

## Youth Policy Papers

New Developments in National Youth Policies 1999-2000

### CONTENT

- I. Towards an integrated youth policy
- II. A firm commitment to youth participation
- III. New Legislation
- IV. New youth programmes
- VI. Youth issues in the current public debate
- VII. Facts and figures

Representatives of Ministries responsible for youth affairs in the Council of Europe member states reported on national developments for the period 1999-2000. The areas covered by the questionnaire were: changes in youth structures and youth policy structures; legislation; policy papers and programmes; current public debate on youth.

The main trends which could be identified on the basis of a comparative analysis of responses are the following: a general move towards an integrated/co-ordinated/inter-sectorial approach to youth policy; a focus on associative life and youth participation; a conversion of youth policy strategies and approaches across Europe.

## **I. Towards an integrated youth policy**

Most countries have by now opted for some form of transversal co-ordination of youth policies. Recently Croatia, Spain, Estonia and Belgium (Flanders) and others have set up structures to co-ordinate public policies related to youth across departments.

Another development to note is the focus on children as a target group of youth policies (Slovak Republic, Georgia, Spain, Czech Republic and, more traditionally, the Netherlands)

### **Examples**

**BELGIUM (Flanders)**

The Minister responsible for youth affairs intends to propose a Flemish youth work policy plan in June 2000. This plan is supposed to contain directives for the coming years. The plan will also mark the start of a broader youth policy development; the latter will be the new instrument to arrive at an "integrated" youth policy. Such a policy will include initiatives of the several other policy fields – such as culture, town and country planning, education – in order to try and attune them better. The existing legislation will also be adapted in this context.

### **BULGARIA**

On initiative of the Committee for Youth, Physical Education and Sports (CYPES), the

Minister of labour and social policy appointed a joint working group (including participants from social partners - employers and trade unions) for drafting of National Youth Employment Programme. This action is in accordance with the priorities set up in the National Strategy for Accession of Republic of Bulgaria to the EU, the Programme for its Implementation and the National Programme for the adoption of the *acquis communautaire*.

## **CYPRUS**

The Strategic Plan of the National Board for Youth Affairs foresees the carrying out of a study on a single (co-ordinated) policy for youth, in accordance with the provisions of the Youth Board Bill.

## **DENMARK**

The Governmental Youth Committee - with representation of the Ministries of Education, Cultural Affairs, Finance, Housing, Health, Social Affairs, Labour, the Interior and Justice is working on a statement on youth policy to the Danish Government. This statement will give a status on the Danish Government's work in the youth field during the last three years and provide the Government with ideas and visions for the years to come. The statement will be due in the beginning of summer 2000.

## **GERMANY**

A new Federal Advisory Committee on youth matters was appointed.

## **HUNGARY**

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has developed strategic partnerships on youth policy involving umbrella youth organisations.

## **LITHUANIA**

The State Council for Youth Affairs has assumed a co-ordination function among the other state departments in view to developing a holistic approach to youth policy. The preparation of a long-term youth policy strategy (2002-2005) has begun.

## **LUXEMBOURG**

In August 2000 a Coalition agreement was adopted by the Government, establishing a co-ordination role for the Ministry of Youth in the development of inter-sectorial policies concerning young people.

## **MALTA**

In November 1999 the New National Youth Policy document was launched which sets targets in the fields of education, employment, welfare, housing, risk behaviour, health etc.

## **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

In October 1999 the Government approved the creation of a Council on Children and

Youth. The Council is an advisory body for methodological and legislative work and co-ordinates youth-related activities of various government departments. Its mandate includes "comprehensive state care for children and youth, the policy of government subventions for children and youth and all other systematic measures for support, protection and development of children and youth". The Council is composed of 17 members representing various Ministries and non-governmental organisations.

## **SPAIN**

By Agreement of the Cabinet, the Youth Institute has carried out an Action Plan concerning youth for the 2000-2003 period which originated from proposals raised by the Inter-ministerial Commission for Youth and Childhood. The objectives are as follows:

- a) favoring the conditions that may allow the independence, emancipation, and welfare of young people, through measures for their insertion in the labour market and their access to housing, and also through educational programmes focused on health issues and on healthy alternatives for their leisure time.
- b) promoting values of solidarity and tolerance among young people through measures that support disadvantaged groups, prevent racism and violence, enhance volunteer programmes, promote co-operation with different people and cultures and permit an active participation in society.

The Inter-ministerial Commission finished the preparation of the text at its meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1999.

Within the frame of the two general objectives described above, the content of the document is made up of a set of actions whose implementation is the responsibility of one or several Ministries, although contributions from institutions and social agents linked to young people have been taken into account in the preparation of the document, as well the analysis provided by experts.

At present the Plan is pending approval by the Cabinet.

## **UK**

'Connexions' is a new service which aim will be to provide coherent and co-ordinated support for all young people when and where they need it to enable them to participate effectively in appropriate learning, and wider society, by raising their aspirations so that they reach their full potential. The Service will play a central role in helping young people to deal with the problems they experience, removing any wider barriers to effective participation, and brokering access to more specialist services. The Service will target 13-19 year olds because this is the time when young people are most in need of expert advice about the world beyond the familiar school and family settings. It prevents a 'cliff edge' at 16, providing support for young people to remain in effective learning throughout their teenage years, and to achieve their full potential as adults.

The Service will be drawn from existing public, private, voluntary and community organisations and will build on best practice and experience. The role of the service will be to:

- increase effective participation in learning up to age of 19;
- help improve learning achievement at all levels of ability;
- prevent the onset of disaffection and promote social inclusion;
- provide practical support to overcome personal family or social obstacles.

The Service will be based around personal advisers, who will :

- provide advice, guidance and support;
- be an advocate for the young person;
- be a single point of access to all specialist support services, if needed;
- build a long term one to one relationship with the young person;
- be trained through new arrangements to create a new profession able to handle a much wider range of issues affecting the lives of young people.

As a central principle, the Service will involve parents, employers, local communities and practitioners which is seen as crucial to the successful development of the Connexions Service. The Department for Education and Employment has also consulted extensively with young people on the functions of the service and the role of the personal adviser.

## **II. A firm commitment to youth participation**

National consultations, youth parliaments, municipal youth councils are only some of the instruments put in service of youth participation. The vast majority of member states can boost at least one major action in favour of dialogue between young people and policy institutions. In some cases (Moldova, Hungary, Austria, Slovak Republic, Hungary), there is a tendency to introduce even elements of co-management in the policy structures in the youth field.

### **Examples**

#### **AUSTRIA**

The Federal Chancellor established an advisory committee for youth affairs whose members are delegates from federal youth councils and the students union and which will decide on the direction of youth policies in Austria.

In 2000 special funding is provided within the framework of "Local Agenda 21" programme for local communities wishing to develop common strategies for youth work with a focus on youth participation.

#### **AZERBAIJAN**

In March 1999 a Forum of the independent Azeri youth was held voicing young people's views on a range of problems of contemporary society. The Forum ended with a declaration.

#### **BELGIUM (French community)**

The Youth Service in co-operation with the National Youth Council (francophone) and the Advisory Commission of the Youth Centres has organised three round tables in

1999. These were discussion fora for representatives of youth associations and youth workers on social issues related to youth work (employability, participation, violence).

## **BULGARIA**

Important role in the implementation of youth policy has the declaration of the Parliament in favour of the principles of the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life. The declaration supports the Regional Youth Councils in their cooperation with the local authorities.

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

In October 1999 a National Children's Parliament took place in Prague under the auspices of the Senate. The action will be repeated in 2000.

## **CYPRUS**

On February 26<sup>th</sup> 2000 a new programme on "Municipal Youth Councils" was launched. The aim of this programme is to give young people the opportunity to discuss among themselves youth matters such as education, new technologies, leisure, vocational orientation, the European process etc. In addition, the programme aims at involving young people in decision-making at local level.

## **ESTONIA**

In November 1999 a Youth Work Forum was held to discuss longer term priorities and orientations of Estonian youth work/policy and approve an action plan 2000-2001 in the following areas: youth work structures and training, youth participation, youth camps, information and counselling, work with disadvantaged youth, international youth work, youth employment, non-formal education.

## **FINLAND**

A Virtual Democracy project has been launched, experimenting with new tools and forms for increasing young people's influence.

## **GEORGIA**

The State Department for Youth Affairs has begun work on the establishment of Children and Youth Parliament.

## **LIECHTENSTEIN**

In May 1999 the Government appointed a youth Parliamentary commission to prepare and organise several youth fora and one youth parliament session a year.

## **MALTA**

At a National Youth Conference young people voiced their opinions and concerns on a range of topics. The outcomes of the Conference were presented to the Government.

## **MOLDOVA**

In 1999 the Government established a Council on Youth Problems. Members of the Council are representatives of NGOs and of the Government.

## **NORTHERN IRELAND**

The youth sector is benefiting considerably from funding from the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. A major project "JEDI - Joined in Equity, Diversity and Interdependence" is underway to help youth organisations develop their policies in the areas of community relations, education for citizenship and equality.

## **SCOTLAND**

One of the Scottish Executive's "Programme for Government" commitments is to consult widely on an action programme for youth which values young people and reflects their own aspirations. A "Youth Summit" is being planned for June 2000. Young people's views were sought on subjects for discussion at the Youth Summit. The top 6 issues for young people aged 11-15 are: drugs, alcohol, bullying, relationships (including family, friends), sport/leisure/hobbies/activities, sex; for ages 16-18 the top 6 issues are drugs, employment/unemployment, alcohol, sex (including sexuality), money, health.

The Scottish Youth Parliament has had its first Annual General Meeting and has the capacity to involve over 300 young people in Scotland, which draws on local youth forums/councils, increasing the number of young people involved.

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

An Advisory Committee for youth participation has been established. A policy paper entitled "State of Affairs on Youth Participation Policy" has been drafted.

## **UK**

A Department for Education and Employment secondee is working with the UK Youth Parliament Steering (UKYP) Group on arrangements to deliver the first sitting of the Youth Parliament in the Spring of 2001. The idea of the UK Youth Parliament was first announced in July 1999. The aim of the UKYP will be to give young people aged 11-18 a national voice which will be listened to by Government and political parties.

"Listen Up" is a report of a Government dialogue with young people run by the Home Office and Women's Unit with the National Youth Council and YouthNet, a young people's internet company. It involved young people in policy making by consulting them on their views on a range of emerging Government policy issues. The consultation process was innovative in that it consulted young men and women separately to find out how gender influences their lives. The young people involved were mainly teenagers, but the total age range was from 13-25 years old.

## **III. New Legislation**

## **AUSTRIA**

On the level of the Länder (nine regions of the federal state) the Salzburg Youth Empowerment And Youth Protection Law has been amended (<http://www.land-slb.gv.at./landtg-kanzlei/index.htm>).

## **BELGIUM (FLANDERS)**

Subsidy rules applying to experimental and innovating initiatives in the youth field were developed in the year 2000. Moreover, new youth culture subsidy rules are being prepared.

## **BULGARIA**

There are not special laws concerning only youth matters in Bulgaria. Youth problems are subject of the laws, covering other areas such as social policy, inner affairs, employment, health. This legislation has not been significantly changed during the above-mentioned period. The Protection of Children Act passed first reading in the Parliament, its adoption on second reading is scheduled to take place in Spring 2000.

## **CROATIA**

The law about drugs is in the process of preparation as well as the proposals about the changes in the existing general legal acts which are partly incorporating youth issues (for example Criminal law, Family law, The law of organizations etc.).

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Outline of the State Youth Policy in the Czech Republic until the year 2002 was evaluated by the April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000. At present the proposal of the term of reference of this Law is being prepared.

## **CYPRUS**

There is no new legislation for youth aging eighteen years of age and above,, to be voted before the House of Parliament. Youth matters such as army, education, occupational rehabilitation etc, are adjusted through the articles of other existing legislation.

However, there is a proposal before the House of Parliament regarding drug legislation, entitled "The Prevention of Use and Traffic in Drugs and other Habit-forming Substances (Establishment of an Anti-Drug Council and Fund)". Law of 1998

## **DENMARK**

In a few areas new legislation in the youth field has been passed. The most ambitious law programme is the &Developing Programme for the Future Youth Educations 8, which was passed in 1999. The primary concern of the Developing Programme is to create coherence and spaciousness in the system of education and increase the professional and personal challenges for everybody through a renewal of structures and content in each of the different youth educations. The programme should also provide more flexibility between different educations and it should

provide more democratic rights for the pupils and students.

## **ENGLAND**

New legislation in the youth field has been passed:

- The "Right to Time Off for Study or Training" came into force in 1999. Young employees aged 16 and 17 who are not yet qualified to level 2 have the right to reasonable paid time off to study or train for approved qualifications, so that they can take their place in the labour market of the future; and certain employees aged 18 have the right to complete study or training which they have already begun. This is part of the wider Connexions strategy to ensure that far more young people stay on in education and training until they are at least 19 (see question 4 for more information);
- The "Learning and Skills Bill" introduced in 1999 includes provision in the setting up of the Connexions Service (see question 4 for more information).

## **ESTONIA**

The Estonian Youth Work Act was passed on 17 February 1999 (RT I 1999, 27, 392), and entered into force on 1 April 1999.

## **FINLAND**

- Implementation of the extensive reform of educational legislation passed in 1998.
- New Sports Act (1999-)
- Youth punishment trial Act (1998)

## **GEORGIA**

Law on the State support for children and youth Union;

State Department works on the law – children and youth protection against pernicious influence of mass media.

## **GERMANY**

Planned:

Law for the reform of youth protection with special regard to the exigences of the new information and communication technologies.

## **HUNGARY**

A new legislation in the youth field is a ministerial order which has established a new national application system for NGOs working in the youth field.

## **ICELAND**

Work has begun on re-drafting the legislation in the youth field. The current legislation is since 1970.

## **LIECHTENSTEIN**

Passed on February 11, 2000: since that date young people of age 18 are allowed to vote and have majority age.

concerning family, children and youth:

In the pipeline: *Wegweiserecht*: Law in order to combat violence within the family including the possibility to remove the aggressor from the family for a certain time.

in the pipeline: *Pflegebewilligung*: new guidelines and regulations concerning day care: child minders and foster parents have to be approved by a national authority.

## **LITHUANIA**

Regularly laws concerning youth in one or another way are passed (as much as youth is part of society or/and priority group in some fields). Among the most important is the "law on higher education", which is already on agenda of Parliament of Lithuanian Republic.

The discussions and some initiatives to have the "law of youth" have started (at the moment the main document is the State youth policy concept adopted by the Lithuanian parliament in 1996. This document provides the main guidelines for the governmental establishments in the field of youth policy). But this is just the idea-promoting phase still.

Another issue, which is just started to be discussed in some circles, is military service; there were some corrections made last year that were discussed among the youth.

According to that young people that still are under 27 (the age limit military service is compulsory to), they are obliged to provide the documents they attended the military or alternative service, or the documents that they are excused from military service of some recognised reason (studies, health, etc.) in case they apply to work in governmental institutions.

This discussion has brought some NGO's to initiate the working group on the law of military service, but already with concern to the concept of alternative service and implementation of it. In parallels the committee at the Ministry of defence has been established to implement in practise currently valid procedures of alternative service and to develop the issue further.

The new criminal code is on government's agenda now. The working group was established to work out recommendations related to the issues of responsibilities of delinquent under-age youth.

## **LUXEMBOURG**

The so-called ASFT law and its execution regulations dated 08.09.98 resp. 28. 01. 99 has a strong effect on the functioning of Youth Houses' network.

## **MALTA**

The Equal opportunities Act for disabled young people (Jan 2000).

## **MOLDOVA**

In 1999 was adopted the Law on Youth which defines the state policy in the youth field, regulates creating social, economic and organisational conditions for the youth development in the interest of person and society, establishes the prior directions in promoting the state policy in the youth field.

## **RUSSIA**

Adopted laws:

1999 – the law "About the principles of the preventive system of neglect and offences of the juveniles"

1999 – the law " About physical training and sports in the Russian Federation"

Draft laws being introduced in Duma:

- "About the guidelines of the state youth policy in the Russian Federation"
- "About the principles of the organised work of Commissions on juveniles affairs and their rights defense"
- "About children and young people sports in Russian Federation"

Draft laws being prepared for the introduction into Duma:

- "About the state support of the children's rest and protection of their health in the Russian Federation"
- "About additional education in the Russian Federation"
- "About introduction of changes and additions to the law "About Education"
- "About the alternative civil service"
- "The legislation principales of juvenile justice"
- "About the state youth housing policy"

## **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

The Government has committed itself to draft a Youth Bill which is to be submitted to the National Council of the Slovak Republic for approval in 2001. The work of the Bill started in 2000.

## **SCOTLAND**

There have been a number of policies which have direct implications for young people such as the "Standards in Scotland's Schools Bill".

New legislation passed: "The Right to Time Off for Study or Training" (see ENGLAND)

Other legislation has implications for young people such as the Health White Paper - "Towards a Healthier Scotland" - and the "Special Educational Needs and Disability Rights in Education Bill" report by the Department for Education and Employment.

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

- Legislation Prevention of sexual child-abuse
- Legislation on data registration on youth care
- Financial arrangement for national youth organisations
- Proposal for the amendment of the Media law and replacement of state film censoring by a system of self regulation by producers of age classification of all media products including tv-programs
- Being prepared: Law on basic child care-facilities
- Being prepared: Revised Law on youth care.

## **TURKEY**

The regulation of Youth Clubs was enacted on 20.04.1999. Furthermore, the efforts regarding the LAW of 3289 about the institutions and duties of the Directorate of Youth and Sport have been continued.

## **UKRAINE**

- Declaration "On the common regulations of youth policy in Ukraine" (of 15.12.92);
- the Law of Ukraine "On the youth and children's organisations";
- the Laws of Ukraine "On amendments and additions to the Law of Ukraine "On the support of social development of young people in Ukraine" and "On the common regulations of social work with children and young people" passed after the first consideration (of 21.12.99 and 17.12.99 respectively).

## **WALES**

No new legislation has been passed but youth support clauses for Wales have been drafted and are being incorporated in the "Learning and Skills Bill".

"The Right to Time Off for Study or Training" (see England).

# **IV. New youth programmes**

## **AUSTRIA**

- youth@agenda": a long term project aims to build a network of Austrian municipal councillors under age of 27 (about 900 persons are concerned). The objective is the promotion of youth projects and youth participation in various ranges.
- Three year model project „initiative quality" (I.Q): a number of youth organisations are developing a system of self-assessment concerning quality standards in youth work.

## **BELGIUM (FLANDERS)**

The Minister responsible for youth affairs intends to submit a Flemish youth work policy plan in June 2000. This plan develops the main ideas for the next few years. The plan will also mark the start of developing a broader youth policy plan; the latter

will be the new instrument for an "integrated" youth policy. Such a policy will include the initiatives of several other policy fields – such as culture, town and country planning and education- in an attempt to attune them.

## **BULGARIA**

According to the vision stemming from the Stability Pact, many initiatives of Southeast European NGOs were directed to the governmental institutions. They are aiming at improving the peace culture in the region, the lifestyle and the mutual understanding among young people. CYPES works in close cooperation with the National UNESCO Commission, in whose priority programmes for peace culture training there is a special youth section. The following major projects, with regional significance deserve to be mentioned: (1) Orpheus project of civil coalition of 4 Southeast European Countries (Bulgaria, "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Romania, Albania) for the establishment of Balkan Youth Ethnic Parliament; important priorities within the CYPES Programme YCIC (Youth Cultural Information Centers) are the sustainable development and the cooperation and understanding among young people.

## **CROATIA**

Since 1999 the government of the Republic of Croatia has been subsidizing financial means through the public competitions for the youth programmes carried out by non- governmental organizations. Networking of the local organizations, education for the leaders of youth organizations and other similar projects have been supported.

The project of the establishment of the international centre for the integration of youth with disabilities has been carried out.

During 2000 we expect the publication of the results of the survey about the values of the Croatian youth.

## **CYPRUS**

Counseling services on youth matters will be offered in Municipalities in cooperation with local authorities and NGOs and with the support of the Youth Board of Cyprus. Moreover, the mobile unit "THESEUS" will start operating, giving information and counseling on drugs and other youth related issues.

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

On May 2000 the Seminar of the Centre-East Europe Countries (CEI) on the implementation and application of the Rights of the Child in these countries will be held in Prague at the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.

A new project named: „Young talents“ is being prepared in the Czech Republic.

In 1999 the Czech Republic actively participated in the program Youth for Europe III and at present the preparation of the program Youth is being effected.

At present the Czech Republic 's National Program for Sport for All Development is being elaborated in details.

## **DENMARK**

The Danish Government has just started to implement an evaluation of The Youth Municipality Project (Ungdomskommuneforsøget). In 1997 the Government selected 17 municipalities to participate in a 3-year pilot project in the context of youth policy. The overall objective is to set up frameworks where the 10 objectives of the Government's youth policy can be tested and further developed. The project has just entered its third and last year, and therefore the Government has implemented an evaluation process, which will continue to the end of 2001.

## **FINLAND**

- Development of youth workshops as part of the new ESF Objective 3 and Objective 1 (2000-2006);
- Young Culture action programme 2000-2010 (adopted);
- The Award programme launched in Finland (1999-2000)

## **GEORGIA**

- The 4th Summer University (31 August – 5 September);
- Youth days "Okros Akrani" (August 1999);
- Traditional meeting between Georgian and Azerbaijanian youth on the board of the Red Bridge (25 May 1999);
- Youth leaders meeting from the youth structures of the Black Sea countries (september 1999).

## **GERMANY**

- Immediate program to combat youth unemployment (100 000 work/training places per year 1999);
- Program "development and changes for 2000 young people in social flashpoints ([www.bmfsfj.de](http://www.bmfsfj.de))

## **HUNGARY**

New major projects:

Youth media, media against violence. The programme will start in May 2000. It will involve cinemas, toy factories, etc.

## **ICELAND**

- Special projects have been (supported, encouraged, funded) to fight drug abuse;
- A new curriculum has been established on different educational levels.

## **LIECHTENSTEIN**

Major project: Youth information center *aha* was opened in Dec.1999, it includes a department *Counseling of youth projects* and will be the future National Agency for the EU Youth Programme.

Projects combating youth violence in cooperation with the youth workers association and the district councils responsible for youth affairs, are in process.

## **LITHUANIA**

The year 2000 was declared by the parliament of Lithuanian Republic a year of youth in Lithuania.

The programme "Youth for Lithuania 2000-2001" has started. This programme covers a broad scale of youth related issues and priorities and involves different partnerships and also isolated subprograms of state institutions in the field of youth.

## **LUXEMBOURG**

- Community Information Points;
- The 2000 caravan project;
- Help-junior project;
- The regional coordination project;
- The Mediation Centre

## **MALTA**

- The provision of IT Training and interest for youth NGO's;
- The introduction of Youth Workers in various localities where their main role s to co-ordinate Youth Organisation in their area. They are also helping young people in dealing with life issues;
- The organisation of a National Youth Conference within which youth voiced their opinions and concerns in respect to topics being discussed. These reports are being presented to the National Government;
- EMCY - Euro Med.

## **MOLDOVA**

In 1999 was elaborated the National Program of Implementation of the Law on Youth which include activities on social protection of young persons and young family, the development of informational system for youth, the social services for youth, activities which stimulate youth participation and associative life.

## **NORTHERN IRELAND**

The youth sector is benefiting considerably from funding from the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. A major project "JEDI - Joined in Equity, Diversity and Interdependence" is underway to help youth organisations develop their policies in the areas of community relations, education for citizenship and equality.

## **RUSSIA**

- The Presidential prgramme "Youth of Russia" is being carried out in 1998-2000;
- The Federal special purpose programme "Youth of Russia 2001-2005" is being drafted now.

## **SCOTLAND**

One of the Scottish Executive's "Programme for Government" commitments is to

consult widely on an action programme for youth which values young people and reflects their own aspirations. A "Youth Summit" is being planned for June 2000.

## **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

A project called "The commune with the friendliest attitude towards youth" will be launched at the beginning of 2001 by the Ministry of Education. It will be realised in co-operation with the Association of Towns and Communes of Slovakia. The project will be presented at a Slovak-German seminar focussed on youth work at the communal level which will help in Trencin (Slovakia) in July 2000.

## **SPAIN**

In 1999 the pilot Project "Other ways of using your free time" was started, offering alternatives for leisure time. The preparatory and outlining phase was carried out, and during the year 2000 the public phase of the project will take place. The objective is to create healthy and creative habits, promotion of group work and inciting a critical spirit. Four cities have been selected to carry out this pilot experience: Alcalá de Henares (Madrid), Jaca (Huesca), Murcia and La Palma del Condado (Huelva), whose city councils will provide the resources for developing the activity.

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

- Program on the innovation of youth care and foster care;
- Program for the capacity increase of child care;
- Program for Local Youth Policy.

## **TURKEY**

A draft project aiming at the restructuring of the youth sector in this country has been set up.

## **UKRAINE**

- The Main Trends of Social Policy in Ukraine;
- The Programme of the Employment of the Population for the years 1997-2000;
- The Programme on Drugs and AIDS Prevention for the years 1999-2000;
- The Programme on Crime Prevention for the years 1996-2000;
- The Programme of Crediting Young Families in Building (Refurbishing) Houses;
- The Ukraine-Canada Project "Youth for Health".

## **WALES**

Youth Gateway is a new programme introduced in September 1999. It provides school-leavers who need it with in-depth assessment and guidance before they embark on training, education or employment.

V. New policy papers

## **AUSTRIA**

On the initiative of the Austrian EU presidency a Resolution Of The Council And The

Ministers Of Youth Meeting Within The Council On Youth Participation was adopted Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1998.

#### **BELGIUM (FLANDERS)**

Minister Bert Anciaux recently discussed the 2000-2004 "youth" policy paper in the Parliament of Flanders. This paper outlines the youth (work) policy for the coming years.

At the Youth and Sport Policy Division level, the annual "Chornicle" presented an overview of 1998 activities. The "Zoekboek 1999-2001" (i.e. 1999-2001 search book) was also published; the latter presents an overview of the main actors and contact points; it is a handy and often used tool for your workers, youth consultants and other persons involved.

The "Cijferboek" (i.e. book of figures) is a collection of figures, charts and graphs based on the "Zoekboek 1999-2001" and it offers us insights into the municipal youth work policy.

#### **CROATIA**

The Croatian government has emphasized youth issues in its programme for the period 2000 - 2003. It is to be expected that in this period the work on the establishment of the National strategy for the youth will be carried out.

#### **CYPRUS**

The strategic plan covering the 1999-2003 period was drafted. It evolves around the following main axes:

- The pursuit of a more effective exercise of the advisory and co-ordinating role of the Youth Board of Cyprus;
- The examination and updating or readjustment of the existing programmes for young people where needed;
- The creation of new programmes reflecting the new needs of young people;
- The creation of infrastructure services for youth;
- The reinforcement of the infrastructure of the Cyprus Youth Board in terms of human resources, as well as technical support.

#### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

The evaluation report of the realization of The Convention on the Rights of the Child for the period 1995 - 1999 has been worked out and will be sent to the Committee on the Rights of the Child to Geneva.

#### **FINLAND**

- Youth policy sector in the work of the Active Social Policy Committee: Experiment in rehabilitating education for 15-to-17-year olds (proposal: FIM 20 million). Activation plans for school-leavers who do not apply for training or actively seek jobs (proposal);
- Youth work strategy by Finnish Youth cooperation Allianssi (1999);
- Social justification of youth work (Advisory Council for Youth Affairs 1999).

## **GEORGIA**

General statistical-analytical portrait – Georgian Youth.

## **GERMANY**

10<sup>th</sup> report on child and youth work on the living conditions of children and welfare services for children.

## **LIECHTENSTEIN**

- Liechtensteinische Jugendstudie (Youth Study) March 1999- Situation and attitudes of young people in Liechtenstein (12-20 years);
- Rechtsradikalismus in Liechtenstein, May 1999 (Analysis of and Measures against right -wing Radicalism)

## **LITHUANIA**

Strategy of State Council for youth affairs, 1999 – 2000 has been adopted.

The strategy of annual governmental funding programme of youth initiatives (administrated by State Council of Youth affairs) has been significantly changed this year.

In the year 2000 it was split in two main parts “the funding programme of national youth projects”, and “the local funding “Youth for community” programme of youth projects”.

This change separates local and national level initiatives speaking generally, but the aim behind this separation is to separate the new, inexperienced local youth initiatives and allocate funding for competition among them on their municipality’s level to support and strengthen them, on one hand, and to allocate money for competition of strong and experienced, qualified youth organisations, on another hand. By this change it is expected to create equal competitive basis for organisations with different experience and extent of work, and to encourage the development and growth of youth sector.

This programme is based on the co-operation between certain municipality (that has to fit requirements and to apply to become the part of the programme) and partnership union of State Council for Youth affairs, Nordic information office and Baltic-American partnership programme

Drafts:

The long-term youth policy strategy and youth policy programme 2002-2005 have been started to be prepared: the conception paper is being developed now.

## **NORTHERN IRELAND**

A major review of youth service policy has taken place and the report of the review body was published on 8 May 2000. A follow-up conference will take place on 5 & 6 June, to which 125 people have been invited, to discuss how to take the

recommendations forward.

## **RUSSIA**

- 1999 – “ The standard regulation on the social service body on youth affairs establishing”;
- 2000 - The State Committee of the Russian Federation on Youth policy Board decision “About the results of the realization of the state youth policy in the Russian Federation in 1999 and its perspectives in 2000”.

## **SCOTLAND**

- Youth strategies within local authorities are policy documents. Scottish Office Education and Industry Department (since devolution - Scottish Executive Education Department) Circular 4/99 "Community Education" specifically refers to engagement with young people as being at the heart of community learning;
- The 'Beattie report' - "Implementing Inclusiveness Realising Potential";
- The 'Social Justice' report - "A Scotland where Everyone Matters" (and the targets outlined).

## **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

A Conception on the State Youth policy will be drafted and submitted to the Government in December 2000.

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

- Progress report youth care 2000-2003 (drafted and published);
- Memorandum on intersectoral cooperation on youth policy: “Jeugdbeleid in Ba(la)ns”;
- Frameworks for policy on child care and foster care.

## **TURKEY**

The 8<sup>th</sup> development plan for five years has been started at the second half of 1999 and has been reached to a complete level. According to this plan including the years 2001-2004 , the studies which are questioning the problems of youth sector in our country and what kind of youth policy is going to be followed has been continued.

## **UKRAINE**

- Decrees of the President of Ukraine of 06.10.99 “On the Primary Measures in Realisation of the State Youth Policy and Support of Youth organisations” and “On the measures guaranteeing youth employment”;
- Resolution of the Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) of 06.07.99 “On the recommendations of the Parliamentary hearings to the practical activity of executive bodies concerning the implementation of the state youth policy legislation”;
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 18.06.99 “On the realisation of the state youth policy”

## **WALES**

A major youth policy report is currently being drafted by the Policy Unit of the National Assembly for Wales. This report will be considered and taken forward by the National Assembly later in this calendar year. \_

## **VI. Youth issues in the current public debate**

### **AUSTRIA**

- youth employment/unemployment;
- prevention of addiction and violence;
- youth participation;
- political education

### **BULGARIA**

One of the major problems is the self-awareness of Bulgarian young people as Bulgarians, which is part of the wider generation problem in our country. The dynamics of the social processes is still trying to catch up with the attitudes of the public consciousness. Young people (in the way they perceive the circumstances ) are not enough respected neither by the society in general, nor by the public institutions. These problems are more serious in the regions and rural areas.

Almost all surveys of public opinion are showing that for the majority of the young people in Bulgaria the most significant problems are: the economical situation (their own and of their families) and the lack of clear perspective for their future.

Another problem is the still insufficient youth participation in the community life.

### **BELGIUM (FLANDERS)**

These are a few selected themes involved and coming to the fore in the "public debate" concerning the "youth" theme: genuine interest in and respect for youth and its culture, participation, physical and psychic space for children and youngsters, responsibility and involvement of youngsters in community work ...

### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

The application of The Convention on the Rights of the Child; the participation of the youth in the civil life; the fight against violence and drugs; the problems of the minorities - are the most significant issues in the current public debate on youth in the Czech Republic.

At the end of 2000 the brochure named: „The selected Chapters to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Children the Czech Republic" was edited in Czech

### **CROATIA**

The issue of addictions among youth has been discussed very much in public. It is still very often debated on the issue of the departure of youth intelligence from Croatia, employment, the way that youth spend their free time, restricting young people in going out very late(bars, discos) etc.

## **CYPRUS**

Drugs, criminal behaviour, unemployment, social exclusion, AIDS.

## **DENMARK**

As it is common for the media, the focus during the last year has especially been on the negative stories, there is to tell about Danish youth. There has therefore been a public debate on problems like drug- and alcohol abuse, violence and the difficulties around ethnical integration.

## **ENGLAND**

The Home Office reported that the biggest issues mentioned by young people were poor quality education and careers guidance on sex and relationships. They also complained of a lack of things to do and nowhere to go. However, the wider debate is around the PAT 12 issues of lack of co-ordination on youth policy and services at local and national level. PAT 12 looked at how policy on youth in central Government and services at local level are disjointed and formed without taking account of young people's views. It makes recommendations to remedy this, e.g. consulting young people on youth policy, 'Listen Up' is an example of how this was taken forward.

The most significant issues are:

- the implications of policies such as new targeting, social need and equality;
- encouraging greater involvement by young people in planning, assessment of need and evaluation;
- developing inter-sectoral and inter-agency links;
- the need for a more cohesive approach to policy;
- a clear career structure for youth workers;
- greater use of ICT

## **ESTONIA**

The main public debates in 1999 tackled the following topics: youth work at local level, youth information and counselling which was mainly linked with the annual youth information fair "Teeviit", and the growing problem of youth and drug abuse.

## **FINLAND**

- Drug abuse (intoxicant abuse) among young people;
- Satanism;
- Learning difficulties as a central factor for exclusion;
- Housing shortages in growth centres;
- After-school activities.

## **GEORGIA**

- Employment;
- leisure time;
- problems of young families.

## **GERMANY**

Fight against youth unemployment and measures/programmes for social integration of youth.

## **HUNGARY**

There are public debates on the regional youth services, on the housing programme aimed at young people, on properties of NGOs.

## **ICELAND**

- Education;
- debate against drugs, alcohol and smoking;
- the importance of young people %s participation in different (various) activities in the society;
- the importance of educating leaders and others who work within the youth field.

## **LIECHTENSTEIN**

- government proposal of a school reform;
- violence in schools;
- alcohol abuse of young people as responsibility of adults ( selling of alcohol to children and youngsters);
- decriminalisation of the consumption of soft drugs;
- leisure time activities for children;
- improving public transport for young people at night;
- participation of young people and their view on national policy.

## **LITHUANIA**

- Employment/unemployment;
- living standards (particularly housing, insufficiency of existing social support system/ or lack of social support in the context of the today's poverty);
- education (particularly higher education, non-formal education);
- criminality among youth;
- health (particularly healthy life-style issues: alcohol, drug abuse, smoking, abortion, suicide);
- military service
- elf-realisation/self-expression of young people; active participation in the life of society.

## **LUXEMBOURG**

Parliamnetary debates on the topic "Young people in difficulties".

## **MALTA**

EU membership, teen-pregnancy, drug abuse, unemployment.

## **MOLDOVA**

- Protection of social rights of young persons;
- youth participation.

## **NORWAY**

Questions linked with marginalisation, drop-outs, drug-abuse, criminality are the major problems. Education and housing are together with a starting discussion on voting age are the more positive approaches in the discussion.

## **RUSSIA**

- Drug addiction, juvenile crime;
- demographic situation, the young family;
- young people's employment;
- professional army, civil service.

## **SPAIN**

At present the most significant debates concerning youth are related to health matters, eating disorders: Anorexia, bulimia, drug addictions, violence, volunteer service and the high youth unemployment rate.

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

- Vandalism, drop out and marginalisation of groups of young people;
- Integration of children from ethnic minorities;
- Youth participation;
- Sexual child abuse.

## **TURKEY**

The most important issue in the present circumstance is to carry out the education reform which will prepare our young people for 21<sup>st</sup> century. Throughout the studies launched in 1997, our most essential goal is to bring up young people who have tendency to search and technological developments and of contemporary education.

## **UKRAINE**

- Annual report on the situation of young people in Ukraine sent to the President of Ukraine, to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, to the Verkhovna Rada;
- annual Parliamentary hearings on the same issue.

## **WALES**

The most significant issues are how to set in place an effective and accessible system of advice and support to help young people make a successful transition to adulthood.

## **VII. Facts and figures**

## **AUSTRIA**

In 1999 the third government report on the situation of young people in Austria was published (life styles, youth participation, supportive measures for youth services). The English version was published in March 2000.

## **BELGIUM (FLANDERS)**

The need for solid (long-term) scientific research is felt more and more. In a first step, a longitudinal scientific research project into youth work policy planning and its effects was set up. In the future, this project should yield a set of instruments for permanent evaluation and adjustment of the youth work policy.

In accordance with the International Rights Treaty on the Rights of the Child, the Parliament of Flanders appointed a Flemish Commissioner for the Rights of the Child. The Ministry of Flanders (including the Youth and Sport Division) must annually report on the extent to which progress was made in the field of children's rights.

## **BULGARIA**

Important role in the implementation of youth policy has the declaration of the Parliament (on CYPES initiative) for adoption of the principles of the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life. The declaration supports the Regional Youth Councils in their cooperation with the local authorities.

## **CROATIA**

There are two young persons (younger than 30) in the new composition of the Croatian parliament who have been very active in the field of youth issues so far.

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

The facts concerning the situation of young people in the Czech Republic are involved into the text of the Report on the application of the Rights of the child.

The research focused on the information system for the children and youth in the Czech Republic and on the level of rendering its services to young people in the Czech Republic, is being effected.

At present, The outline and methodology of the Information Centres for youth in the Czech Republic is being elaborated.

## **ENGLAND**

A Department for Education and Employment secondee is working with the UK Youth Parliament Steering (UKYP) Group on arrangements to deliver the first sitting of the Youth Parliament in the spring of 2001. The idea of the UK Youth Parliament was first announced in July 1999. The aim of the UKYP will be to give young people aged 11-18 a national voice which will be listened to by Government and political parties.

## **DENMARK**

The generation of young people is very small in numbers these years. That means there is a huge demand for the young people in the labour market, and the different sectors of the educational system tries to attract the demanded young people. Again this means that the unemployment rate for young people is fairly small. All this gives young people a high value which affects the public debate in a positive way.

## **FINLAND**

As a result of the relative and absolute decrease in the number of young people, every young person counts in society and it is important to get every young person to take an active part in employment and social life (debate emerging).

## **GERMANY**

- Shell Youth Survey (to appear april 2000);
- German Youth Institute Youth Survey (to appear may 2000).

## **ICELAND**

It is traditional in Iceland that young people are greatly involved in the labour-market. Therefore we have very low unemployment. In the age group 16-24 in the year 1999 the unemployment was 4,4%. Young people in Iceland have overall good access to computers and are very active on the internet.

## **LIECHTENSTEIN**

There is a notable development which has a slightly negative impact on the vocational and job situation for young people.

## **LUXEMBURG**

The RMG law (the minimum guaranteed income). In order to get a RMG the age limit was brought down to 25 years.

## **MOLDOVA**

Youth Centers were opened in several in counties; the youth NGOs became more active in regions.

## **RUSSIA**

The State Committee of the Russian Federation on Youth Policy annual report "The situation with young people in the Russian Federation 1998-1999" is being prepared for print.

## **SCOTLAND**

The Scottish Parliament is committed to becoming more accessible to young people and is keen to engage with them - as well as all members of the general public served by it.

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

There is a biennial report on youth, "the Youth Barometer" with recent data on youth and youth policy in the Netherlands.

## **TURKEY**

With the education reform which was started in 1997 computer laboratories and internet networks have been launched to establish in the educational institutions starting from primary school level. In this framework, it has been observed that young population who knows foreign languages, who are able to use computers and are in world problems more closely thanks to the Internet.

## **UKRAINE**

- Increased number of youth organisations in Ukraine: in 1998 there were 66 All-Ukrainian NGOs, now there are 84 All-Ukrainian NGOs and nearly 1500 oblast and regional youth NGOs;
- Development of volunteer movement in Ukraine;
- Increased number of Centres of Social Services for Youth (at present there are 545 Centres in Ukraine);
- Increased political activity of young people during 1999 Presidential elections (70 % of youth have voted);
- The main youth problems in Ukraine: employment (38% of all unemployed people in Ukraine are young people), part-time employment (considerable attention is being paid to the development of the network of working student summer camps and youth working groups). HIV/AIDS (Ukraine rates first among CIS countries in HIV/AIDS spreading). Increasing crime rate among youth. Improvement of the health of young people (In 1999 the State Committee of Ukraine gave 1000 young people and 90 student families the possibility to improve their health).