the same occasion, the Federal President called upon the Germans not to forget the Nazi crimes and "to take eternal responsibility for them".

Together with Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski, President Wulff met with survivors of the Auschwitz concentration camp in the International Youth Meeting Centre and participated in a discussion with young people from both countries.

German Bundestag

15th Youth Encounter marking the Holocaust Remembrance Day

From 22 to 27 January 2011, 80 young people from various corners of the World met – from France, Poland, Belarus, Russian Federation, Ukraine, the USA, Israel, the UK and The Netherlands and especially from Germany – to discuss the special significance of the culture of remembrance in Germany and in Europe and its importance for current political developments.

The participants spent the first part of the week in Dachau, where they explored in depth the history of this concentration camp, which was the first to be built in Germany, in March 1933, and remained in existence until its liberation in April 1945. In the framework of the programme Clément Quentin, a former French resistance fighter and survivor of the Dachau concentration camp stressed: “It is you – the young people – who will have to speak on our behalf in the near future. You must be the witnesses of the historical witnesses!”

David Cameron meets Holocaust survivor: “We must never forget”

At a meeting with Holocaust survivor Trude Levi on 25 January 2011, Prime Minister David Cameron signed the Holocaust Educational Trust’s Book of Commitment. This Book, placed each year in the House of Commons, gives MPs the opportunity to remember the Holocaust and join together in offering a united pledge to fight all forms of prejudice and hatred.

“Thank you for your work in reminding us and generations to come of an event in the history of mankind that we must never forget,” said the Prime Minister and added: “As well as recalling the dreadful suffering and murder in the ghettos and camps we must also remember the genocide and hatred in our world today. From learning our history we must pledge that it should not be repeated.”

To read the article of Henry Stein in the European Jewish Press please visit:

http://www.eurojewcong.org/ejc/news.php?id_article=6167

Religious leaders pay tribute at Auschwitz

A hundred Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders from the Middle East, Africa and Europe on 1 February 2011 paid tribute to Holocaust victims at the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Auschwitz-Birkenau has become an enduring symbol of the Holocaust, Nazi Germany’s wartime genocide against Europe’s Jews.

The visit, in the wake of ceremonies on 27 January 2011, marking the 66th anniversary of the World War II camp's liberation, was part of the France-based "Aladin" project, launched in 2009 to promote inter-faith understanding and teach Holocaust history in Muslim nations. The key point of the Aladin project is that it enables leading personalities from the three main monotheist religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam, to come together in a place of genocide of the Jews.

The participants held an inter-faith service at the site, before laying wreaths. In a speech at the ceremony, Bosnia's Muslim Grand Mufti Mustafa Cerić said it was essential to fight genocide denial in all its forms. Poland's Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich said he hoped such inter-faith gatherings would help prevent genocide in the future.

Record number of visitors to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 2010

According to museum statistics, the number of visitors to the Auschwitz museum has been increasing steadily in the last decade, and climbed from about 492,500 visitors in 2001 to 1.3 million visitors in 2009. The site is the most visited of its kind in the world and the most visited museum in Poland. The growing number of visitors shows the importance of this place as a symbol for the world.

The number of visitors in 2010 is at a record high in the museum's more than 60 years history as a memorial site: The largest group of visitors to the museum this year came from Poland (530,000), followed by the UK (84,000), 74,000 Italians, 68,000 Germans and 63,000 French nationals. About 60,000 visitors came from Israel, 47,000 from South Korea, 45,000 from the Czech Republic, 43,000 from Slovakia and 43,000 from Norway. The vast majority of visitors (850,000) were young people ranging from school children to university students.

Religious leaders gather to discuss EU's neighbourhood policy

On 30 May 2011 around twenty senior representatives from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim religions as well as from the Buddhist communities met in Brussels on the invitation of President José Manuel Barroso and co-chaired by Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament and Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council. They discussed effective ways of rights and liberties with a view to build a Partnership for democracy and shared prosperity between Europe and its neighbourhood.

This was the seventh in a series of annual meetings launched by President Barroso in 2005. This is the second time that the meeting takes place in the context of the Lisbon Treaty which foresees in its Art 17 that the Union maintains an "open, transparent and regular dialogue" with religion, churches and communities of conviction. This meeting testifies once again of the importance that European institutions give to this dialogue.

The discussions took place in a frank and open spirit. The faith leaders from thirteen EU Members States (United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Hungary, France, Belgium, Austria, Italy, Romania, Greece, Cyprus, Poland, The Netherlands) and from third

countries (Russia and Bosnia-Herzegovina) welcomed the EU's determined and renewed engagement with its nearest neighbours. They expressed their readiness to work side by side with the European institutions to promote democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms which are indispensable in the building of pluralist and democratic societies.

European Commission proposes better management of migration to the EU

On 4 May 2011, the European Commission presented initiatives for a more structured, comprehensive, rapid-response approach from the EU to the challenges and opportunities of migration, not least in view of the current developments in the Mediterranean. The initiatives cover various aspects of migration, including strengthened border control and Schengen governance, completion of the Common European Asylum System, more targeted legal migration, exchange of best practices for successful integration of migrants, and a strategic approach for relations with third countries on migration. These initiatives come in addition to the urgent short-term measures already taken by the Commission to deal with the migration situation in the Mediterranean and migration pressures on frontline Member States.

Whilst the events in the Southern Mediterranean bring hope for a better life for millions, they have also led to the displacement of over 650.000 people who have had to flee the violence in Libya. Very few asylum seekers have arrived in Europe so far. However, over 25.000 have chosen to seek a better life in the EU. Some EU Member States are more directly exposed to massive arrivals of migrants than others, but this situation can not be handled at the national level alone. It requires the mobilisation of all Members States at the EU level.

While the EU response to the emergency situation has been comprehensive, the current crisis has exposed the fact that there are still ways in which the EU can better deal with such situations and with migration management generally. Therefore, the Commission is proposing a series of initiatives covering the following aspects:

- ⇒ Completion of the Common European Asylum System by 2012, in line with fundamental values and the Union's international obligations;
- ⇒ Strengthened border control and Schengen governance to address irregular immigration, to ensure that each Member State effectively controls its part of the EU's external borders in line with the rules and the spirit of EU law, and to build trust in the effectiveness of the EU system of migration management;
- ⇒ Better targeted legal migration into the EU to facilitate the immigration of persons with skills needed to assist the EU to fill expected labour and skills shortages and contribute towards redressing the expected decline in its working-age population;
- ⇒ Sharing of best practices in Member States' approaches to the integration of legal immigrants in the EU, in a manner which will ensure that the economic benefits of immigration are maximised, and so as to ensure social harmony in the Union; and

- ⇒ A strategic approach to relations with third countries on migration-related issues, aimed at facilitating movement of persons through enhanced legal migration possibilities, combined with measures to prevent irregular migration.

Women Migration between the MEDA countries and the European Union

The new study “Women Migration between the MEDA countries and the European Union” published in April 2011, carried out by the EU-funded Euromed Migration II project, examines the patterns and challenges of female migration between southern Mediterranean countries and Europe, in relation to the Project’s core aspects of legal migration, illegal migration and women’s role in the migration-development nexus.

The study, intended to help migrant women come out of the shadow and to give them their rightful place in the history of migration, pursues the following objectives:

- ⇒ Present the state of research on the subject and contribute to a greater understanding of this complex issue;
- ⇒ Apply a gender perspective to all the migration situations in the region, while remaining attentive to the aspirations and concerns of women in their country of origin, transit or reception;
- ⇒ Give visibility to the contribution of migrant women to development, in scientific research and political discussions;
- ⇒ Help initiate discussions on the issue at national and regional level

Euromed Migration II aims at strengthening cooperation in the management of migration so as to build up the Mediterranean Partners’ capacity to provide an effective, targeted and comprehensive solution to the various forms of migration. It assists them in creating mechanisms to promote opportunities for legal migration, support for measures to promote the linkage between migration and development and the stepping up of activities to stamp out human trafficking and illegal immigration, and to manage mixed flows.

To read more, please visit:

http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id_type=1&id=25003&lang_id=450

European Commission calls on Member States to set national strategies for Roma integration

Europe’s 10-12 million Roma continue to face discrimination, exclusion and the denial of their rights, while governments lose out on increased revenue and productivity because potential talent could go wasted. Better economic and social integration is an imperative – but to be effective, concerted action is needed at all levels to address the multiple causes of exclusion. The European Commission has therefore on 5 April 2011 put forward a European Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. This EU Framework will help guide national Roma policies and mobilise funds available at EU level to support inclusion efforts.

Roma people in Europe live in considerably worse socio-economic conditions than the population at large. A survey in six EU countries found that only 42% of Roma children complete primary school, compared to an EU average of 97.5%. For secondary education, Roma attendance is estimated at only 10%. In the job market, they face lower employment rates and higher rates of discrimination. In housing, they often lack access to essential services such as running water or electricity. They also face a health gap: life expectancy for Roma is 10 years less than the EU average of 76 for men and 82 for women.

The EU Framework develops a targeted approach for Roma inclusion by setting goals in:

- ⇒ **Education:** ensuring that all Roma children complete at least primary school;
- ⇒ **Employment:** cutting the employment gap between Roma and other citizens;
- ⇒ **Health:** reducing the health gap, for example by cutting child mortality among Roma;
- ⇒ **Housing:** closing the gap in access to housing and public utilities such as water and electricity.

Member States will have to submit **national Roma strategies** by the end of 2011 specifying how they will contribute to the achievement of these goals. The Framework is in line with the EU's broader Europe 2020 targets for employment, social inclusion and education. The achievement of these goals is important to help Member States reach the overall targets of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The Commission is also proposing solutions to make sure that EU funds that can support Roma integration are more effectively used. Member States are invited to amend their operational programmes co-financed by Structural Funds and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development to better support Roma targeted projects.

Finally, to make sure the EU Framework for national strategies makes a tangible difference to Roma on the ground the Commission wants to put a robust monitoring mechanism in place to measure results. The EU's Fundamental Rights Agency has a key role to play, by collecting data on the social and economic situation of Roma, in cooperation with other organisations. Member States are asked to appoint national contact points to manage, monitor and report the implementation of their national Roma integration strategy. The European Commission will report back annually on the progress made in the Member States.

Migration in the Mediterranean

FEMISE and ERF (Economic Research Forum), jointly organized a workshop in Istanbul on 16 and 17 April 2011 under the theme of: **“Migration in the Arab Region: Causes and Consequences”**, to better understand the evolution of the migration phenomenon in the Mediterranean. Best-qualified researchers in the field presented results of their latest research and exchanged their views on the subject.

The Mediterranean region is among those in the world where migration plays a central role. It is characterized by large inflows and outflows of workers, by a large

stock of migrants abroad and by the main role played by migrants' remittances in the macroeconomic balance of home countries. Some Mediterranean countries like Morocco, Algeria and Lebanon are responsible for some of the largest Diasporas abroad. There are also significant flows of migrants from Arab countries (especially along with the Gulf countries) that develop as the South-South integration continues to deepen.

The purpose of this workshop was to review the analytic work done by researchers specialized on some of the most important aspects of migration in the region by addressing the following questions: What is the overall impact of migration on employment, education, social welfare and democracy? What is the influence of the Diaspora on domestic institutions? Can remittances promote financial development and entrepreneurship? Can they reduce poverty and inequality?

It was noted that the migration of qualified women produced significant effects on fertility, child health and education. Furthermore it was stressed that the recent waves of uprising in the Arab world have been caused by the discontent of the younger generation to the issues of unemployment and lack of freedom.

One main recommendation of the researchers was to link the trends to increased migration from the South with the evolving capacities of integration in the North.

The seminar was concluded with the presentation of a research agenda to develop in the future, some of which will notably be proposed to the FEMISE Scientific Committee for its forthcoming call for proposals.

FEMISE is an EU-funded project, which aims to contribute to the reinforcement of dialogue on economic and financial issues in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean.

Jordan

Cultural youth fair presents the Colours of Jordan

A youth open day and fair titled "Alwan Baladna" (The colours of our country) was held on 7 May 2011 at the Al Hussein National Park in the city of Dabouq, Jordan, by the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, Head of the Jordanian Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation. The event, held under the theme "Unity in Diversity", aimed at embracing and celebrating differences among people living in Jordan. It consisted of a cultural fair in addition to a wide variety of activities, plays, interactive discussions, storytelling, an employment booth for youth, Jordanian, Armenian and Circassian cuisine and folklore performances.

"Alwan Baladna" is organised under the patronage of HRH Prince El-Hassan bin Talal and with the support of the Anna Lindh Foundation.



2011 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children: building resilience

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Division of Communication, UNICEF

3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA,

Around the world, drought, famine, violent conflict, and long-term displacement are a reality for millions of people. These humanitarian crises have dire consequences for children, among them recruitment into armed forces, sexual violence, and the loss of basic services such as water, health and education.

UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children Report 2011 presents crises that require exceptional support. It shows where urgent action is imperative to save lives, to protect children against the worst forms of violence and abuse, and to ensure access to basic services, such as water and sanitation, health, nutrition and education.

The 32 countries targeted in this appeal have been prioritized based on the scale of the crisis, the severity of its impact on children and women, the chronic or protracted nature of the crisis, and the potential to bring about life-saving and long lasting results.

To download the publication, please visit:

http://www.unicef.org/hac2011/files/HAC2011_EN_PDA_web.pdf



Dialogue interreligieux et interculturel

Intégration

Rapports sur les pratiques des pays en matière de droits de l'homme (2010)

Ce rapport fournit des détails très amples sur la situation des droits de l'homme dans plus de 190 pays au cours de l'année 2010. Il s'agit de la 35^e édition de ces rapports, produits par le Département d'Etat des Etats-Unis.

En 2010, des gouvernements ont, de par le monde, continué de commettre de graves violations et abus des droits de l'homme.

Une tendance majeure, négative, est l'escalade continue de la violence, de la persécution et de la discrimination officielle et sociétale envers des membres de groupes vulnérables, souvent des minorités raciales, religieuses ou ethniques, ou encore des majorités marginalisées. Dans beaucoup de pays, ce schéma de discrimination touchait également les femmes, les enfants, les personnes handicapées, les autochtones, les lesbiennes, les gays, les bisexuels et les transgenres (LGBT), ainsi que les membres d'autres groupes vulnérables dépourvus de pouvoir politique pour défendre leurs propres intérêts. Souvent, les membres de ces groupes se voyaient refuser des opportunités économiques ou la capacité de s'adonner à leurs traditions ou pratiques sociales ou culturelles, ou étaient empêchés d'exercer leur liberté d'expression et d'assemblée pacifique, ou de former des associations ou des organisations.

Dans beaucoup de pays, les violations de la liberté religieuse, la violence et la discrimination à l'encontre des minorités religieuses ont continué. Il a été fait état d'un nombre croissant d'actes antisémites dans le monde, y compris la profanation de cimetières, les graffiti et des discours liés aux accusations de meurtre rituel ainsi que le négationnisme, le révisionnisme et la glorification. Il y a eu, en outre, des regains d'antisémitisme au cours des événements au Moyen-Orient.

De par le monde, des personnes continuent de faire l'objet de discrimination et d'intimidation à cause de leur orientation ou de leur identité sexuelle.

Pour plus de détails, rendez-vous sur le site :

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/frontmatter/154329.htm>

Journée internationale de commémoration de l'Holocauste

La Journée internationale de commémoration de l'Holocauste – connue en Israël sous le nom de Journée du souvenir de la Shoah et de l'héroïsme – est commémorée

dans le monde entier le 27 janvier en mémoire des victimes de l'Holocauste. Le 27 Janvier 1945, l'Armée rouge entra dans le camp d'extermination d'Auschwitz-Birkenau, libérant les plus de 7 000 prisonniers restants, pour la plupart malades ou mourants. Quelques jours plus tôt, les SS avaient forcé près de 60 000 prisonniers à évacuer le camp et à se lancer dans les tristement célèbres « marches de la mort », dans lesquelles plusieurs milliers d'entre eux ont perdu la vie.

Le 1^{er} novembre 2005, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a adopté la Résolution 60/7 qui fait du 27 janvier la Journée internationale dédiée à la mémoire des victimes de l'Holocauste – le jour, où chaque année, le monde allait commémorer et se souvenir de l'Holocauste et de ses victimes. 66 ans après la libération d'Auschwitz, il est plus important que jamais de nous rappeler les leçons universelles de l'Holocauste et de favoriser une culture partagée de mémoire. Il est crucial que chacun, et notamment les éducateurs et les jeunes, prennent le temps de se souvenir de ceux qui ont été incarcérés, persécutés et tués dans les nombreux camps de travail et de concentration nazis, afin d'appréhender l'ampleur des crimes atroces commis par les Nazis.

En 2011, la Journée internationale de commémoration sera marquée par un certain nombre d'événements nationaux et internationaux. L'ONU va concentrer ses événements sur un thème central, « Les femmes et la Shoah : courage et compassion », rendant hommage à la bravoure et à l'ingéniosité des femmes qui ont affronté les persécutions nazies avec force et dignité durant la seconde guerre mondiale.

Zoni Weisz, 73 ans, un Rom dont les parents ont été tués à Auschwitz, s'est adressé au Parlement allemand, le Bundestag, le jour de commémoration de l'Holocauste le 27 janvier 2011, pour rappeler les crimes du passé et la souffrance de ces personnes aujourd'hui. Weisz a déclaré que l'extermination massive de Roms sous le règne nazi constituait « l'Holocauste oublié », étant donné la souffrance que ces derniers continuent d'endurer en Europe.

C'était la première fois qu'une personnalité non juive dirigeait les cérémonies à Berlin en souvenir des 6 millions de victimes du programme d'extermination des Nazis durant la seconde guerre mondiale. Si la plupart des victimes étaient des juifs, les gitans, les homosexuels, les Slaves et les dissidents politiques ont également été visés par ce génocide.

M. Christian Wulff, Président de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, était le premier Président fédéral à faire un discours à Auschwitz-Birkenau, en Pologne, à l'occasion du 66^e anniversaire de la libération du camp de concentration d'Auschwitz le 27 janvier 1945. Dans son discours, il s'est adressé à l'ensemble des jeunes : « Les jeunes d'aujourd'hui doivent connaître la vérité du régime de terreur national-socialiste. Ainsi, ils pourront s'opposer clairement et catégoriquement à tous ceux qui pratiquent le négationnisme ou la falsification des faits. Ils se battront contre tous ceux qui ne veulent pas comprendre, qui méprisent les morts et tourment en dérision les survivants. » En cette même occasion, le Président fédéral a appelé les Allemands à ne pas oublier les crimes nazis et à en endosser la responsabilité éternelle.

Avec le président polonais Bronislaw Komorowski, le Président Wulff a rencontré des personnes qui ont survécu aux camps de concentration d'Auschwitz au Centre international de rencontre de jeunes et ont pris part à une discussion avec les jeunes venus des deux pays.

Bundestag allemand

15^e rencontre de jeunes pour célébrer la journée de commémoration de l'Holocauste

Du 22 aux 27 janvier 2011, 80 jeunes des quatre coins du monde –France, Pologne, Bélarus, Fédération de Russie, Ukraine, USA, Israël, Royaume-Uni, Pays-Bas et Allemagne, notamment – se sont rencontrés pour réfléchir à la signification particulière de la culture de la mémoire en Allemagne et en Europe et son importance au regard des développements politiques actuels.

Les participants ont passé la première partie de la semaine à Dachau, où ils ont examiné en profondeur l'histoire de ce camp de concentration, le premier construit en Allemagne en mars 1933 et resté en fonction jusqu'à sa libération en avril 1945. Dans le cadre du programme, Clément Quentin, ancien résistant français et rescapé du camp de concentration a martelé : « C'est vous, les jeunes, qui allez devoir parler en notre nom à l'avenir, et être les témoins des témoins de l'histoire ! »

David Cameron rencontre une survivante de l'Holocauste : « Nous ne devons jamais oublier »

Lors d'une rencontre avec une survivante de l'Holocauste, Trude Levi, le 25 janvier 2011, le Premier ministre David Cameron a signé le livre d'engagement (Book of Commitment) de la Fondation Holocaust Educational Trust. Ce livre, déposé chaque année à la Chambre des communs, offre aux parlementaires la possibilité de se souvenir de l'Holocauste et de s'engager ensemble à lutter contre toutes les formes de préjugés et de haine.

« Merci pour votre travail qui nous permet de nous souvenir, nous et les générations à venir, d'un événement dans l'histoire de l'humanité que nous ne devons jamais oublier », a déclaré le Premier ministre, qui a ajouté : « Autant que des souffrances et des meurtres abominables dans les ghettos et les camps, nous devons nous souvenir des génocides et de la haine dans notre monde d'aujourd'hui. En apprenant notre histoire, nous devons prendre l'engagement que cela ne se reproduise jamais. »

Pour lire l'article d'Henry Stein dans la European Jewish Press, merci de consulter : http://www.eurojewcong.org/ejc/news.php?id_article=6167

Hommage des chefs de file religieux à Auschwitz

Le 1^{er} février 2011, une centaine de personnalités juives, chrétiennes et musulmanes du Moyen-Orient, d'Afrique et d'Europe ont rendu hommage ensemble aux victimes de la

Shoah sur le site de l'ancien camp nazi d'Auschwitz-Birkenau. Auschwitz-Birkenau est devenu le symbole pérenne de l'Holocauste, le génocide des juifs d'Europe commis par l'Allemagne nazie durant la seconde guerre mondiale.

La visite, dans le sillage des cérémonies du 27 janvier 2011 qui célèbrent le 66^e anniversaire de la libération de ce camp, faisait partie du projet Aladin initié par la France en 2009 pour promouvoir la compréhension interconfessionnelle et l'enseignement de l'histoire de l'Holocauste dans les nations musulmanes. Le point d'orgue du projet d'Aladin était de permettre à des personnalités des trois grandes religions monothéistes, le christianisme, le judaïsme et l'islam, de se retrouver sur le lieu d'extermination des juifs.

Les participants ont assisté à un service interconfessionnel avant de déposer des gerbes. Dans un discours prononcé lors de la cérémonie, le Grand Mufti de Bosnie-Herzégovine Mustafa Cerić a déclaré qu'il était essentiel de lutter contre le négationnisme sous toutes ses formes. Le grand rabbin de Pologne, Michael Schudrich, a exprimé l'espoir que cette rencontre interreligieuse contribue à prévenir des génocides dans l'avenir.

Nombre record de visiteurs à Auschwitz-Birkenau en 2010

D'après les statistiques du musée d'Auschwitz, le nombre de ses visiteurs a augmenté progressivement cette dernière décennie, passant d'environ 492 500 en 2001 à 1,3 millions en 2009. Ce site est le plus visité dans son genre au monde et le plus visité en Pologne. Le nombre croissant de visiteurs montre l'importance symbolique qu'il revêt pour le monde.

Le nombre de visiteurs en 2010 est un chiffre record dans les plus de 60 ans d'histoire de ce lieu de mémoire. Cette année, les visiteurs les plus nombreux sont venus de Pologne (530 000), suivi du Royaume-Uni (84 000), de l'Italie (74 000), de l'Allemagne (68 000) et de la France (63 000). Quelque 60 000 visiteurs sont venus d'Israël, 47 000 de Corée du Sud, 45 000 de République tchèque, 43 000 de Slovaquie et 43 000 de Norvège. Les jeunes formaient la grande majorité des visiteurs (850 000), depuis des enfants d'âge scolaire à des étudiants à l'université.

Des dignitaires religieux se réunissent pour discuter de la Politique européenne de voisinage

Près d'une vingtaine de hauts représentants des religions chrétienne, juive et musulmane, ainsi que des communautés bouddhistes, se sont réunis le 30 mai 2011 à Bruxelles, sur l'invitation du président José Manuel Barroso et sous la coprésidence de M. Jerzy Buzek, président du Parlement européen, et de M. Herman van Rompuy, président du Conseil européen. Ensemble, ils ont envisagé les moyens de promouvoir efficacement les droits et libertés en vue d'établir un partenariat pour la démocratie et d'œuvrer pour une prospérité partagée entre l'Europe et ses voisins.

Il s'agissait de la septième édition de la rencontre annuelle instituée en 2005 par le président Barroso. Elle s'est tenue pour la deuxième fois dans le contexte du traité de Lisbonne, dont l'article 17 prévoit que l'Union maintient un «dialogue ouvert, transparent et régulier» avec les religions, les Églises et les communautés de conviction. La rencontre témoigne une fois de plus de l'importance que les institutions européennes accordent à ce dialogue.

Les discussions se sont tenues dans un esprit de franchise et d'ouverture. Les dignitaires religieux de treize États membres de l'UE (Royaume-Uni, Allemagne, Suède, Hongrie, France, Belgique, Autriche, Italie, Roumanie, Grèce, Chypre, Pologne et Pays-Bas) et de pays tiers (Russie et Bosnie-Herzégovine) ont salué l'engagement résolu et renouvelé de l'Union envers ses voisins les plus proches. Ils ont exprimé leur volonté de travailler aux côtés des institutions européennes pour promouvoir la démocratie, les droits de l'homme et les libertés fondamentales qui sont indispensables à l'édification de sociétés pluralistes et démocratiques.

La Commission propose une meilleure gestion des migrations vers l'Union européenne

La Commission a présenté le 4 mai 2011 des initiatives pour une approche plus structurée, globale et très réactive de l'UE envers les défis et les opportunités que génère la migration, en particulier à la lumière des événements qui secouent actuellement la Méditerranée. Ces initiatives couvrent plusieurs aspects des migrations, à savoir: un renforcement des contrôles aux frontières et de la gouvernance de Schengen, le parachèvement du régime d'asile européen commun, une migration légale mieux ciblée, un échange des meilleures pratiques en vue d'une intégration fructueuse des migrants, ainsi qu'une approche stratégique des relations avec les pays tiers sur la question des migrations. Ces initiatives s'ajoutent aux mesures urgentes et à court terme déjà prises par la Commission pour faire face à la situation migratoire en Méditerranée et aux pressions migratoires auxquelles sont soumis les États membres limitrophes.

Si les événements survenus dans le Sud de la Méditerranée sont porteurs d'espoir d'une vie meilleure pour des millions de personnes, ils ont également provoqué le déplacement de plus de 650 000 personnes fuyant les violences en Libye. Les demandeurs d'asile arrivés à ce jour en Europe sont encore peu nombreux. Or, plus de 25 000 personnes ont décidé d'aller chercher une vie meilleure dans l'Union. Certains États membres de l'UE sont plus directement exposés que d'autres aux arrivées massives de migrants, mais cette situation ne peut être gérée au seul niveau national et nécessite la mobilisation de l'ensemble des États membres de l'UE.

Bien que la réponse de l'UE à la situation d'urgence ait couvert tous les aspects du problème, la crise actuelle a mis en lumière le fait qu'il reste des marges d'action pour pouvoir mieux gérer les situations de ce type et, de façon plus générale, les migrations. La Commission propose donc une série d'initiatives portant sur les aspects suivants:

- ⇒ le parachèvement du régime d'asile européen commun pour 2012, dans le respect des valeurs fondamentales et des obligations internationales incombant à l'Union;

- ⇒ le renforcement des contrôles aux frontières et de la gouvernance de Schengen, pour faire face à l'immigration illégale, garantir que chaque État membre contrôle efficacement sa portion des frontières externes de l'Union, en conformité avec l'esprit et la lettre du droit de l'UE, et générer une confiance en l'efficacité du système mis en place par l'UE pour la gestion des migrations;
- ⇒ des migrations légales vers l'UE mieux ciblées, en vue de faciliter l'immigration de personnes possédant les compétences nécessaires pour l'aider à combler les déficits prévus de main d'œuvre et de compétences et parer au déclin prévu de sa population en âge de travailler;
- ⇒ le partage des meilleures pratiques dans les États membres en ce qui concerne l'intégration des immigrants légaux dans l'UE, de manière à maximiser les avantages économiques de l'immigration et à assurer l'harmonie sociale dans l'Union;
- ⇒ une approche stratégique des relations avec les pays tiers sur les questions liées aux migrations, visant à faciliter la circulation des personnes par une amélioration des possibilités de migration légale, combinée à des mesures de prévention des migrations illégales.

La migration des femmes entre les pays MEDA et l'UE

Une nouvelle étude « Migration féminine entre les pays MEDA et l'UE », publiée en avril 2011 et conduite par le projet euro-méditerranéen Euromed Migration II, examine les modes et les défis de la migration des femmes entre les pays du sud de la Méditerranée et l'Europe et les resitue dans le contexte de certains aspects clés du projet comme l'immigration légale, l'immigration clandestine et le rôle des femmes dans le processus migration-développement.

L'étude, qui entend aider les migrantes à sortir de l'ombre et leur redonner la place qui leur revient dans l'histoire migratoire, poursuit les objectifs suivants :

- ⇒ présenter l'état de la recherche en la matière et contribuer à l'avancement de la compréhension de ce sujet complexe ;
- ⇒ appliquer une perspective de genre à l'ensemble des situations migratoires dans la région, tout en restant attentive aussi bien aux aspirations qu'aux inquiétudes des femmes dans leur pays d'origine, de transit ou d'accueil ;
- ⇒ assurer la visibilité de la contribution des femmes migrantes au développement, dans la recherche scientifique et les débats politiques ;
- ⇒ contribuer à l'ouverture de débats sur la question aux niveaux national et régional.

Le projet Euromed Migration II a pour but de renforcer la coopération en matière de gestion des flux migratoires afin de permettre aux partenaires méditerranéens de trouver des solutions plus efficaces, ciblées et globales aux diverses formes de ces migrations. Il aide ces pays à créer des mécanismes visant à promouvoir les opportunités de migration légale, appuie les mesures de promotion des liens entre migration et développement, s'emploie à intensifier les activités visant à éradiquer la traite des être humains et l'immigration clandestine. Il les aide également à gérer les flux migratoires mixtes.

Pour en savoir plus, veuillez consulter le site :

http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=25004&id_type=1&lang_id=469

La Commission européenne invite les États membres à mettre en place des stratégies nationales pour l'intégration des Roms

Les 10 à 12 millions de Roms que compte l'Europe sont aujourd'hui encore victimes de discriminations, d'exclusion et du déni de leurs droits, tandis que les autorités y perdent en recettes et en productivité en se privant de talent potentiel. Il est impératif d'améliorer l'intégration économique et sociale des Roms. Toutefois, pour que l'efficacité soit au rendez-vous, une action concertée s'impose à tous les niveaux afin de s'attaquer aux multiples causes de l'exclusion. Aussi la Commission européenne propose-t-elle le 5 avril 2011 un cadre européen des stratégies nationales d'intégration des Roms, qui servira de fil conducteur pour les politiques nationales relatives aux Roms et contribuera à la mobilisation des fonds de l'UE pour appuyer les efforts d'intégration. Ce cadre s'articule autour de quatre piliers: accès à l'éducation, à l'emploi, aux soins de santé et au logement. Les États membres doivent fixer leurs propres objectifs concernant l'intégration des Roms en fonction de l'importance de la communauté rom présente sur leur territoire et de leur propre situation de départ.

La communauté rom d'Europe vit dans des conditions socioéconomiques nettement inférieures à celles de la population dans son ensemble. Selon une étude réalisée dans six pays de l'UE, seulement 42 % des enfants roms arrivent au bout de l'enseignement primaire, contre 97,5 % en moyenne pour l'UE. D'après les estimations, seulement 10 % des Roms fréquentent l'enseignement secondaire. Sur le marché du travail, ils sont confrontés à des taux d'emploi moins élevés et sont davantage victimes de discriminations. Pour ce qui est du logement, ils n'ont souvent pas accès à des services de base, tels que l'eau courante ou l'électricité. Sans compter les disparités dans le domaine de la santé: l'espérance de vie des Roms est dix ans plus courte que la moyenne de l'UE, qui est de 76 ans pour les hommes et de 82 ans pour les femmes.

Le cadre de l'UE propose une approche ciblée en faveur de l'intégration des Roms, en fixant des objectifs dans les domaines suivants:

- ⇒ **éducation:** faire en sorte que tous les enfants roms terminent au moins l'école primaire;
- ⇒ **emploi:** réduire l'écart en matière d'emploi entre les Roms et le reste de la population;
- ⇒ **santé:** combler l'écart dans le domaine de la santé, par exemple en faisant baisser la mortalité infantile au sein de la population rom;
- ⇒ **logement:** s'attaquer aux inégalités en matière d'accès au logement et aux réseaux de service public, tels que l'eau et l'électricité.

Les États membres devront présenter leurs **stratégies nationales d'intégration des Roms** pour la fin 2011, en précisant comment ils entendent contribuer à la réalisation de ces objectifs. Ce cadre s'inscrit dans le droit fil des objectifs plus larges d'Europe 2020 en matière d'emploi, d'inclusion sociale et d'éducation. Sa réalisation est essentielle pour aider les États membres à atteindre les objectifs généraux de la stratégie Europe 2020.

La Commission propose également des solutions garantissant une utilisation plus efficace de fonds de l'UE qui peuvent servir à financer l'intégration des Roms. Les États membres

sont invités à modifier leurs programmes opérationnels cofinancés par les Fonds structurels et le Fonds européen agricole pour le développement rural, et ce afin de renforcer les projets ciblant la population rom.

Enfin, pour que le cadre de l'UE pour les stratégies nationales entraîne une évolution tangible du quotidien des Roms, la Commission souhaite mettre en place un mécanisme de contrôle robuste par lequel elle mesurera les résultats obtenus. L'Agence des droits fondamentaux de l'Union européenne a un rôle clé à jouer, en rassemblant les données sur la situation socioéconomique des Roms, en coopération avec d'autres organisations. Les États membres sont invités à désigner leur propre point de contact pour gérer et surveiller la mise en œuvre de leur stratégie nationale en faveur de l'intégration des Roms, ainsi qu'en rendre compte. La Commission européenne rédigerà à son tour, chaque année, un rapport au sujet des progrès réalisés dans les États membres.

La migration dans la région méditerranéenne

Les 16 et 17 avril 2011, le FEMISE (Forum européen des instituts de sciences économiques) et l'ERF (Economic Research Forum) ont organisé conjointement un séminaire à Istanbul sur « **La migration dans la région arabe : causes et conséquences** », afin de mieux comprendre l'évolution du phénomène migratoire dans la région méditerranéenne. Les chercheurs les plus qualifiés dans le domaine ont présenté les résultats de leurs travaux les plus récents et échangé leurs points de vue.

La région méditerranéenne est une des régions du monde où les migrations jouent un rôle central. Elle se caractérise par des entrées et des sorties importantes de travailleurs, par une forte proportion de migrants à l'étranger et par le rôle décisif que jouent les transferts de revenus des migrants pour l'équilibre macroéconomique des pays de départ. Certains pays méditerranéens comme le Maroc, l'Algérie et le Liban représentent quelques-unes des plus larges diasporas à l'étranger. Il existe aussi d'importants flux de migrants entre pays arabes (en particulier avec les pays du Golfe) qui se développent à mesure que l'intégration Sud-Sud se poursuit.

L'objet du séminaire a été de faire le point sur les analyses faites par les chercheurs les plus spécialisés sur quelques-uns des aspects majeurs de la migration dans la région, en particulier sur les questions suivantes : Quel est l'impact global de la migration sur l'emploi, l'éducation, le bien être social et la démocratie ? Quelle est l'influence de la diaspora sur les institutions des pays d'origine ? Les transferts de fonds peuvent-ils promouvoir le développement financier et l'entrepreneuriat ? Peuvent-ils diminuer la pauvreté et les inégalités ?

Il a été noté que la migration des femmes qualifiées produisait des effets significatifs sur les taux de fécondité, la santé des enfants et le niveau d'éducation. La récente vague de soulèvement dans le monde arabe a été provoquée par le mécontentement des jeunes générations face au chômage et au manque de liberté.

L'une des principales recommandations des chercheurs est de lier les tendances à la poussée migratoire du Sud avec l'évolution des capacités d'intégration au Nord.

Le séminaire s'est conclu par la présentation d'un agenda de recherches à développer dans le futur, dont certaines seront notamment proposées au comité scientifique du FEMISE pour son nouvel appel à propositions.

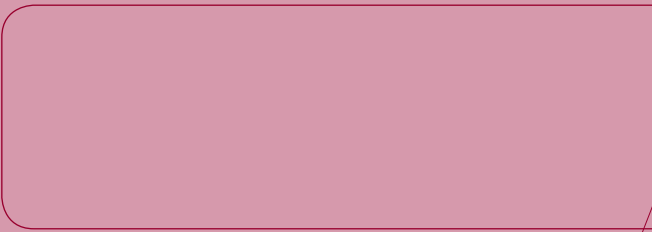
Le FEMISE est un projet financé par l'UE dont la mission est de contribuer au renforcement du dialogue sur les questions économiques et financières au sein du partenariat euro-méditerranéen, dans le cadre de la Politique européenne de voisinage et de l'Union pour la Méditerranée.

Jordanie

Les couleurs de Jordanie, une foire culturelle de la jeunesse

La journée et la foire de la jeunesse « Alwan Baladna » (les couleurs de notre pays) ont eu lieu le 7 mai 2011 au parc national Al Hussein, dans la ville de Dabouq, en Jordanie. L'événement était organisé par le Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, (Institut royal d'études interconfessionnelles), le chef de file du Réseau national Anna Lindh. Organisé autour du thème « L'union dans la diversité », il visait à appréhender et célébrer les différences entre les populations de Jordanie. A la foire culturelle est venu s'ajouter un large éventail d'activités, de jeux, de débats interactifs et de contes, avec également un guichet pour les jeunes chercheurs d'emploi. Enfin, la cuisine jordanienne, arménienne et circassienne était aussi mise à l'honneur, de même que le folklore, avec différents spectacles.

« Alwan Baladna » a été organisé sous le patronage de S.A.R.le Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, avec le soutien de la Fondation Anna Lindh.



Interreligiöser und interkultureller Dialog Integration

Länderberichte 2010 zu Menschenrechtspraktiken

Dieser Bericht zeichnet in enzyklopädischem Detail ein Bild der Lage der Menschenrechte im Jahre 2010 in mehr als 190 Ländern. 2010 ist das 35. Jahr, in dem das Außenministerium der Vereinigten Staaten seine jährlichen Länderberichte zu Menschenrechtspraktiken erstellt.

Im Jahre 2010 fuhren Regierungen in der ganzen Welt fort, weiter schwere Menschenrechtsverstöße und –missbrauch zu begehen.

Ein Haupttrend in negativer Richtung war die sich weiter fortsetzende Eskalation der Gewalt, Verfolgung und amtlicher und gesellschaftlicher Diskriminierung von Mitgliedern gefährdeter Gruppen, d.h. häufig rassischen, religiösen oder ethnischen Minderheiten bzw. entrechteten Mehrheiten. In vielen Ländern erstreckte sich dieses Muster der Diskriminierung auch auf Frauen, Kinder Menschen mit Behinderungen, Eingeborene, lesbische, homosexuelle, bisexuelle und Transgender-Personen (LGBT-Personen) sowie Mitglieder anderer gefährdeter Gruppen, denen es an politischer Macht fehlt, um ihre eigenen Interessen zu verteidigen. Häufig werden Mitgliedern dieser Gruppen ökonomische Chancen oder die Fähigkeit abgesprochen, ihre sozialen oder kulturellen Traditionen oder Praktiken weiterzuführen, oder sie wurden in ihrer Fähigkeit eingeschränkt, ihre Meinung frei zu äußern, sich friedlich zu versammeln bzw. Verbände oder Organisationen zu gründen.

In vielen Ländern setzen sich die Verstöße gegen die Religionsfreiheit bzw. Gewalt gegen und Diskriminierung von religiösen Minderheiten weiter fort. Es gab Berichte über eine Zunahme antisemitischer Handlungen in der ganzen Welt, wozu auch die Schändung von Friedhöfen, Graffiti und die Rhetorik der Ritualmordlegende sowie die Leugnung des Holocaust, Revisionismus und Glorifizierung gehören. Es hat auch während der Ereignisse im Mittleren Osten bei Ausdrucksformen des Antisemitismus besondere Spitzen gegeben.

In der ganzen Welt erleben Menschen weiter Diskriminierung und Einschüchterung aufgrund ihrer sexuellen Orientierung oder geschlechtlichen Identität.

Weitere Einzelheiten sind erhältlich unter:

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/frontmatter/154329.htm>

Holocaust-Gedenktag

Der Internationale Holocaust-Gedenktag – in Israel offiziell als Holocaust – und Heroismus-Gedenktag bezeichnet – wird weltweit am 27. Januar zum Gedenken an die Opfer des

Holocaust begangen. Am 27. Januar 1945 traf die vorrückende Rote Armee im Komplex des Vernichtungslagers Auschwitz-Birkenau ein und befreite mehr als 7.000 dort noch verbliebene Gefangene, die überwiegend krank waren oder im Sterben lagen. Einige Tage früher hatte die SS fast 60.000 Gefangene gezwungen, das Lager zu verlassen und sich auf die berüchtigten ‚Todesmärsche‘ zu begeben, auf denen viele Tausende ihr Leben verloren.

Die Generalversammlung der Vereinten Nationen verabschiedete am 1. November 2005 die Resolution 60/7, die den 27. Januar zum Internationalen Gedenktag für die Opfer des Holocaust bestimmt, also den Tag, an dem die Welt jedes Jahr den Holocaust und seine Opfer würdigt und ihnen gedenkt. 66 Jahre nach der Befreiung von Auschwitz ist es wichtiger denn je, uns an die universellen Lehren des Holocaust zu erinnern und eine gemeinsame Gedenkkultur zu fördern. Es ist lebenswichtig, dass alle und insbesondere Pädagogen und junge Menschen sich die Zeit nehmen, derer zu gedenken, die in den vielen Arbeits-, Zwangs- und Vernichtungslagern der Nationalsozialisten inhaftiert, verfolgt und ermordet wurden, weil es uns hilft, das ganze Ausmaß der schrecklichen Nazi-Verbrechen zu verstehen.

Im Jahre 2011 wurde der Internationale Gedenktag mit einer Reihe von nationalen und internationalen Veranstaltungen begangen. Die Vereinten Nationen konzentrierten ihre Veranstaltungen des Jahres 2011 auf das zentrale Thema „Frauen und der Holocaust: Mut und Mitgefühl“ und würdigten so die Tapferkeit und den Einfallsreichtum der Frauen, die während des Zweiten Weltkriegs der Verfolgung durch die Nazis mit Stärke und Würde entgegentraten.

Zoni Weisz, ein 73-jähriger Roma, dessen Eltern in Auschwitz ermordet wurden, sprach am Holocaust-Tag am 27. Januar 2011 vor dem Bundestag und erinnerte an die Verbrechen der Vergangenheit und die Leiden seines Volkes in der Gegenwart. Weisz sagte, dass der Massenmord an den Roma in der Nazizeit der „vergessene Holocaust“ sei, weil die Roma in ganz Europa auch heute noch weiter litten.

Es war das erste Mal, dass ein Nichtjude an der Spitze der Berliner Feierlichkeiten zum Gedenken an die 6 Millionen Opfer des Nazi-Vernichtungsfeldzugs im Zweiten Weltkrieg stand. Zwar waren die meisten Opfer Juden, aber Zigeuner, Homosexuelle, Slawen und politisch Andersdenkende waren auch als Todeskandidaten vorgesehen.

Bundespräsident Christian Wulff hielt als erster Bundespräsident eine Rede in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Polen, bei der offiziellen Gedenkveranstaltung anlässlich des 66. Jahrestages der Befreiung des Konzentrationslagers Auschwitz am 27. Januar 2011. In seiner Rede appellierte er an die Jugend: „Die heutige Jugend muss die Wahrheit über das nationalsozialistische Terrorregime kennen. Dann wird sie denen vernehmlich und entschieden widersprechen, die die Tatsachen leugnen oder verfälschen. Sie wird denjenigen entgegentreten, die nicht begreifen wollen, die die Toten missachten und die die Überlebenden verhöhnen.“ Gleichzeitig rief der Bundespräsident die Deutschen auf, die Verbrechen der Nationalsozialisten nicht zu vergessen und „hierfür ewig einzustehen“.

Gemeinsam mit Polens Präsidenten Bronislaw Komorowski traf Wulff in der Internationalen Jugendbegegnungsstätte in Auschwitz mit ehemaligen KZ-Häftlingen zusammen und diskutierte mit Jugendlichen aus beiden Ländern.

Deutscher Bundestag

15. Jugendbegegnung anlässlich des Holocaust Gedenktages

Vom 22. bis 27. Januar 2011 trafen sich 80 Jugendliche aus verschiedenen Ländern der Erde, darunter aus Frankreich, Polen, Weißrussland, Russland, der Ukraine, den USA, Israel, Großbritannien und den Niederlanden, vor allem aber aus Deutschland, um die besondere Bedeutung der Erinnerungskultur Deutschlands und Europas sowie ihre Auswirkung auf aktuelle politische Entwicklungen zu diskutieren.

Den ersten Teil der Woche verbrachten die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer in Dachau, im ersten Konzentrationslager, das im März 1933 auf deutschem Boden errichtet worden war und bis zur Befreiung im April 1945 bestand. Der ehemalige französische Widerstandskämpfer und Überlebende des Konzentrationslagers Dachau, Clément Quentin, wandte sich im Rahmen des Programms an die Jugendlichen und unterstrich: „Ihr – die Jugendlichen – seid es, die schon morgen unsere Sprecher sein müssen. Ihr müsst die Zeugen der Zeitzeugen sein!“

David Cameron trifft Holocaust-Überlebende: “Wir dürfen nie vergessen”

In einem Gespräch mit der Holocaust-Überlebenden Trude Levi am 25. Januar 2011 unterzeichnete Premierminister David Cameron das Buch der Verpflichtung (Book of Commitment) der Holocaust-Bildungsstiftung (Holocaust Educational Trust). Dieses Buch, das jedes Jahr im britischen Unterhaus ausgelegt wird, gibt Parlamentsabgeordneten die Möglichkeit, des Holocaust zu gedenken und zusammen ihr gemeinsames Versprechen abzugeben, gegen alle Formen von Vorurteil und Hass zu kämpfen.

„Ich danke Ihnen für Ihre Arbeit und dass Sie uns und die künftigen Generationen an ein Ereignis in der Geschichte der Menschheit erinnern, das wir nie vergessen dürfen,“ sagte der Premierminister und fügte hinzu: „Neben des Gedenkens an die schrecklichen Leiden und Morde in den Gettos und Lagern müssen wir uns auch an den Völkermord und den Hass in unserer heutigen Welt erinnern. So wie wir unsere Geschichte lernen, müssen wir versprechen, dass sie sich nicht wiederholen sollte.“

Der Artikel von Henry Stein in der European Jewish Press ist erhältlich unter:
http://www.eurojewcong.org/ejc/news.php?id_article=6167

Religionsführer würdigen Auschwitz

Am 1. Februar 2011 würdigten 100 jüdische, christliche und muslimische Religionsführer aus dem Mittleren Osten, Afrika und Europa die Opfer des Holocaust im früheren nationalsozialistischen Vernichtungslager Auschwitz-Birkenau. Auschwitz-Birkenau ist zu einem immerwährenden Symbol für den Holocaust, den Völkermord an den europäischen Juden durch Nazi-Deutschland während des Krieges, geworden.

Der Besuch im Anschluss an die Gedenkveranstaltungen am 27. Januar 2011 anlässlich des 66. Jahrestages der Lagerbefreiung im Zweiten Weltkrieg war Teil des französischen „Aladin“-Projektes, das 2009 zur Förderung von interreligiösem Verständnis und zur Vermittlung der Holocaust-Geschichte in muslimischen Ländern gestartet wurde. Das zentrale Anliegen des Aladin-Projektes besteht darin, führenden Persönlichkeiten aus den drei großen monotheistischen Religionen, also Christentum, Judentum und Islam, die Möglichkeit zu geben, an einem Ort des Völkermords an den Juden zusammenzukommen.

Die Teilnehmer feierten einen interreligiösen Gottesdienst im Lager, bevor sie Kränze niederlegten. In einer Rede auf der Feier sagte der bosnisch-muslimische Großmufti Mustafa Ceric, dass der Kampf gegen die Leugnung des Völkermords in allen Formen unverzichtbar sei. Der polnische Oberrabbiner Michael Schudrich sagte, er hoffe, dass solche interreligiösen Treffen dazu beitragen werden, Völkermord in Zukunft zu verhindern.

Besucherrekord in Auschwitz-Birkenau im Jahre 2010

Nach den Statistiken des Museums hat sich die Zahl der Besucher im Auschwitz-Museum im letzten Jahrzehnt stetig erhöht und ist von 492.500 Besuchern im Jahre 2001 auf 1,3 Millionen Besucher im Jahre 2009 gestiegen. Die Gedenkstätte ist die am häufigsten besuchte Gedenkstätte ihrer Art in der Welt und das am häufigsten besuchte Museum in Polen. Die steigende Besucherzahl zeigt die Bedeutung dieses Ortes als Symbol für die Welt.

Die Besucherzahl erreichte 2010 ihren Höchststand in der mehr als 60-jährigen Geschichte des Museums als Gedenkstätte: die größte Besuchergruppe im Museum kam dieses Jahr aus Polen (530.000), gefolgt vom Vereinigten Königreich (84.000), 74.000 Italienern, 68.000 Deutschen und 63.000 französischen Staatsbürgern. Etwa 60.000 Besucher kamen aus Israel, 47.000 aus Südkorea, 45.000 aus der Tschechischen Republik, 43.000 aus der Slowakei und 43.000 aus Norwegen. Die große Mehrheit der Besucher (850.000) waren Jugendliche und umfasste alle Altersgruppen von Schulkindern bis zu Hochschulstudenten.

Hochrangige Vertreter der Religionsgemeinschaften diskutierten über EU Nachbarschaftspolitik

Rund zwanzig hochrangige Vertreter aus Christentum, Judentum, Islam und buddhistischen Religionsgemeinschaften trafen sich am 30. Mai 2011 in Brüssel.

Eingeladen hatten Kommissionspräsident José Manuel Barroso, der Präsident des Europäischen Parlaments Jerzy Buzek und der Präsident des Europäischen Rates Herman Van Rompuy. Im Mittelpunkt der Gespräche standen Mittel und Wege zur Gewährleistung der Grundrechte und Grundfreiheiten im Hinblick auf eine Partnerschaft für Demokratie und gemeinsamen Wohlstand zwischen Europa und seinen Nachbarländern.

Dies war bereits das siebte Treffen seit der Einführung dieser jährlichen Gespräche durch Präsident Barroso im Jahr 2005. Zum zweiten Mal fanden die Gespräche im Rahmen des Vertrags von Lissabon statt, nach dessen Artikel 17 die Europäische Union den Auftrag hat, einen „offenen, transparenten und regelmäßigen Dialog“ mit den religiösen, kirchlichen und weltanschaulichen Gemeinschaften zu pflegen. Das Treffen unterstrich erneut die Bedeutung, die die EU-Organe diesem Dialog beimessen.

Die Gespräche verliefen in einer offenen Atmosphäre. Die hochrangigen Vertreter der Glaubensgemeinschaften aus dreizehn EU-Mitgliedstaaten (Vereinigtes Königreich, Deutschland, Schweden, Ungarn, Frankreich, Belgien, Österreich, Italien, Rumänien, Griechenland, Zypern, Polen, Niederlande) sowie Drittländern (Russland und Bosnien-Herzegowina) begrüßten den ungebeugten Willen der EU, mit ihren unmittelbaren Nachbarn eng zusammenzuarbeiten. Sie haben ihrerseits ihre Absicht bekundet, die europäischen Organe bei deren Bemühungen um mehr Demokratie sowie Wahrung der Menschenrechte und Grundfreiheiten zu unterstützen, die für die Schaffung pluralistischer, demokratischer Gesellschaftssysteme unverzichtbar sind.

Europäische Kommission schlägt bessere Steuerung der Migration in die EU vor

Nicht zuletzt vor dem Hintergrund der jüngsten Ereignisse im Mittelmeerraum hat die Kommission am 4. Mai 2011 Initiativen für ein stärker strukturiertes, umfassendes und schnelle Reaktionen ermöglichendes Konzept der EU zu den Herausforderungen und Chancen von Migration vorgelegt. Behandelt werden darin u. a. folgende migrationsbezogene Aspekte: strengere Grenzkontrollen und Schengen-Governance, die Vollendung des gemeinsamen europäischen Asylsystems, gezieltere legale Migration, Austausch von beispielhaften Verfahren für die gelungene Integration von Migranten und ein strategisches Migrationskonzept für die Beziehungen mit Drittländern. Mit diesen Initiativen ergänzt die Kommission die bereits angenommenen Sofortmaßnahmen, die bei der Bewältigung der Migrationsprobleme helfen und den Migrationsdruck auf die EU-Mittelmeerstaaten vermindern sollen.

Während die Ereignisse im südlichen Mittelmeerraum in Millionen Menschen Hoffnung auf ein besseres Leben wecken, führten sie aber auch zur Vertreibung von mehr als 650 000 Menschen, die vor der Gewalt in Libyen flüchten mussten. Bisher sind in Europa nur sehr wenige Asylsuchende eingetroffen. Doch über 25 000 beschlossen, ein besseres Leben in der EU zu suchen. Einige Mitgliedstaaten sind den großen Migrantenströmen direkter ausgesetzt, doch auf nationaler Ebene ist diese Situation nicht zu bewältigen. Es bedarf der Mobilisierung aller Mitgliedstaaten auf EU-Ebene.

Die EU hat zwar umfassend auf die Notsituation reagiert, doch zeigt die aktuelle Krise, dass noch weitere Möglichkeiten bestehen, wie die EU solchen Situationen besser begegnen und Migration insgesamt effizienter steuern kann. Deshalb schlägt die Kommission eine Reihe von Initiativen vor, die folgende Aspekte abdecken:

- ⇒ Vollendung des gemeinsamen europäischen Asylsystems bis 2012 gemäß den Grundwerten der Union und ihren internationalen Verpflichtungen.
- ⇒ Strengere Grenzkontrollen und Schengen-Governance mit folgenden Zielen: Eindämmung der illegalen Einwanderung, Gewährleistung, dass jeder Mitgliedstaat seinen Teil der EU-Außengrenzen wirksam entsprechend den Regeln und dem Geist des EU-Rechts kontrolliert, und Aufbau von Vertrauen in die Wirksamkeit des EU-Systems zur Migrationssteuerung.
- ⇒ Gezieltere Lenkung der legalen Migration, um qualifizierten Personen die Einwanderung in die EU zu erleichtern und zur Deckung des erwarteten Arbeitskräfte – und Qualifikationsmangels und zum Ausgleich der erwarteten Abnahme der Personen im arbeitsfähigen Alter beizutragen.
- ⇒ Austausch zwischen den Mitgliedstaaten von beispielhaften Verfahren für die Integration von legalen Einwanderern in der Weise, dass der wirtschaftliche Nutzen der Einwanderung maximiert und der soziale Frieden in der Union gewährleistet wird.
- ⇒ Ein strategisches Konzept für die Beziehungen mit Drittländern in Bezug auf migrationsrelevante Themen, das darauf ausgerichtet ist, den freien Personenverkehr durch bessere legale Migrationsmöglichkeiten zu erleichtern und zugleich illegale Migration zu verhüten.

Migration von Frauen zwischen den MEDA-Ländern und der Europäischen Union

Die im April 2011 veröffentlichte und im Rahmen des von der EU finanzierten Euromed-Projekts Migration II durchgeführte neue Studie mit dem Titel „Migration von Frauen zwischen den MEDA-Ländern und der Europäischen Union“ untersucht die Strukturen und Herausforderungen bei der Migration von Frauen zwischen den Ländern des südlichen Mittelmeerraums und Europa im Zusammenhang mit den zentralen Projektaspekten, d.h. der legalen Migration, der illegalen Migration und der Rolle von Frauen an der Schnittstelle zwischen Migration und Entwicklung.

Die Studie hat die Absicht, Frauen dabei zu unterstützen, aus dem Schatten hervorzutreten und den ihnen zustehenden Platz in der Geschichte der Migration einzunehmen, wobei sie folgende Ziele verfolgt:

- ⇒ Darstellung des aktuellen Forschungsstandes zu diesem Thema und Beitrag zu einem größerem Verständnis dieser komplexer Fragestellung;
- ⇒ Einbeziehung einer Gender-Perspektive in alle Migrationssituationen in der Region, während gleichzeitig die Aufmerksamkeit für die Hoffnungen und Anliegen von Frauen in ihren Heimatländern, Transit – bzw. Aufnahmeländern erhalten bleibt;
- ⇒ Sichtbarmachung der Beiträge von Migrantinnen in Entwicklung, wissenschaftlicher Forschung und politischen Diskussionen;
- ⇒ Beitrag zur Einleitung von Diskussionen zu dieser Fragestellung auf nationaler und regionaler Ebene

Das Projekt Euromed Migration II hat das Ziel, die Kooperation zur Steuerung der Migration zu verstärken und somit bei den Partnern im Mittelmeerraum Kapazitäten aufzubauen, damit sie eine wirksame, zielgerichtete und umfassende Lösung für die verschiedenen Formen von Migration anbieten können. Es unterstützt sie bei der Schaffung von Mechanismen, um Möglichkeiten für legale Migration zu fördern, Maßnahmen zur Förderung der Verbindung zwischen Migration und Entwicklung zu unterstützen und Aktivitäten zur Beseitigung von Menschenhandel und illegaler Einwanderung zu intensivieren bzw. gemischte Migrationsströme zu steuern.

Weitere Informationen sind erhältlich unter:

http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id_type=1&id=25003&lang_id=450

Integration der Roma: EU-Kommission fordert Mitgliedstaaten zur Festlegung nationaler Strategien auf

Die zehn bis zwölf Millionen in Europa lebenden Roma sind noch immer mit Diskriminierung und Ausgrenzung konfrontiert oder werden an der Ausübung ihrer Rechte gehindert. Für die Mitgliedstaaten hingegen bedeutet dies Produktivitätsverluste und weniger Einnahmen, da möglicherweise potenzielle Talente nicht genutzt werden können. Eine bessere wirtschaftliche und soziale Integration ist daher dringend geboten, jedoch bedarf es einer konzertierten Aktion auf allen Ebenen, um die mannigfachen Ursachen der Ausgrenzung zu beseitigen. Zu diesem Zweck legte die Europäische Kommission am 5. April 2011 einen EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Eingliederung der Roma vor. Er soll als Richtschnur für die nationalen Roma-Integrationskonzepte dienen und verfügbare EU-Mittel zur Unterstützung der Integrationsbestrebungen mobilisieren. Der EU-Rahmen basiert auf vier Säulen: Zugang zu Bildung, Beschäftigung, Gesundheitsfürsorge und Wohnraum. Die Mitgliedstaaten werden aufgefordert, je nach Größe der in den einzelnen Gebieten lebenden Roma-Bevölkerung und der jeweiligen Ausgangssituation nationale Integrationsziele festzulegen.

Die Roma in Europa leben unter deutlich schlechteren sozialen und wirtschaftlichen Bedingungen als die übrige Bevölkerung. Einer Erhebung in sechs EU-Ländern zufolge schließen nur 42 % der Roma-Kinder die Grundschule ab, wohingegen der EU-Durchschnitt hier bei 97,5 % liegt. Schätzungen zufolge besuchen nur 10 % der Roma eine Sekundarschule. Auf dem Arbeitsmarkt haben es die Roma ebenfalls schwerer: Sie sind eher von Arbeitslosigkeit bedroht und werden häufiger diskriminiert. Auch in den Bereichen Wohnraum und Gesundheit besteht Aufholbedarf: Die Roma haben häufig keinen Zugang zu grundlegenden Dingen wie fließendem Wasser oder Strom. Und während die Lebenserwartung der EU-Bürger im Schnitt bei 76 Jahren für Männer und 82 Jahren für Frauen liegt, ist die der Roma um zehn Jahre niedriger.

Mit dem EU-Rahmen wird ein Ansatz zur Eingliederung der Roma geschaffen, der Ziele in vier Kernbereichen festlegt:

⇒ **Bildung:** Sicherstellen, dass alle Roma-Kinder zumindest die Grundschule abschließen;

- ⇒ **Beschäftigung:** die Beschäftigungsquote der Roma an die der übrigen Bevölkerung annähern;
- ⇒ **Gesundheitsfürsorge:** die Gesundheitssituation der Roma an die der Gesamtbevölkerung angleichen, z. B. durch Verringerung der Kindersterblichkeit;
- ⇒ **Wohnraum:** den Anteil der Roma mit Zugang zu Wohnraum und zu den öffentlichen Versorgungsnetzen (z. B. Wasser, Strom) auf den entsprechenden Anteil an der Gesamtbevölkerung bringen.

Die Mitgliedstaaten müssen bis Ende 2011 **nationale Roma-Strategien** vorlegen, in denen sie ihren Beitrag zur Erreichung dieser Ziele darlegen. Der EU-Rahmen steht im Einklang mit den breiter angelegten Zielen der EU-Strategie Europa 2020 in den Bereichen Beschäftigung, soziale Integration und Bildung. Gelingt es den Mitgliedstaaten, die Roma-Integrationsziele zu erreichen, dann sind sie ihrer Zielerreichung bei Europa 2020 einen großen Schritt näher.

Ferner schlägt die Kommission vor, wie für die Integration der Roma zur Verfügung stehende EU-Mittel wirksamer eingesetzt werden können. In diesem Zusammenhang werden die Mitgliedstaaten aufgefordert, ihre aus den Strukturfonds und dem Europäischen Landwirtschaftsfonds für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums kofinanzierten operativen Programme zu ändern, um Roma-Projekte besser zu unterstützen.

Um sicherzustellen, dass der EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien die Lebenssituation der Roma spürbar verbessert, plant die Kommission ferner die Einführung eines soliden Monitoringmechanismus zur Messung der erzielten Ergebnisse. Der Agentur der Europäischen Union für Grundrechte kommt diesbezüglich eine wichtige Rolle zu, da sie in Zusammenarbeit mit anderen Organisationen Daten zur sozialen und wirtschaftlichen Situation der Roma sammeln wird. Die Mitgliedstaaten ihrerseits werden gebeten, nationale Kontaktstellen zu benennen, die die Umsetzung der jeweiligen nationalen Roma-Integrationsstrategie begleiten, überwachen und hierüber berichten. Die Kommission wird jährlich über die seitens der Mitgliedstaaten erzielten Fortschritte Bericht erstatten.

Migration im Mittelmeerraum

FEMISE und das Wirtschaftsforschungsforum ERF (Economic Research Forum) haben in Istanbul am 16. und 17. April 2011 gemeinsam einen Workshop zum Thema „**Migration in der arabischen Region: Ursachen und Folgen (Migration in the Arab Region: Causes and Consequences)**“ organisiert, um die Entwicklung des Migrationsphänomens im Mittelmeerraum besser zu verstehen. Hoch qualifizierte Forscher aus diesem Bereich stellten die Ergebnisse ihrer jüngsten Forschungsarbeiten vor und tauschten ihre Ansichten zu diesem Thema aus.

Der Mittelmeerraum zählt zu den Regionen der Welt, in denen Migration eine zentrale Rolle spielt. Er zeichnet sich durch große Zuströme und Abflüsse von Arbeitnehmern, durch eine große Migrantenpopulation im Ausland und die wichtige

Rolle aus, die Überweisungen von Migranten in der volkswirtschaftlichen Bilanz der Heimatländer spielen. Einige Mittelmeerländer wie Marokko, Algerien und der Libanon zeichnen für einige der größten Diaspora-Gemeinden im Ausland verantwortlich. Es gibt auch signifikante Migrantenströme aus arabischen Ländern (insbesondere neben den Golfstaaten), die sich in dem Maße weiter entwickeln, in dem sich die Süd-Süd-Integration weiter vertieft.

Der Zweck dieses Workshops bestand darin, die von Wissenschaftlern vorgenommenen analytischen Arbeiten zu prüfen, die sich auf einige äußerst wichtige Migrationsaspekte in der Region spezialisiert haben, wobei die nachfolgenden Fragen behandelt wurden: Wie sehen die Auswirkungen der Migration insgesamt auf Beschäftigung, Bildung, Sozialfürsorge und Demokratie aus? Welchen Einfluss hat die Diaspora auf inländische Einrichtungen? Können Überweisungen die finanzielle Entwicklung und die Entwicklung von Unternehmen fördern? Können sie Armut und Ungleichheit reduzieren?

Es wurde festgestellt, dass die Migration ausgebildeter Frauen bedeutende Auswirkungen auf die Geburtenrate, die kindliche Gesundheit und Bildung hat. Außerdem wurde hervorgehoben, dass die jüngsten Aufstandswellen in der arabischen Welt von der Unzufriedenheit der jüngeren Generation insbesondere mit der hohen Arbeitslosigkeit und dem Mangel an Freiheit ausgelöst wurden.

Eine wichtige Empfehlung der Wissenschaftler bestand darin, die Trends zu stärkerer Migration aus dem Süden mit den sich entwickelnden Integrationskapazitäten im Norden zu verknüpfen.

Das Seminar endete mit der Präsentation eines in der Zukunft noch zu entwickelnden Forschungsprogramms, aus dem bestimmte Teile dem Wissenschaftsausschuss von FEMISE bei der bevorstehenden Einholung von Vorschlägen vorgelegt werden sollen.

FEMISE ist ein von der EU finanziertes Projekt mit dem Ziel, zur Verstärkung des Dialogs zu Wirtschafts – und Finanzfragen in der Euromed-Partnerschaft im Rahmen der Europäischen Nachbarschaftspolitik und der Mittelmeerunion beizutragen.

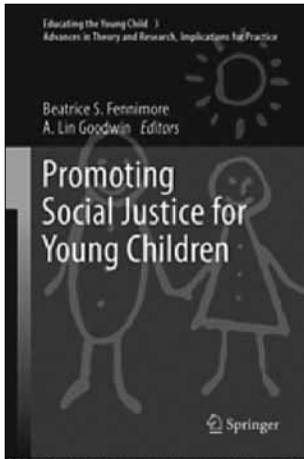
Jordanien

Jugend-Kulturmesse präsentiert die Farben Jordaniens

Ein offener Jugendtag und eine Messe unter dem Titel „Alwan Baladna“ (Die Farben unseres Landes) fand am 7. Mai 2011 im Al Hussein National Park in der Stadt Dabouq in Jordanien statt und wurde vom Königlichen Institut für interreligiöse Studien (Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies), der Leitung des jordanischen Netzwerkes der Anna-Lindh-Stiftung, organisiert. Die Veranstaltung stand unter dem Motto „Einheit in Vielfalt“ und hatte das Ziel, die Unterschiede zwischen in Jordanien lebenden jungen Menschen anzunehmen und zu feiern. Sie beinhaltete eine Kulturmesse und zusätzlich eine große Palette von Aktivitäten, Spielen, interaktiven Diskussionen,

Erzählungen von Geschichten, eine Arbeitsvermittlungsstelle für Jugendliche, jordanische, armenische und tscherkessische Küche und Folklorevorstellungen.

„Alwan Baladna“ wird unter der Schirmherrschaft schaffts Seiner Königlichen Hoheit Prinz El-Hassan bin Talal und mit Unterstützung der Anna-Lindh-Stiftung organisiert.



Promoting Social Justice for Young Children Springer Series: Educating the Young Child, Vol. 3

Fennimore, Beatrice S.; Goodwin, A. Lin (Eds.)

1st Edition, 2011, XV, 179 p. 10 illus

Hardcover, ISBN 978-94-007-0569-2, Price: 106,95 €

Usually dispatched within 3 to 5 business days

This book explores important current social justice issues that confront young children in America. A broad range of topics related to the fair treatment of young children and their families are approached with a fresh and hopeful energy. The central argument of this volume is that a fair and just society must protect the basic needs of all children so they are able to reach their full potential to learn, grow, and ultimately become productive democratic citizens. The book includes contributions from an impressive group of authors who have been consistent voices for the fair and equitable treatment of children in school and society. Each chapter examines a critical issue in child social justice with a focus on the current problem, historical importance of the issue, potential solutions, and a vision for the future. The book has been developed to reach a wide audience of professionals whose work involves children and who have grown concerned about social forces that cause child suffering and threaten the well-being or even the survival of children in the United States. Readers will come away with up to date information and a renewed commitment to being life-long advocates for children.



**Romani Politics in
Contemporary Europe**
Poverty, Ethnic Mobilization,
and the Neoliberal Order
Edited by Nando Sigona and Nidhi Trehan
Foreword by Etienne Balibar

Romani Politics in Contemporary Europe – Poverty, Ethnic Mobilization, and the Neoliberal Order

**Edited by Nando Sigona and Nidhi Trehan, Foreword by Professor
Etienne Balibar, University of Paris X (Nanterre) and University of
California (Irvine)**

Palgrave Macmillan Publishers, 2011, 309 pages, price £57.50

Europe in the last two decades has gone through unprecedented political, social, and economic transformations. The restructuring of post-WWII welfare systems, the disintegration of Yugoslavia through a series of fratricidal wars, the rise of racist and nationalist movements, and the enlargement of NATO and the EU to include former socialist countries after the end of the Cold War characterize this period. The new geopolitical order has affirmed a neoliberal economic doctrine throughout Europe. A by-product of this phenomenon has been increasing marginalization of groups which do not 'fit' the new socio-economic regime. Amongst them are millions of Roma, for whom chronic unemployment and social exclusion have become the norm. As a response to their increasing social marginalization, human and minority rights discourses and regimes have emerged, alongside an embryonic Romani political movement.

This book sheds light on experiences of political participation of Romani citizens in both Eastern and Western Europe, thus contributing to a deeper understanding of the political space that Roma occupy in states within an enlarged EU. The contributors are leading activists, politicians, and scholars involved in critical debates and policy making vis-à-vis Romani citizens. The book analyzes key political experiences and debates salient for the European Union, as well as implications for other ethnic minorities in Europe. It also offers new perspectives on core issues and paradoxes surrounding Romani political participation and mobilisation at the EU, national, and local levels, including case studies from both Eastern and Western Europe.

Orders can be placed at:

<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=277558>



Dr Jason Hart, Claudia Lo Forte; Protecting Palestinian children from political violence – The role of the international community

Forced Migration Policy Briefing 5, (Arabic and English Editions)

Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford, September 2010, 50 Pages

Between December 2008 and January 2009 around 350 Palestinian children were killed and approximately 10,500 displaced during Israel's bombardment of Gaza (DCI/PS, 2009). For children living in the occupied territories of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem the extreme effects of political violence, such as witnessed at that time, are a tragically familiar feature of everyday life. Indeed, this violence has shaped the settings in which successive generations of children have grown up. Within this volatile setting numerous UN and international agencies have worked for many years with the aim of protecting children and realising their basic rights.

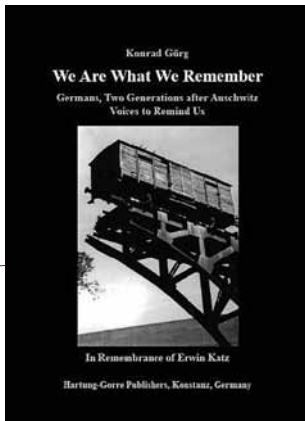
The lack of political will to address Israel's violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL), including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), is abundantly evident on the ground.

By failing to pursue children's protection on the basis of international law and human / child rights, and in a manner fully engaged with Palestinian children and their families, organisations are at risk of invalidating their own claims of neutrality and accountability.

The Refugee Studies Centre's (RSC) Forced Migration Policy Briefings seek to highlight the very best and latest policy-relevant research findings from the fields of forced migration and humanitarian studies.

Protecting Palestinian children from political violence – The role of the international community is available for download at: <http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/>

Publications>Forced Migration Policy Briefings No 5, Arabic and English editions



We are What We Remember: Germans, Two Generations after Auschwitz. Voices to Remind Us. In Remembrance of Erwin Katz

Konrad Görg (Author), Forewords by Horst Eberhard Richter and by Erhard Roy Wiehn

1st Edition November 2010, 116 pages. € 9,95, 1st Edition 2010 as eBook. US \$ 9.15

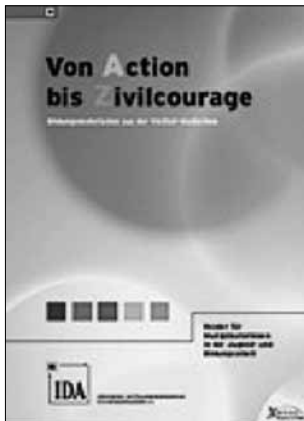
**Hartung-Gorre Editors,
ISBN 978-3-86628-342-8**

‘The Holocaust is not six million, but One and One and One and One...’, is stated at the beginning of the book and becomes its guiding principle. Konrad Görg, author and internist, encountered this story on a visit to the cemetery with his friend Petr Abeles. On the tombstone of Petr’s mother Hilda were also the names of her parents and her little brother Erwin Katz with an additional small inscription: **“In memory of those who have no grave”**

Konrad Görg asked for and got the story of Erwin Katz. And in his book he passes the story on so that it will not be forgotten. But he does not only tell the story of Erwin Katz – he collects voices and quotes by perpetrators, analysts and victims of persecution from the time before, during and after that period of time. And this collection of quotations reads differently and new against the background of Erwin Katz’ story. They are no longer just historical comments and analyses, but their effective power becomes concrete in Erwin’s fate.

Orders can be placed at:

<http://www.amazon.de/are-What-Remember-Generations-Remembrance/dp/3866283423/buchundjudenhaga>



**Stephan Bundschuh/Milena Detzner/Hanna Mai:
„Von Action bis Zivilcourage. Bildungsmaterialien
aus der Vielfalt-Mediathek“, Düsseldorf, 2010**

Der Reader „Von Action bis Zivilcourage. Bildungsmaterialien aus der Vielfalt-Mediathek“ versammelt ausgewählte Texte aus Materialien der Vielfalt-Mediathek des IDA e. V. und des DGB Bildungswerk Bund und ermöglicht so einen anschaulichen Einblick in das breite Themenspektrum der Materialien der Mediathek.

Es finden sich Hintergrundinformationen, konkrete Projektbeschreibungen sowie Übungen aus Materialien der Vielfalt-Mediathek zu den Themen:

- Respekt für Vielfalt
- (Anti-) Rassismus
- (Gegen) Rechtsextremismus
- (Gegen) Antisemitismus
- Migrationsgesellschaft

Die **Vielfalt-Mediathek des IDA e. V. und DGB Bildungswerkes Bund (<http://www.vielfalt-mediathek.de/>)** enthält Materialien, die im Rahmen der Bundesprogramme “VIELFALT TUT GUT. Jugend für Vielfalt, Toleranz und Demokratie”, “kompetent. für Demokratie. Beratungsnetzwerke gegen Rechtsextremismus”, “XENOS – Integration und Vielfalt”, “XENOS – Arbeitsmarktliche Unterstützung für Bleibeberechtigte und Flüchtlinge” und “XENOS – Ausstieg zum Einstieg” entstanden sind.

Der Reader kann auf der Website **www.idaev.de (Publikationen ⇨ Bestellformular) bestellt werden.**



Il maestro, the teacher, al mu'allim. L'educazione italiana comparata

Giovanni Pampanini:

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Il dialogo interculturale è un nuovo problema che si aggiunge alla vecchia agenda dei problemi della scuola italiana? O, al contrario, è l'Italia, con le sue nuove "riforme" scolastiche, che sta diventando un problema per il dialogo interculturale planetario? L'autore di questo breve saggio fa di questa domanda dialettica il centro della sua riflessione sulla situazione dell'Educazione italiana odierna.

La contraddizione centrale della scuola si pone fra l'esigenza di aggiornarsi rispetto al rapido evolversi della scienza moderna e al "dialogo fra civiltà" di livello mondiale, da un lato, e, dall'altro, l'interpretazione riduttiva e conservatrice, tuttavia di governo, del Diritto all'educazione basandosi su un approccio strutturale all'"Educazione del Mediterraneo", l'autore propone un cambiamento teorico nei confronti dell'Italia educativa – da fanalino di coda dell'Europa a figura centrale del Mediterraneo –, pressando perché l'Italia colga l'occasione di farsi leader in tutta la macro-regione di una nuova stagione di battaglie educative per la democrazia, pagamento a prova di intercultura.

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