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EUROPEAN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH (CDEJ)

Table on recent developments in the national implementation of youth policies

Tableau sur les développements récents dans la mise en œuvre nationale des politiques de jeunesse

**Please feel free to share your country's good practices in the
implementation of recent Committee of Ministers' recommendations in the
field of youth**

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Country	Update on recent developments in national implementation of policies <i>(new national laws, initiatives, etc)</i>
Albania/ Albanie	<p data-bbox="300 264 528 293">Updated May 2019</p> <p data-bbox="300 324 1520 423">With the new formatting of the Government in Albania, youth policies passed to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, where for the first time in Albania, a Deputy Minister was appointed for Youth Affairs.</p> <p data-bbox="300 454 1520 521">Regarding the implementation of youth policies, we are currently working with the National Action Plan for Youth 2015-2020. This plan consists of six main objectives, such as:</p> <ul data-bbox="347 553 1458 808" style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging and participation of young people in democratic decision-making processes; • Encouraging youth employment through effective labour market policies; • Health, Sport and the Environment; • Youth Education; • Social Protection, • Culture and Volunteering, • Creation of the Youth Corps. <p data-bbox="300 846 464 875">YOUTH LAW</p> <p data-bbox="300 884 1520 1122">The purpose of this Draft-Law is to determine the role and responsibilities of public institutions at central and local level, regarding youth protection and empowerment, by proposing and establishing new structures at the municipal level, dedicated to addressing youth issues. In the framework of addressing all public and non-public actors, as actors with a very important role in addressing youth issues, the Draft-Law introduces the concept of the youth network, which includes, not only institutions and organizations, but young people as well. Their co-operation is expected to be accomplished through active, systematic, transparent, continuous and long-term interaction.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1131 1520 1229">The draft law was drafted by the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, with the contribution of representatives of line ministries, representatives of various youth organizations and civil society, with the support and assistance of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Olof Palme Center.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1261 1520 1359">During the drafting of the draft law, public consultations were held in 12 counties of the country, according to the provisions of Law no. 146/2014 "On Notification and Public Consultation". The law was published on 15.11.2018, on the public consultation website and there were no comments.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1391 1520 1458">The draft law was published on the official website of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth on 07.11.2018.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1489 512 1518">STUDENT CARD</p> <p data-bbox="300 1527 1520 1697">The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth is in the process of preparing the Student Card, which is included in the Law on Higher Education. The Council of Ministers' Draft-Decision "On the categories of services provided by state entities, which are obtained through the use of the student card", is intended to provide some categories of service with reduced cost or free services to be provided for the students by the state institutions.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1706 1520 1774">Benefit of these services will be for the students, who hold the student card as a unique document to receive reduced or zero rate services.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1783 1414 1812">This draft decision aims at facilitating the lives of students through provision of these services.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1821 1520 1919">The categories of services provided by the state entities will be in the fields of: arts and culture, health and social protection, education, sports and youth, transport, tourism and the environment, economy, finance, employment and training, local public services and defense.</p> <ul data-bbox="300 1951 1520 2083" style="list-style-type: none"> • Services provided by the state institutions in the field of art and culture will be through access to: libraries, museums, archaeological parks, cultural heritage sites and cultural monuments, art galleries, theater access, cinemas, cultural centers, the Center for Opening and Dialogue (COD) and activities in public squares.

- Services in the field of Health and Social Protection will be related to the provision of health insurance.
- Services in the field of Education, Sports and Youth will be through access to youth centers as well as access to and use of sports fields.
- Services in the field of Transport will be through provision of urban public transport.
- Services in the field of Tourism and Environment will consist of visits to historic places or facilities, access to zoos.
- Services in the field of Economy, Finance, Employment and Training will consist of vocational training courses.
- Local public services.
- Services in the field of defense will comprise training or qualification in higher military courses, schools or universities within the country, as well as services related to transportation, accommodation, food and healthcare expenses for the active military being educated, qualified or trained in a foreign country.

YOUTHCENTERS

Intense work has been done to provide tangible services to young people. Currently in Albania there are three Youth Centers (in Tirana, Vlorë and Korça). In each of these Centers, programs and continuous training, such as: career counseling, capacity building, public speaking training, leadership, etc., have been offered and continue to be offered cyclically. In 2019 there are also three new youth centers under construction in Lushnjë, Elbasan and Laç, which will add activities for more young people all over the country.

RYCO

Cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries and the Balkans in general Albanian government has a priority for creating stability and peace in the region and achieving common objectives for integration into the European Union. It is worth mentioning the last initiative from Berlin Process, where 6 Western Balkan Countries: Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia during the Paris summit have signed an agreement for the establishment of the Regional Cooperation Office for Youth, which is headquartered in Tirana, Albania. The mission of this office is to support activities that promote peoples' reconciliation, as well as programs for diversity, intercultural exchange, regional mobility, citizen participation and the promotion of democratic values.

Year 2019 will be marked with implementing three regional projects supported by the United Nations Peace Building Fund, the European Union and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The projects aim to raise capacities of RYCO, but also of secondary schools and youth organizations. They will foster reconciliation, support new youth exchanges and develop volunteerism in the region. The total budget for the three projects is over € 3,000,000.

PRACTICES

The National Program on Public Administration Practices, approved by DCM No. 395, dated 29.04.2015, aims at providing a qualifying experience for newly graduated young people and developing their professional skills in recognizing public administration. This program is already being developed annually.

The purpose of the National Labor Law Program is to gain a qualifying experience that influences the development of professional skills of young people and practical skills in acquaintance with the public administrative system. This program envisages the execution of work practices at the state administration at the central and domestic level and other public institutions for young professionals. The program aims to involve participants in an integrated work experience and interaction with career professionals at the public administration, with the intention of gaining a qualifying experience that influences the development of their professional and practical skills in acquaintance with the public administrative system. The applicants' age: Young people aged 21-26 years, holding a first cycle study program "Bachelor" degree. The program lasts three months and at the end, all participants are provided with a certificate from the Department of Public Administration, recognized as work experience. Meanwhile, every year about 200 of the most prominent practitioners are selected by the

	<p>institutions, where they have completed their internships to benefit a one-year employment contract with permanent employment opportunity thereafter. The selection of interns is carried out by each participating institution on the basis of performance evaluation, grade point average and title of study, corresponding to the profile of the job position.</p> <p>“NO HATE SPEECH” CAMPAIGN</p> <p>To date, a number of activities have been organized in Albania, and the national committee of this initiative has been set up, composed of the youth organizations, which have operated under a regulation.</p> <p>During 2018, the campaign has been inactive and a re-formatting of the committee is foreseen. Meanwhile, it is necessary to translate the materials of this campaign, such as: “BOOKMARKS” and “YES WE CAN”.</p> <p>This campaign in Albania has found financial support by UNFPA, Olof Palme Center and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation.</p> <p>PRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH IN ALBANIA</p> <p>The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, in cooperation with the European Youth Foundation, hosted the training on “Presentation of the European Foundation for Youth”, which took place in the premises of Hotel Bleart, Durres, from March 25th to March 27th, 2019. The training was attended by 34 young representatives from various youth organizations from all over the country, three representatives from EYF, who were the trainers of this event, as well as, two representatives from Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and National Youth Service, who took care of the organization and the well-being of all training.</p>
Andorra/ Andorre	<p>Updated October 2020</p> <p>Avec la formation du nouveau gouvernement en 2019, les affaires de jeunesse font partie du Ministère des Affaires Sociales, Logement et Jeunesse du Gouvernement d'Andorre, gérées par l'Aire de la Participation et la Promotion de la Jeunesse et du Bénévolat. La structure de coordination entre les niveaux local et national a été aussi renouvelée pour améliorer la communication entre les institutions publiques et le secteur associatif.</p> <p>Dans ce nouveau cadre politique et institutionnel, les politiques de jeunesse ont été incluses dans l'agenda « Horitzó 2023 » qui développe les priorités du gouvernement pour les prochaines années. Dans notre secteur, le but est d'améliorer les conditions de vie, d'émancipation et d'épanouissement des jeunes, tout en assurant la protection des jeunes mineurs, la participation dans une société plurale et l'accès aux droits fondamentaux.</p> <p>Pour ce fait, plusieurs mesures ont déjà été mises en place :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. L'étude nationale <i>Moviment Jove</i> (Mouvement Jeune) qui a été réalisé en 2019 avec la participation de près d'un 10% des jeunes du pays a permis de renouveler les priorités des politiques nationales et locales et d'engager les administrations publiques à donner une réponse pour chacune des propositions des jeunes. b. Le Conseil National de la Jeunesse de l'Andorre (FNJA) a commencé son propre étude pour renouveler son organisation interne et garantir l'achèvement de sa mission de représenter les jeunes et protéger ses intérêts devant les administrations publiques et la société générale. c. Le gouvernement est en train de réviser les conditions pour promouvoir l'associationnisme et le support aux projets des jeunes. 2. Information <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Le guide national des ressources de jeunesse sera complètement digitalisé avec une nouvelle structure qui permettra aux jeunes et travailleurs de jeunesse un accès plus agile et naturel aux moyens tels que les bourses d'étude, les aides et les services déjà existants mais parfois méconnus.

	<p>b. La réforme du guide des ressources entraîne aussi une reformulation du guide des formations. Le Centre d'Orientation Éducative et Professionnelle, géré par le Gouvernement, doit réviser ainsi sa mission et les méthodes pour s'adapter aux conditions et besoins actuels.</p> <p>3. Qualité de vie</p> <p>a. Le programme des aides au logement est en marche pour permettre l'émancipation des jeunes, notamment avec des aides à la caution et au loyer.</p> <p>b. Il est prévu de renforcer le plan national contre les addictions (PNCD) avec des nouvelles approches dans les prochaines années.</p> <p>c. En 2021 le transport public offrira à tous les jeunes de 12 à 18 ans un abonnement annuel à un prix très réduit. Le but est d'augmenter graduellement l'âge et de diminuer le prix pour réduire les émissions et promouvoir une mobilité durable.</p> <p>4. Emploi</p> <p>a. Des collaborations transfrontalières à travers les programmes Interreg - POCTEFA offrent aux jeunes de l'Andorre des nouvelles opportunités pour travailler dans les régions françaises et espagnoles voisines grâce à des offres de travail spécifiques et le support d'un réseau dédié à cette mobilité (Projet Trampoline) https://fr.reseau-trampoline.eu/</p> <p>b. À travers la loi pour l'égalité et la non-discrimination adoptée en 2019, le gouvernement prépare un programme de soutien à l'emploi des secteurs de la population plus défavorisés (notamment les jeunes de moins de 25 ans)</p> <p>c. Pour les jeunes adolescents en risque d'exclusion, le gouvernement andorran travaille sur un programme de formation socioprofessionnelle pour renforcer l'intégration des jeunes d'entre 16 et 25 ans qui sont déjà sous la supervision du département des affaires sociales. Ce service est adapté aux besoins de chaque jeune et offre une alternative au plan de l'amélioration de l'employabilité déjà existant, le <i>Focus 16-20</i>.</p> <p>5. Protection sociale</p> <p>a. La publication de la loi du droit de l'enfant et l'adolescent en 2019 a permis de consolider la protection des mineurs et de soutenir une nouvelle réglementation qui est en plein développement.</p> <p>b. Des nouveaux protocoles vont être mis en place pour améliorer la capacité d'action des services sociaux en cas de mauvais traitements ou abus sexuel du mineur.</p> <p>c. Désormais, certains services de protection et aide au mineur peuvent être prolongés jusqu'à l'âge de 21 ans pour assurer l'intégration des jeunes sous la tutelle de l'état.</p>
Armenia/ Arménie	<p>Updated February 2021</p> <p>State Youth Policy Situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia began to organize development works of the new Strategy for the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Armenia 2021-2025. <p>For the development of the Strategy will be taken into account the report and the recommendations contained therein of the Council of Europe youth policy advisory mission to Armenia from 16-18 July, 2019.</p> <p><i>In the framework of the state youth policy a number of important projects will be implemented in Armenia in 2021.</i></p> <p>Especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Youth Capital of the Republic of Armenia of the year" project <p>As a result of competition in 2019 Kapan was declared the youth capital of the Republic of Armenia in 2020. It was planned to implement many local, regional and republican events in Kapan in 2020. Due to the Covid-19 the events were rescheduled to 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of events dedicated to the International Youth Day by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia

	<p>The Ministry coordinates the events and projects dedicated to the day by state, local and international organizations, young people, youth NGOs and other NGOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of “Training for youth non-governmental organizations” project <p>The project's goal is to promote the activities of youth NGOs operating in Armenia and develop the capacities and skills of non-governmental organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of “Youth Workers Training” project <p>The project's goal is to strengthen capacities of specialists involved in youth work, work with young people and work aimed at solving youth problems .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "No Hate Speech" movement, it continues in Armenia through volunteers and NGOs.
Austria/ Autriche	<p>Updated February 2021</p> <p>With the new federal government, responsibility for youth policy has been transferred to the Federal Chancellery.</p> <p>Education/Training until 18:</p> <p>The goal of “Education/Training until 18” is that each young person completes secondary education (upper secondary school, VET school or an (supra-company) apprenticeship) until the age of 18. In this regard, the number of dropouts as well as NEETs shall be decreased significantly. The law contributes to more equal opportunities due to the fact that more counselling by youth coaches and training opportunities especially for disadvantaged youth are currently provided. If young people under 18 leave their education without a certificate they can get support tailored to their needs. https://ausbildungbis18.at/en/</p> <p>An accompanying study shows that youth work with its measures and activities can very well reach young people with fewer educational opportunities and is therefore an essential partner in the implementation of this initiative.</p> <p>aufZAQ – Quality of Trainings and Competence in Youth work</p> <p>aufZAQ offers the certification of basic and further educations and training courses for people active in youth work and accompanying fields since 2003. The aufZAQ Office provides consultation and support for providers of training courses who are interested in the certification program and already certified trainings.</p> <p>The aufZAQ competence framework for youth work was developed between 2015 and 2017 and has since become a binding standard for the training of youth workers in Austria. It outlines how people active in youth work act competently and covers open youth work and the work of children's and youth associations.</p> <p>The Competence Framework for Youth Work makes competences of youth workers visible and comparable. For people in and outside the field, the framework makes clear what people, who are active in youth work, do and what quality standards they have. It stimulates the development of key competences, which benefit children and young people, and motivates the increase of quality of the range of education. People inside the working field are encouraged to engage in networking, co-operations, development and mutual recognition of education.</p> <p>Further Information on the Competence Framework for Youth Work is available on following Website https://www.aufzaq.at/english/ (EN) Download the Competence Framework for Youth Work: Competence Framework (pdf)</p> <p>The Competence Framework for Youth Work also works as a translation tool for educational offers for youth workers to the Austrian National Qualification Framework (NQF). Since 2019, aufZAQ works as a NQF-service point, advises and supports through the process of mapping non-formal qualifications to the NQF. The first assignments to the National Qualifications Framework took place in December 2020.</p> <p>aufZAQ is funded by the of Austrian Federal Chancellery and the Youth Departments of the Federal States of Austria.</p>

Austrian Youth Strategy

The Austrian Youth Strategy, coordinated by the Federal Chancellery, is a process designed to strengthen and develop youth policy throughout Austria. The goal of this strategy is to bring together policies and measures for young people, to make them systematic and to optimise their effectiveness.

Four fields of action are important for the Austrian Youth Strategy:

1. Learning and Employment
2. Participation and Initiative
3. Quality of Life and a Spirit of Cooperation
4. Media and Information

The Federal Chancellery considers itself to be the impetus behind this initiative. The implementation of these measures is the task and responsibility of those involved in shaping policy and it must be supported by a broad youth policy consensus.

The renewed Austrian Youth Strategy was developed further in line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027.

As part of the Austrian Youth Strategy, each federal ministry developed and defined one or more national "youth objectives" within its own sphere of competence. The youth objectives defined by the federal ministries can unite the existing, build on the existing, integrate new aspects, take current phenomena as a starting point or combine them. Regardless of how visionary, comprehensive or focused the youth objective is formulated, it should express the ministry's efforts to improve conditions for young people in Austria.

At the same time existing youth aspects are identified in national action plans and strategies in order to create an overview of activities in the various federal ministries that goes beyond the definition of youth objectives.

Within the reorientation of the Austrian Youth Strategy, it is important for the Federal Chancellery that the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2018:456:FULL&from=EN>); and the European Youth Goals www.youthgoals.eu/ are implemented appropriately. This was also reflected in the decision of the Austrian Council of Ministers of 24th October 2018. It stated that the European Youth Goals should be taken into account. The 11 European Youth Goals are considered in the reorientation process of the Austrian Youth Strategy in three ways:

- In a first step, all federal ministries were informed about the Youth Goals
- Each defined national youth objective is assigned to a European Youth Goal

The measures, which contribute to the national youth objectives will be assigned to the European Youth Goals. The Federal Government took up the further implementation of the Austrian Youth Strategy, as well as the commitment to the European Youth Goals within its government programme 2020-2024.

With decision of the Austrian Council of Ministers of 30th September 2020 the Austrian Youth Strategy started its next phase.

Measures are now being developed for 28 youth objectives. A coordinator for the Austrian Youth Strategy has been appointed in each federal ministry. A coordination round (leading by the Youth Competence Centre at the Federal Chancellery) has the task of ensuring that youth objectives are now also processed on an inter-ministerial basis. The experiences from Covid-19 are also reflected and any new youth objectives are developed.

Youth participation

During the development of the Austrian Youth Strategy, youth participation has played and will continue to play a central role. Youth participation is also one of the 4 fields of action of the Austrian Youth Strategy.

A core criterion of the Austrian Youth Strategy is the active **inclusion** of young people. Outcomes of existing participation processes with young people (for example the EU youth dialogue, European Youth Goals) will be taken into account.

	<p>To take into account the views of young people in the youth objectives of the Austrian Youth Strategy and to receive new impulses and suggestions, the youth objectives of the respective federal ministries were reflected in groups of young people ("Reality Check"). Discussion and exchange of ideas with young people were the main focus, not the representativeness. Reality Checks are continued when defining measures. Therefore, the federal ministries also have the possibility to reflect the measures with organisations that have expertise with young peoples' needs (e.g. national youth council, youth organisations, open youth work, youth information etc.)</p> <p>No Hate Speech</p> <p>The National Committee "No Hate Speech", which was founded in 2016, continues its work in Austria. Meanwhile more than 30 different organisations and institutions are actively taking part in the committee to focus measures against hate speech. The committee published a "No Hate Speech Media Package" which is updated regularly. The digital list includes online platforms, workshop offerings and advice on available printed materials such as flyers, guides, brochures and manuals.</p> <p>For further information and activities (e.g. promotion video, YouTube channel) please see www.nohatespeech.at</p> <p>Infosheets Youth Policy and Youth Work</p> <p>The Infosheets provide compact information on youth policy topics, also in English:: https://www.women-families-youth.bka.gv.at/youth/youth-policy-in-austria/infosheets.html</p>
Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	<p>Updated March 2019</p> <p>Implementation of the State Program "Azerbaijani Youth" continues, which covers 2017-2021. Within the framework of the program activities such as youth health protection, youth employment, and entrepreneurship activities, awareness-raising activities on human rights and gender equality, development of volunteerism and revealing youth's creative potential are being implemented. In 2018, 183 events were held by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in the field of youth policy, of which 165 were local and 18 were international.</p> <p>On March 7, 2018, the legal status of the Azerbaijan Youth Foundation was changed and the new charter was approved. According to the new charter, the Foundation will finance projects for individual youth and youth organizations, including the payment of tuition fees for young people in need of social protection. Support of youth participation in internship programs in international organizations, implementation of a project that attracts youth participation in workplace and funding in innovative projects and start-ups by preferential loans are also part of the new charter.</p> <p>From May 1, 2018, the project "Creating new bases for supporting young people's active participation in global political discussions" is being implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the United Nations Development Program. Within the Project, 17 Young Ambassador on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been selected for a two-year term, and SDG's goals are being promoted by them.</p> <p>The National Forum on Human Rights and Citizenship Education with Young People in Azerbaijan was organized by the Council of Europe Youth Department and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 10 December 2018. It was dedicated to the launching of Azerbaijani versions of "Compass", a manual on human rights education with young people, and of "Have your say!", a manual on the participation of young people in local and regional life".</p> <p>The Forum brought together partners and actors from the youth, education and human rights sectors to reflect on the state of play of human rights and citizenship education in Azerbaijan. Also, during Forum the participants of two projects jointly realized by the Ministry of Youth and Sport and Council of Europe Youth Department - "Long-term training course on human rights education and democratic citizenship for youth multipliers and trainers from Azerbaijan" and "National training-course on democratic citizenship and youth participation for specialists from authorities at national, regional and local level working with young people and for representatives of youth non-</p>

	<p>governmental organisations from Azerbaijan" were awarded with the certificates.</p> <p>Initially, Azerbaijan Management Academy is planning to start a new course about management of the youth sector and youth policy for the very first time. The aim of this course will be the management of the youth sector, identifying youth policy models, learning the international practice, identifying main objectives of Azerbaijan youth policy and others.</p>
Belarus/ Bélarus	<p>Updated February 2021</p> <p>The State Programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-25 was adopted (Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, January 29, 2021 No. 57).</p> <p>Key areas of implementation are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ young people's citizen and patriotic upbringing; ○ participation in civic life and youth initiatives ○ career building and youth entrepreneurship; ○ family values; ○ a healthy lifestyle; ○ youth employment and entrepreneurship and access for young people to the labour market; ○ youth involvement in student work team movement; ○ children's and youth public associations' activities; ○ talented and gifted youth; ○ participation of young people in the cultural life of the country, regardless of the region of residence. <p>The national youth parliament has been launched in Belarus. The aim is to support the civic engagement and active participation of young people in social and political life; to support dialogue and exchange of good practices in youth work, to actively take part in decision-making processes in the youth field, and to encourage the political culture.</p> <p>Members of the Youth Parliament at the National Assembly of Belarus launched the MOVE FORWARD platform. The goal of the platform is to consolidate young people who want the progress of Belarus in the future. Young people will be able to present their idea or project on the development of Belarus in various fields.</p> <p>Information and Educational Project "A School of Active Citizens" ("STEP") is carrying out since 2019. The main objective of the project is to expand the knowledge of young people about political and socio-economic life in the Republic of Belarus, to improve analytical skills and critical thinking, to facilitate discussions on a wide range of youth issues, to give the opportunities for young people to contribute into the social and political life of the country.</p> <p>17 Youth Ambassadors were elected for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) the auspices of the United Nations Organization. Ambassadors will promote the SDGs goals, raise awareness at the local and national level, and make young people familiar with ideas and principles of the SDGs.</p> <p>Public Organization "Belarusian Republican Youth Union" (BRSM) and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) have signed a cooperation agreement. The BRSM have become an official member of the European Youth Card Association.</p> <p>The Head of Youth Department of the Council of Europe Ms. Antje Rotemund visited Minsk from 24 to 26 February 2020 with support of the Council of Europe Information Point in Minsk. During the visit Ms. Rothemund visited the National Center for Art Creativity of Children and Youth, where she had a meeting with Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus Mr Alexander Kadlubay and took part in foresight discussion on the topic "Modern forms of youth participation in the formation and implementation of the state youth policy" with the participation of representatives of youth social organizations, deputies.</p> <p>Ms. Rothemund also visited the Republican Institute for Higher Education, where she met with the rector of Institute Mr Victor Gaisenok, and met with members of projects and programs of the</p>

	<p>Department of youth policy of the Council of Europe, and took part in the round table "Training and professional development of specialists in work with youth in the Republic of Belarus", https://coe.bsu.by/index.php/en/32-news-en/300-25-02-2020-en</p> <p>Ministry of Education, public youth associations, youth councils and advisory bodies, student self-governance bodies, student union committees, social and psychological services, departments for youth affairs at educational establishments carry out information campaigns and give advice to young people on how to stay safe via a number of online meetings, social networks, handouts, guidelines, instructions etc.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus promotes the prevention measures and provides assistance to educational establishments.</p> <p>Extra findings and organizational support were given to support information campaigns and other activities preventing the spread of COVID 19.</p> <p>The Republican Volunteer Center directly coordinates and monitors these activities, http://rvcvolunteers.by/. Professional/paid youth workers are fully engaged in implementation of comprehensive public health measures.</p> <p>Temporary guidelines for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 for youth and children summer camps 2020 was introduced, Volunteering and students' work team, Youth NGOs, Youth centres, Youth social services, children and youth summer camps, departments of youth affairs at educational establishment, out-of-school and after school clubs, and others were committed to implement some measures in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>Ministry of Education, Republican Volunteer Center with the support of the UNICEF Children's Fund in Belarus carry out the project: #AntiCOVID -19.</p> <p>Grodno was assigned as the Youth Capital of the Republic of Belarus in 2021.</p>
Belgium/ Belgique	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <p>UPDATE YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENTS FLEMISH COMMUNITY OF BELGIUM</p> <p>(dd. 17 September 2020 – a document with more detailed information is available on demand)</p> <p>I. FLEMISH YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS POLICY PLAN</p> <p>Coordination and consultation</p> <p>With the decision of the Flemish Government of 7 September 2018, the Flemish Government aims at a concrete youth and children's rights policy plan with a strong coordination role of the Flemish Minister for Youth;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + horizontal consultation within the framework of the reflection group on youth and children's rights policy; + vertical consultation by the Flemish ministers within their domain; a network of contact points for youth and children's rights policy within eleven Flemish policy areas. <p>NEW CONCEPT: ACTION-ORIENTED PLAN</p> <p>Limited number of cross-policy themes!</p> <p>In 2018, the Flemish Government decided to turn the Flemish Youth and Children's Rights Policy Plan into an action-oriented plan. We want to elaborate a limited number of complex, cross-policy themes per coalition period in an action-oriented and project-based manner, and to set aside an annual budget for this purpose. From 2021 onwards, all of the actions within the five priorities will be operationalised.</p> <p><u>The five priority objectives</u></p> <p>1. Well-being and positive identity development</p> <p>Children and young people need to feel good about themselves, wherever they are. More and more young people are coming under pressure. In addition, suicide is one of the main causes of death among young people. Violence at school, stress, pressure to perform, transgressive behavior, questions about diversity and gender ... it causes more and more young people to have</p>

a hard time. A study by De Ambrassade shows that 38% of the surveyed young people between 14 and 25 years of age do not feel good about themselves. The Flemish government wants to give children and young people the necessary resilience to deal with these challenges. One of the ways this is being accomplished is by adopting a coordinated approach with regard to (cyber)bullying. In collaboration with various partners, a platform on (cyber)bullying is being built. The Flemish government is investing a total 140 000 euros into the development of this digital platform. The goal is to have a policy advisory platform that is accessible to diverse audiences, including children and young people, by 2024. Between January and March the proposal for the project was discussed among the various partners and reworked based on their input. The decision by the Flemish Minister for Youth is slated for April and the project is expected to start in July.

Regarding youth work and resilience, continued support will be given to the anti-racism and discrimination network. In 2018-2019, the network was launched and a toolbox of general guiding principles was put together. In 2021, work on these tools will continue in order to address polarization, provide guidance and training to youth organisations, amplify the voices of children and young people and address racism in a digital online manner. Between January and March, the mission was made more concrete and the milestones and objectives were established in cooperation with the main youth work organisations. The goal is to increase the number of available practical handholds and the level of expertise in the field of youth work by 2022.

2. Healthy and livable neighborhoods

The Flemish government wants to focus on healthy and livable neighborhoods for children and young people. Young people are very involved in the climate challenges and the future of the planet. These challenges start locally: every child and young person has the right to grow up in a healthy environment. In addition, our children and young people have to grow up in good and healthy neighborhoods: with quality housing, sufficient 'hanging space', access to relaxation, accessibility, ... It is important that the voice of children and young people is included in the design and design of our public spaces.

Public spaces are being made friendlier to children and young people by involving them in the design of their neighborhoods. For example, a process of capacity building regarding the elimination of structural barriers in the youth-friendly design of neighborhoods is underway. This began in February when there was a horizontal consultation between children, young people, representatives of committed ministers and experts in the field. That led to a conversation with the Flemish Government Architect in March about how to make neighborhoods more child and youth friendly.

A second action within this priority is the commitment to the multifunctional use of infrastructure with specific attention to the youth work sector. For instance, a new project call for the multifunctional and shared use of school sports infrastructure (including school playgrounds) is being prepared. A process of consultation took place between January and February. The project call is set to launch in early March.

3. Engagement in society through voluntary commitment

The Flemish government wants to ensure that children and young people can actively contribute to society. The government wants to encourage them to become involved voluntarily. Children and young people must be given time and space to get involved in society. The strength of the voice of children and young people plays an important role. This voluntary commitment must be recognised and appreciated.

Red tape can put a damper on the engagement of young people. That is why the Flemish government is committing to solution based strategies through a coordinated approach in order to identify instances of red tape and other barriers. The goal is to share good practices for addressing red tape and barriers in the voluntary engagement of children and young people with other local governments.

4. Leisure activities for all

The Flemish government wants all children and young people to enjoy their leisure time to the full. To this end, an integrated leisure policy is being pursued. This means that all children and young people must have access to a quality leisure offer. There are still too many obstacles. Children in reception centres, children with disabilities or children in poverty: for example, a quarter of socio-economically disadvantaged young people have never been members of a sports club. The Flemish government wants to address this with an inclusive and diverse leisure policy.

One of the ways this is being realised is the development of an awareness campaign specifically aimed towards children and young people with disabilities in out-of-school child care and leisure

	<p>settings. The goal of this campaign is to provide answers to the real needs among children and young people with disabilities. In January consultations regarding the approach to the campaign began. In March the name, concept and relevant stakeholders will be determined. The campaign itself is expected to take place at the end of 2021 or 2022 depending on the time it takes to survey the desired number of stakeholders.</p> <p>5. Media literacy</p> <p>The Flemish government wants to strengthen children and young people as critical thinking and media-wise citizens. Children and young people need to build resilience, develop (digital) skills and have a wide range of opportunities to be informed, active and creative with all forms of online and offline media. They need to be familiar with terms such as fake-news, sexting, privacy, ... in order to find their way in a safe and informed way in an increasingly international and digital world. In order to help realise all of this, the Flemish government is improving the media literacy training of professional Youth Worker and Cultural Workers. Specifically, the Media Coach Training of the Knowledge Center for Media Literacy is set to be expanded by changing the relevant themes and methodologies to the youth sector. This will result in more professional youth workers who can coach their colleagues on media literacy and digital skills.</p> <p>The action journalism by children and young people aims to empower them as recipients, users and co-creators of media. This will be achieved by creating a network for youth journalism organisations, making an inventory of youth journalism activities in the field of Flemish youth work and setting up journalistic trajectories for children and young people.</p> <p>II. GENERATION RESILIENCE</p> <p>Generation Resilience is an action plan aimed at socially vulnerable children and young people in times of Covid-19. The plan is part of the broader policy vision for children and young people of the Flemish Government. The 4.5 million euro action plan came about after intense consultation with the broad sector and the many actors in the field. It contains six levers to better support vulnerable children and young people in times of Covid-19 and offer them perspective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local offerings of entertainment and information packages as well as digital material, all tailored to the needs of children and young people • Restart of youth work in youth services • Temporary support and assistance in specific problem situations in the leisure context • E-inclusion • Support for national and supra-local youth work • Project call "Connecting vulnerable children and youth to the neighborhood and the outside world" <p>Updated October 2018</p> <p>La Communauté française de Bruxelles poursuit la mise en œuvre du Mouvement contre le discours de Haine. Le Mouvement est actif en ligne et très engagé dans les contre-discours. Un cours en ligne a été créé, permettant aux Jeunes et aux travailleurs de Jeunesse de se former à comprendre et analyser les discours de haine. Des Jeunes belges francophones ont participé à une formation organisée au Mexique en juillet 18. La coordinatrice du Mouvement est active tant au niveau national qu'au niveau européen.</p> <p>Le BIJ a organisé une visite d'étude sur la participation des jeunes au niveau local avec des représentants de 12 pays européens en juin 18.</p>
Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Bosnie-Herzégovine	<p>Updated February 2021</p> <p>On July 4, 2016, Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Agreement on the Establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (hereinafter: RYCO) on the Western Balkans Summit in Paris. After the first RYCO open call for proposals (from 16 October till 15 November 2017) six projects from B&H received funds for the implementation of their projects. The total amount of funds allocated for projects in B&H was 151.504,47 euros. Some of the projects have been completed while some of them are still being implemented. Currently, the second RYCO open call for proposals has been completed and in coming period we will have information about the number of applicants from Bosnia and Herzegovina who submitted their applications.</p>

After the second RYCO open call (from 03 December till 25 January 2019) seven projects from B&H received funds for the implementation of their projects. The total amount of funds allocated for projects in B&H was 152.623,09 euros. The beneficiaries are civil society organizations and high schools.

The third RYCO open call for proposals (from 28 August till 15 October 2019) was aimed at supporting and empowering high schools to carry out activities in the areas of regional youth cooperation, mobility and youth exchange, strengthen their capacities and create a favorable environment for regional youth cooperation. The specific objectives of The third RYCO open call were reconciliation, intercultural dialogue and youth learning and participation. After this open call, three projects from B&H received funds for the implementation of their projects. The total amount of funds allocated for projects in B&H was 52.694,61 euros.

The RYCO's fourth Open Call for project proposals was published on August 31, 2020, and the deadline for submission of applications was October 12, 2020. The conditions for applying to the RYCO's fourth Open Call were that project proposals need to be based on a partnership with at least one partner from six Western Balkan countries. The total funding for the call was 330,000 euros. This Open Call was a kind of attempt to support civil society and youth cooperation in the region in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Although, its publication was originally planned for the beginning of the summer of 2020, the chronology and nature of the Call itself were very much adapted to the extraordinary events of the global pandemic. The RYCO's fourth Open Call plans to fund two applications submitted by civil society organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The application evaluation process is still ongoing and the publication of a preliminary list of approved projects is scheduled for the end of December 2020, provided that the RYCO Steering Committee provides final confirmation of approved applications.

The European Youth Card Association has a new member in Bosnia and Herzegovina. PRONI Center for youth development is a non-political organisation founded with the purpose of organising and implementing education in the field of social work with young people.

It was founded in 1998 with 30 active youth clubs across the country and 16 full time employees in the 5 different cities and offices. PRONI works very close to the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

European Youth Card program in Bosnia and Herzegovina started on International Youth Day and in 40 days of active program they issued 1000+ youth cards which are free until the end of the year, they have 40+ discounts in Bosnia, 2 educations in Niš Serbia, Neum Bosnia, 15+ free workshops in 10+ cities and they have 15000+ visits on their site www.omladinskakartica.ba.

One of the leading telecoms in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported European Youth Card program in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

There are currently over 60 discount providers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 2300 registered card users.

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs (Lisbon + 21 Declaration) and instructed the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina to establish a Working Group to draft a roadmap with recommendations to implement the measures defined in the Declaration, in cooperation with the competent ministries of the entities and cantons, the Department of *Expert and Administrative Affairs* of the Government of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Youth Council of Republika Srpska and the Youth Council of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the technical support of UNFPA in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in cooperation with experts hired by UNFPA, the activities to develop a roadmap with recommendations to implement the measures defined in the Declaration are in progress. In the forthcoming period, it is planned, in cooperation with UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to implement activities related to the implementation of Resolution CM/Res (2020)2 on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Youth Sector 2030, in terms of drafting certain guidelines to implement the Resolution in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bulgaria/ Bulgarie	<p>Updated February 2020</p> <p>The main strategic objective of national youth policy is to improve young people's quality of life and to establish conditions for the success of every young person by developing sustainable mechanisms for investing in youth as an important social capital and for mobilizing young people's potential for the development of the country and the EU. The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Bulgaria works for the promotion of European values such as solidarity, democracy and equality. Important part of the government policy is focused on the quality and the sustainability of youth progress, thus making the future of young people one of the main priorities in the Governance Programme until 2021.</p> <p>The National Youth Strategy (2010-2020) sets out the long-term goals and priorities of the governmental youth policy of the Republic of Bulgaria for a period of 10 years and it will expire by the end of 2020. Thus, currently the Ministry of Youth and Sports is in a process of drafting a new National Youth Strategy in line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027. In order to hear the voice of young people, to discuss the challenges and identify the key areas and priority themes that young people are interested in, within the process of development of the new National Youth Strategy, in 2019 the Ministry of Youth and Sports had 13 consultative meetings with young people and youth organizations in different cities in partnership with the municipal and district administrations. Such meetings were held in Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Varna, Burgas, Ruse, Veliko Tarnovo, Blagoevgrad, Sandanski, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Kardzhali and Sofia, with the active participation of about 3000 young people at the age of 15-29 years. The purpose of this process of consultations is to follow-up young people's attitudes and to give them a platform for direct involvement and for sharing their ideas for personal and professional development. In addition to young people, representatives of all stakeholders and local authorities took part in the debates too.</p> <p>We continue the implementation of the National Programme for Youth (2016-2020). Under the programme, the Ministry of Youth and Sports funds project proposals submitted by the youth organizations in the country. Implemented projects are in the areas of active citizenship, volunteering, personal and professional realization, career orientation of young people, social inclusion, healthy lifestyle, and entrepreneurship. Special attention is dedicated to raising opportunities for the young people in the smaller towns and remote areas.</p> <p>The Ministry of Youth and Sports implements a project for European cooperation in the youth sector and is already a part of the European youth policy platform (European Youth Correspondent, Youth Wiki). Youth Wiki is a platform with specific information for the development of youth sector in each country. The aim is to support the process of exchange of experience and cooperation in the field of youth policies at European level. Youth Wiki is one of the tools for the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy.</p> <p>The Ministry of Youth and Sports implements two projects funded under Operational Programme "Human resources development" (2014-2020) through the European Social Fund that have a direct impact over the field of youth policies. The projects are "National System for Planning, Monitoring and Reporting of the Implementation of Youth Policies" and "Development and Implementation of Quality Standards for Provision of Youth Services".</p> <p>Furthermore, the Ministry of Youth and Sports is a partner to the VIRAGO Project "Youth Agenda 2027 – Empowered Young Women for Sense of Active Citizenship and European Values", funded under the Erasmus+ Programme and implemented by Romania (leading partner), Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, Estonia and Turkey.</p>
Croatia/ Croatie	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <p>Until July 2020, national youth policy was within the scope of the Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy. Even though recognized as a unique field, youth policy is a shared domain across other ministries. In July 2020 Central State Office for Demography and Youth has been established.</p> <p>Croatia took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union on January 1st 2020, ending on June 30th 2020. Recognizing the problems faced by young people in rural areas, the following priorities have been defined:</p>

1. Opportunities for young people in rural and remote areas
2. Raising awareness of the youth sector by informing and strengthening resources
3. Encouraging EU Youth Dialogue (Cycle VII results)

During the Croatian Presidency, the Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy organized **EU Youth Conference „Opportunities for Rural Youth - How to Ensure the Sustainability of Rural Communities across the EU?“ (9th - 11th March 2020)**. EU Youth Conference was a 3rd conference within the previous Trio RO-FI-HR (Bucharest, Helsinki, Zagreb) and the biggest youth event during the Croatia's Presidency. The main goal of the Conference was to find a way to implement the conclusions and the results in relevant youth policies.

In addition to that, the Ministry organized **The Meeting Of The Directors General For Youth “Keep in Step with the Times - Equal Opportunities for Youth” (11th - 12th March 2020)**. The Meeting was opportunity for finding solutions to current issues which affect, in some way or another, all of the EU countries. Taking into account newly identified trends (urbanisation, demography, climate) which EU is nowadays faced with and which are very likely to influence youth policies in the future, there was a need to discuss how these issues could be addressed within a specific "young people in rural and remote areas" context.

Central State Office for Demography and Youth recognizes the importance of youth work development and therefore is focusing on professionalization of youth work in Croatia. Therefore, the project UP.02.1.1.07.0001 **"Support to the Development and Expansion of Youth Work in Croatia"** has been approved in July 2018 for which funding from the European Social Fund is envisaged. The duration of the project was 24 months, but it has been extended until March 2021. The implementation of project activities has started in regards of establishing a working group and by conducting research on youth work.

Further, Central State Office is involved in the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue under the Trio Presidency Germany-Portugal-Slovenia with the theme "Europe for YOUth – YOUth for Europe: Space for Democracy and Participation". The focus of the new cycle is on the European Youth Goal #9 Space and Participation for All and is running from 1st of July 2020 to 31st December 2021.

Central State Office for Demography and Youth is preparing a new **National Plan for Youth** with the aim of creating a positive, comprehensive and inclusive youth policy. This is a strategic document covering all relevant priority areas and public policy measures for young people, for the period 2022-2024.

Youth Advisory Board of Government of the Republic of Croatia is expected to be constituted for the new period of two years. Their task is to promote and advocate for the rights, needs and interests of young people at their local and regional level. Besides that, In Croatia are established regional and local Youth Advisory Boards with the role of counselling local authorities on youth policies with the active role in local communities.

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic the government is working on the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. In the Youth field there are some measures proposed to improve process of digitalisation and to establish youth centres as safe and inclusive spaces for young people. Throughout the pandemic young people and youth organizations are provided with multiple assistance. In cooperation with the Croatian Psychological Chamber Central State Office for Demography and Youth has launched telephone lines exclusively for young people with the aim of psychological counselling and will keep it on with the project. Regular meetings with the youth representatives are held online on this topic to hear about their problems and experience during the pandemic and seeking solution together.

The Ministry participates in European projects such as **the Europe Goes Local, the European Solidarity Corps, the Youth Wiki** and it was a national body responsible for monitoring and supervising the management of the **Erasmus + programme** in the field of youth. The Republic of Croatia is one of 29 participants in the Youth Wiki, an online platform presenting information on European countries youth policies. In 2019, the Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy supported the implementation of the project **Youth Wiki 2019 – “Support to better knowledge in youth policy”** through financial assistance.

	<p>In April 2020, former Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy announced a public call for applications for the election of a Croatian Youth Delegate to the United Nations, with the aim of including active and promising young citizens of the Republic of Croatia in the UN General Assembly.</p> <p>Central State Office for Demography and Youth annually, through the public call, provides financial support to projects aiming young people. The cooperation with NGO that work with youth and that are formed by youth (NGYO) is strengthened through this kind of actions.</p>
Cyprus/ Chypre	<p>Updated February 2021</p> <p>The Youth Board of Cyprus (YBC) as the consultative body of the government on youth issues, submitted three new policy proposals to the Council Ministers in April 2019. The proposals arose from the following activities held in 2018: the local consultations with young people where they had the chance to comment the first 3year Action Plan (AP) 2017-2019 of the National Youth Strategy, the 3rd National Youth Conference and the research activities of the YBC which focused on Skills Gap, Positive Youth Development and Project Based Learning.</p> <p>The proposals which were adopted by the Council of Ministers concern:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The adoption of STEAM philosophy in formal education and the enhancement of STEAM programmes outside of schools and within the structures of the YBC; 2. The establishment of a Youth Policy Institute and the 3. Development of a National Youth Centre. <p>At the same time the YBC revised its strategy according to the above recommendations and set the following strategic goals for the next two years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve our intervention in policy issues that concern and affect young people 2. Improve the engagement and participation of young people 3. Expansion and empowerment of the youth ecosystem 4. Foster the holistic youth individual empowerment & autonomy 5. Enhance International, national and local partnerships 6. Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of YBC's internal processes <p>Concerning the implementation of the CoE's Recommendation on youth work -CM/Rec(2017)4-, Cyprus had requested and received assistance from the CoE in the form of a youth policy advisory mission which took place in April 2019. The team of experts provided the YBC with a thorough, insightful and inspiring report which will be used for the development of a comprehensive national road map towards the recognition of youth work in Cyprus, the creation of educational paths and sustainable careers for youth workers and the quality assurance in the field. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education and Culture is running a project for the creation of mechanisms for validation of non-formal and informal learning in Cyprus. A National Action Plan for the validation of non-formal and informal learning has been tabled by the Ministry of Education and Culture and adopted by the Council of Ministers. According to the decision, a National Agency will be established to set up the whole structure. The Youth Board of Cyprus, as a member of the Governing Board of this potential National Agency, will be responsible for the set up of occupational standards for youth workers whose competences will be validated through the mechanism for the validation of NFIL.</p> <p>In close cooperation with the cross-sectoral working group for Youth, the Youth Board of Cyprus has drafted the the second 3-year Action Plan (2020-2022) of the National Youth Strategy and the 1st Progress Report 2017-2019 regarding the implementation of the first Action Plan. Both documents have been submitted to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sport & Youth who will then submit the documents to the Council of Ministers for their approval.</p> <p>In the meantime, YBC is organising public consultations with young people in cooperation with other Ministries. The most recent example is the consultation series organised within 2020 with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment with young people residing in rural areas, for the design of measures that respond better to their needs, under the future Common Agricultural Policy and the future Action Plans of the National Youth Strategy. Another example is the Working Group Covid-19, consisted of both Youth Officers and young people, which was set up during May 2020 in order to examine the situation faced by young people and youth organisations and propose concrete ideas and solutions.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, in the frame of evidence-based policy, the YBC conducted two Youth-Barometer surveys within 2020..</p> <p>Regarding the implementation of the CoE's Recommendation on youth work, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth is currently evaluating the tenders received for the creation of mechanisms for validation of non-formal and informal learning, including the set up of the occupational standards for youth workers. Moreover, following the recommendations of the CoE advisory mission, the Youth Board of Cyprus established a dedicated Working Group on Youth Work (YW), consisted of Youth Board officers and representatives of umbrella youth organisations, with the mandate to work on the development of an action plan for the holistic and quality development of YW in Cyprus.</p>
Czech Republic/ République tchèque	<p>Updated February 2021</p> <p>Discussions in the Ministry are being held concerning a new National Youth Strategy. The previous National Youth Strategy for the period 2014-2020 expired last year. In November 2020, the Government of the Czech Republic adopted the document Main Directions of the Education Policy of the Czech Republic until 2030+ which formulates a proposal for strategic goals of the education policy of the Czech Republic until 2030+ as well as main ways and measures to achieve them. One of the main goals is to contribute to developing young people's innovative and creative potential to be effectively used in their everyday lives and active participation in the society. The document calls for a wide offer of high-quality and accessible activities in the non-formal education system which are provided by NGOs. Department for supporting children and Youth of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports administers the grant scheme for supporting youth NGOs in their efforts to promote young people's democratic engagement through youth work. Open calls are launched annually. The grant scheme was not interrupted in the Covid-19 crises period.</p> <p>This Grant Scheme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport on supporting youth NGOs and young people in 2021 has been designed in a new way in order 1. to facilitate an equal access of all young people and NGOs to the financial support, and 2. to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on youth work. The open call motivates organizations and non-organized young people to address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people in their projects. For 2021, specific priorities have been set up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people (activities mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic focused mainly on disadvantaged children and young people, e.g. educational days, offering educational activities for unorganized children and young people, etc.) • linking non-formal to formal education (activities leading to NGO cooperation with schools, e.g. NGO cooperation with teachers, joint educational activities) • intergenerational dialogue - support for activities that will lead to strengthening intergenerational solidarity and cooperation (e.g. helping seniors, maintaining communication with seniors, etc.). Many children and youth organizations conducted the prioritized activities already in summer of 2020, especially assisting seniors and organizing so-called educational days, when NGOs helped children to catch up their slow progress in a distance learning due to the long-term interruption to their education. <p>For subsidizing the projects, there are 3 types of grant applicants: 1. Children and youth NGOs granted the Youth Work Quality Label (147 mil. CZK); 2. umbrella organizations (19.5 mil. CZK); 3. small NGOs and non-organized groups of young people (22 mil. CZK).</p> <p>Other Grant Schemes of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for 2021:</p> <p>Development and Grant Scheme supporting participation of children and young people in knowledge-based and skills-based competitions Budgetary allocation: in 2017 from 37 mil. CZK to 38 mil. CZK in 2018, 69 mil. CZK in 2019, 10 mil. CZK in 2021.</p> <p>Grant Scheme for supporting Czech – German cooperation in the field of children and youth Budgetary allocation: in 2017 from 6 mil. CZK to 7 mil. CZK in 2018, 7 mil. CZK in 2021.</p> <p>Grant Scheme for supporting talented children and youth Budgetary allocation: 15 mil. CZK in 2021</p>
Denmark/ Danemark	

Estonia/ Estonie	<p>The process of setting new aims for the next period of strategic planning is ongoing. 6th Youth Work Forum took place on 4-5 October 2018, where input was collected in order to set new goals. Different participatory formats were used <u>to gather input for the future</u> of the youth field. Young people themselves emphasized that they are willing to have a say in all fields not only in the youth field. This is also strongly supported by the Ministry of Education and Research, which is responsible for developing youth policy. In June and September a working group of about 60 members consisting of stakeholders of the youth field met to discuss and find a common ground for the next period of strategic planning. Long-term visions and goals together with the ways to reach the goals were also developed by the working group. On 28th November 2019, the Government approved the proposal for developing a new youth field development plan for 2021-2035. In October 2020, the new development plan was approved by the Estonian Government and is now waiting to be approved by the Estonian Parliament to be enforced.</p> <p><u>The concept of smart youth work</u> was adopted in 2017. The concept helps to promote the inclusion of young people, which is one of the measures for achieving the objectives in the development plan. The concept focuses on <u>activities aimed at young people and needs for development of youth workers</u> for implementing smart youth work, and on <u>youth work quality and digital literacy development</u>. By 2021, the first action plan for smart youth work has ended and the new action plan is being planned to further promote smart youth work in Estonia.</p> <p>Youth information service has recently seen considerable developments. Youth information platform <u>Teeviit</u> has been introduced as a youth information brand, including blog posts, Facebook posts and podcasts <u>to cover topics relevant to young people</u>. A call for youth project proposals <u>Ideeviit</u> was opened in 2019, which aims <u>to empower young people</u> and support their engagement and participation. To apply, at least two young people must submit an application. Activities which <u>aim to raise awareness about topics which are of interest to young people</u> are supported. Also mentoring is provided for the project teams of young people to make sure the first experience will be useful and encouraging. In 2020, Teeviit platform provided necessary information for young people regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, distant learning and social isolation and how to cope with the situation. The pandemic-related youth information also provided a need and opportunity to target information for minority Russian-speaking young people in Estonia. Teeviit now regularly provides information in Estonian and Russian. Youth information handbook was also created in 2019 and digitized in 2020 with free access for all youth information providers and youth workers.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic and national lockdowns were hard on young people and youth work providers. During March to May 2020 and December 2020 to January 2021, there were restrictions imposed on all youth work activities. Many hobby school and activities lost their income since they could not provide youth work to young people in contact. To alleviate decreased income and the risk of bankruptcy, the Estonian Government provided relief funds for hobby schools and activities to ensure their livelihood.</p> <p>The most important developments in the Estonian No Hate Speech (NHS) include: 1) European Conference 'Youth for Human Rights: The role and potential of youth work for Human Rights Education mainstreaming' which took place in Tallinn, Estonia on October 29th-30th, 2019. The conference brought together more than 100 stakeholders from all over Europe, including Erasmus+ National Agencies, European institutions, local/regional/national authorities, universities, NGO's, human rights education experts, trainers, youth workers and other stakeholders eager to contribute and commit to the mainstreaming of human rights education. The results of the conference will be conveyed as policy recommendations were taken on board in youth programmes and youth policies' development.</p>
Finland/ Finlande	<p>Updated February 2021</p> <p>The Government Programme "Inclusive and competent Finland – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society" (https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161935) pledges for fair and equal treatment across generations. Every young person should have the opportunity to study, participate and pursue their dreams. While most young people are doing fine, 10 to 15 per cent of young people are struggling. For example, exclusion among young men, mental health problems among young women and discrimination against minorities cause human suffering and are costly to society.</p>

The current Youth Act (1285/2016) constitutes the legal basis for the National youth work and youth policy programme (VANUPO). In line with the Government Programme, the key themes of VANUPO are preventing social exclusion and strengthening inclusion among young people. The most effective means for preventing social exclusion is ensuring the preconditions for a meaningful life for all young people. The programme aims to achieve these goals through three key objectives: Young people will have the preconditions for smoothly running daily lives - Social exclusion will be reduced; Young people will have the means and skills for participation and exerting influence; Young people will trust in society – Non-discrimination and security will be strengthened. In addition to the Government's youth policy objectives and their related measures, VANUPO includes objectives for the youth sector's European and international activities and defines the priorities for the selection of Finland's national youth sector centres of expertise (<https://minedu.fi/en/national-youth-centres>). The programme is available in English at the Ministry's web site <https://minedu.fi/en/policies-and-development-youth>.

Funding of youth activities and a study on the effects of diminished proceeds from gambling activities published on 26 February 2021

From the central administration, most of the funding for youth sector is awarded by the Ministry of Education and Culture that funds youth activities from the proceeds of gaming activities and budget funding. A study on the effects of diminished proceeds from gambling activities has been completed. The study examines four options for developing the Finnish gambling system. The harmful effects of gambling are considered severe in terms of the wellbeing of society. For this reason, it was deemed necessary to intervene by legislative means and to introduce more measures to make gambling more accountable. Moreover, due to the COVID-19 epidemic, slot machines have been kept closed. The Finnish National Lottery, Veikkaus Oy, estimates that the annual central government proceeds from gambling services will fall by around EUR 300 million as a result of these measures. As the harmful effects of gambling are being reduced, it also means that the funding received by beneficiaries from gambling proceeds will diminish. The working group proposes four different options for the future of the Finnish gambling system:

1. Keep the current system and hope that it is sufficient;
2. A one-off solution where the transfer to a universal budget takes place in one go and all earmarking is removed;
3. A comprehensive overhaul starting in early 2024, carefully preparing the transfer of revenue to universal coverage and placing expenditure within the scope of spending limits budgeting;
4. A partial reform, where part of the expenditure is gradually transferred to universal coverage and part remains earmarked and covered by gambling proceeds.

The working group sets as its primary option a comprehensive overhaul that would place gambling proceeds within the scope of universal coverage in central government revenue and existing beneficiaries would be under the spending limits procedure. Careful preparation and planning are needed to measure, enhance and evaluate the funding for beneficiaries and non-governmental organisations. In principle, spending limits funding should aim to finance existing beneficiaries and non-governmental organisations in such a way that their activities do not become exposed to unreasonable financial uncertainty and instability.

The Finnish model for leisure activities

The Finnish model for leisure activities aim to enable every child and young person to have a leisure activity in connection with the school day, free of charge and based on children's and young people's own wishes. The activities may be organised by sports clubs, arts and cultural actors, youth organisations, municipal actors and other communities. The Finnish model also includes a national leisure activities week in schools. The amount of funding reserved for the pilot in 2020 was EUR 9.5 million.

Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers 2021: Finland assumed its one-year Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers on 1 January 2021. The main task of the Finnish Presidency will be to advance Our Vision 2030, adopted by the Nordic Prime Ministers, according to which the Nordic region will be the most sustainable and integrated

	<p>region in the world by 2030. The Vision's focal points are a green Nordic region, a competitive Nordic region and a socially sustainable Nordic region.</p> <p><i>Action Plan to prevent bullying</i></p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Culture has prepared a comprehensive action plan to prevent bullying, teasing, violence and harassment in schools and educational institutions. The programme is based on the entries in the Government Programme on non-discrimination, on the right of every child and young person to physical integrity and on zero tolerance for bullying at school. All measures under the action plan will be implemented during this government term. Promoting wellbeing, fostering a peaceful working environment, and endorsing pedagogical competence related to preventing loneliness and bullying are the priorities in the action plan over the next three years for further training of staff and management in early childhood education and care and in schools. The provisions on bullying and harassment in the Act on General Upper Secondary Education and in the Act on Vocational Education and Training should be made more specific.</p> <p>The measures to prevent bullying and teasing must also tie in with municipal youth services. The core competence of youth work involves encountering young people. Bullying and teasing takes place outside school time, too (leisure time, recreational activities, etc.). Youth workers encounter students and young people outside school, which is why it is important to introduce the methods and practices used by youth workers into schools and educational institutions.</p> <p><i>Extension of compulsory education</i></p> <p>The minimum school leaving age will be raised to 18 years. This applies to those school-leavers who finish comprehensive school spring 2021.</p>
France	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <p>Développement récent des politiques de jeunesse</p> <p>Les politiques de jeunesse à l'initiative du Gouvernement s'articulent principalement autour de l'éducation, la formation et l'engagement.</p> <p>Ces politiques ont pour objectifs de créer « une société de confiance ». En réformant en profondeur le système éducatif et de formation ainsi que les dispositifs d'engagement des jeunes, ces mesures doivent aboutir à « la confiance de la société dans sa jeunesse et la confiance de la jeunesse dans sa société »*.</p> <p>Les principaux axes d'intervention sont :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L'éducation • La formation (enseignement supérieur, apprentissage) • L'engagement <p><u>Éducation</u></p> <p>La formation éducative de la jeunesse est au centre des politiques de jeunesse du Gouvernement qui souhaite bâtir « l'École de la confiance » afin d'assurer la réussite des élèves. Diverses réformes concernant les systèmes d'éducation primaire, secondaire et d'enseignement supérieur ont été mises en œuvre.</p> <p>Réforme de l'instruction obligatoire.</p> <p>En 2018, le Président de la République a annoncé sa volonté " d'abaisser de 6 à 3 ans l'obligation d'instruction dès la rentrée 2019.</p> <p>Adoptée en juillet 2019, la Loi n° 2019-791 du 26 juillet 2019 « pour une école de la confiance » abaisse l'âge de l'instruction obligatoire à 3 ans, dans le but notamment de contribuer à la réduction des inégalités dès le plus jeune âge.</p>

Cette mesure qui reconnaît le rôle fondamental de l'école maternelle dans l'apprentissage y compris social des enfants vient rendre obligatoire une pratique déjà largement développée et plébiscitée par les parents français.

Réformes des systèmes éducatifs

À l'école primaire :

- **dédoublément progressif** des classes des CP et CE1 dans les écoles situées dans des territoires urbains défavorisés. À la rentrée 2019, le Gouvernement prévoit le dédoublement de plus de 10 000 classes situées dans des quartiers marqués par des inégalités. Cette mesure s'inscrit dans une logique de réduction des inégalités.
- La mise en œuvre du **Plan mercredi**, un dispositif proposant aux collectivités territoriales un accueil de loisirs périscolaires le mercredi aux enfants, de la maternelle au primaire. Le plan Mercredi a pour objectif de développer la qualité des offres périscolaires.

Le Plan mercredi a été lancé en juin 2018. Il vise à créer un cadre de confiance pour les familles, les collectivités et leurs partenaires. Il leur permet de proposer, à compter de septembre 2018, des activités, le mercredi, hors des périodes scolaires. L'objectif est de repenser les temps de l'enfant dans leur globalité, en articulant mieux les temps scolaires, périscolaires et extrascolaires. Il vise un meilleur bien-être des enfants.

Au collège :

- **L'instauration du programme « devoir faits »** qui propose aux collégiens volontaires, un temps d'étude accompagnée, gratuit pour réaliser leurs devoirs, en dehors du temps scolaire.
- **L'aménagement de la [réforme du collège](#).**

Au lycée :

Le ministre de l'Éducation a confié en novembre 2017, une mission de réflexion sur la transformation du baccalauréat et du lycée. Cette mission a eu pour objectif de repenser le baccalauréat » et « **d'affirmer [sa] fonction d'accès à l'enseignement supérieur** » ainsi que de « **conforter le lien entre le baccalauréat et la poursuite du cursus des élèves dans l'enseignement supérieur** ». Entamée depuis 2019 la réforme du lycée s'est accentuée avec la suppression des séries (scientifiques, littéraires...) et la mise en œuvre d'un lycée modulaire où les élèves choisissent leurs enseignements et suivent un tronc commun. De plus, la réforme du BAC s'est traduite par l'apparition d'un contrôle continu(représentant 40% de la note finale) adossée à un contrôle final (60 % de la note finale).

La construction du projet d'orientation constitue l'un des socles de la réforme du lycée et du baccalauréat.

Cette volonté de modifier la transition du secondaire vers l'enseignement supérieur s'est aussi matérialisée par la création de la plateforme d'orientation, [Parcoursup](#) sur laquelle les lycéens, apprentis ou/et les étudiants doivent se préinscrire et déposer leurs vœux de poursuite d'études et répondre aux propositions d'admission des établissements.

BAC 2021

En raison de la crise sanitaire, les épreuves de spécialité du baccalauréat général et technologique seront évaluées en contrôle continu. Les épreuves terminales du mois de juin sont maintenues.

Sensibilisation à la protection de l'environnement et au développement durable

En 2019, le ministère de l'Éducation nationale généralise les « éco-délégués » dans les classes du secondaire. Ces éco-délégués seront élus par les instances de leur établissement scolaire. Le rôle des éco-délégués est de promouvoir les comportements respectueux de l'environnement à l'école (extinction des lumières, , usage raisonné de l'énergie, tris sélectifs etc.) et de proposer toute initiative participant à la protection de l'environnement dans son établissement scolaire.

Mesures pour les élèves en situation de handicap

Afin d'accompagner les parents d'enfants handicapés, le ministère en charge de l'éducation nationale a mis en place un numéro d'écoute pour élèves handicapés : la [cellule d'écoute "Aide Handicap Ecole](#) ».

cette cellule d'écoute et de réponses gratuites est présente dans chaque direction des services territoriaux de l'éducation nationale. Leur objectif est d'informer les familles sur les dispositifs existants, les démarches (administratives) à faire et les modalités d'accompagnement de leurs enfants.

Réforme de l'apprentissage

Le Gouvernement a mené actuellement une réforme du travail qui repose notamment sur la loi n°2018-771 du 5 septembre 2018 pour la [Liberté de choisir son avenir professionnel](#).

Cette loi comprend des mesures sur l'apprentissage, la formation professionnelle, l'assurance chômage, l'égalité hommes-femmes, l'emploi des personnes handicapées et le travail détaché. Les mesures de l'apprentissage et la formation professionnelle sont celles qui concernent plus spécifiquement la jeunesse. La loi introduit de nouveaux dispositifs et dispositions qui concernent les jeunes à l'exemple de:

- L'extension de l'âge de l'apprentissage jusqu'à 30 ans. »La mise en place d'une aide au permis de conduire de 500 € pour les apprentis majeurs.
- Une augmentation de 30 € par mois pour les apprentis de moins de 20 ans en CAP ou en Bac professionnel
- La possibilité de partir en « Erasmus pro » pour 15 000 jeunes apprentis en Europe d'ici la rentrée 2022.

Obligation de formation jusqu'à 18 ans

L'obligation de formation jusqu'à 18 ans est l'une des mesures de [la Loi pour une école de la confiance](#). Cette mesure qui prolonge l'instruction obligatoire par une obligation de formation pour tous les jeunes de 16 à 18 ans a pour objectif de prévenir et de lutter contre le décrochage scolaire et de renforcer l'inclusion professionnelle et sociale des jeunes..

Ainsi depuis la rentrée 2020, afin qu'aucun jeune ne soit laissé dans une situation où il ne serait ni en études, ni en formation, ni en emploi, l'obligation de se former est prolongée jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans. L'obligation de formation permet de repérer et d'amener vers un parcours d'accompagnement et de formation les jeunes en risque d'exclusion. Le **dispositif concerne environ 60 000 jeunes entre 16 et 18 ans**.

Emploi des jeunes

Le Plan 1 jeune 1solution

La crise sanitaire de la Covid-19 limite l'accès des jeunes au marché de l'emploi et rend plus difficile leurs parcours d'enseignement et de formation. Afin de limiter, les effets négatifs de la crise, le gouvernement a élaboré le plan [« 1 jeune, 1 solution »](#) qui vise à accompagner les jeunes de 16-25 ans au sortir de la crise de la COVID-19 dont les conséquences économiques et sociales impactent plus durement les jeunes.

Les mesures du plan qui portent essentiellement sur l'insertion professionnelle des jeunes s'articulent autour de trois axes :

1. Faciliter l'entrée dans la vie professionnelle
2. Orienter et former 200 000 jeunes vers les secteurs et les métiers d'avenir
3. Accompagner des jeunes éloignés de l'emploi en construisant 300 000 parcours d'insertion sur mesure

Les mesures consistent entre autres à créer des emplois, inciter les employeurs à recruter des jeunes, et renforcer les dispositifs notamment d'accompagnement (à l'emploi) existants ou encore développer des filières d'emploi

Le plan 1 jeune 1 solution mobilise notamment les ministères du Travail, de l'Emploi et de l'Insertion, de l'Éducation nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports ainsi que le ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation. Son élaboration et sa mise en œuvre reposent sur un travail transversal et partenarial notamment entre les ministères et les acteurs institutionnels de l'emploi (partenaires sociaux, service public de l'emploi, services de l'État dans les territoires, associations de jeunes et d'apprentis, associations de représentation des élus locaux, etc.).

Engagement

	<p>Outre la réforme des systèmes éducatifs et d'enseignement supérieur, renforcer l'engagement de la jeunesse au service de la société est l'un des objectifs du Gouvernement. Cette mesure se concrétise par le renforcement du dispositif volontariat en service civique qui a vu son budget augmenté. Elle se traduit aussi par Le prolongement du développement des politiques de mobilité internationale.</p> <p><u>Service national universel</u></p> <p>Outre ces mesures qui s'inscrivent dans une continuité des politiques de jeunesse, le Président de la République a est à l'initiative du « service national universel » qui est un dispositif d'engagement appelé à se généraliser au fil des ans à l'ensemble d'une classe d'âge, soit 800 000 adolescents et à devenir obligatoire.</p> <p>La première phase du SNU constitue l'aboutissement du parcours citoyen, débuté à l'école primaire et poursuivi au collège. Effectuée aux alentours de 16 ans, elle est d'une durée d'un mois maximum et comporter deux périodes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • un temps d'hébergement collectif • une période d'engagement prenant la forme d'une mission d'intérêt général <p>La deuxième phase du SNU vise à la poursuite, volontaire, d'une période d'engagement d'une durée d'au moins trois mois</p> <p>Du 16 au 28 juin 2019 a eu lieu la première phase de préfiguration du service national universel (SNU). 2 000 volontaires âgés de 15 à 16 ans ont été retenus parmi 4 000 candidats. En 2021, le Service national universel (SNU) s'adresse à tous les jeunes Français de 15 ans. Le séjour de cohésion aura lieu du 21 juin au 2 juillet 2021.</p> <p><u>Justice des mineurs</u></p> <p>Loi du 26 février 2021 ratifiant l'ordonnance du 11 septembre 2019 portant partie législative du code de la justice pénale des mineurs.</p> <p>Cette loi qui a été promulguée le 26 février ratifie l'ordonnance du 11 septembre 2019. Cette ordonnance réforme la justice pénale des mineurs. Elle simplifie et accélère le jugement des mineurs délinquants et limite leur détention provisoire. Elle introduit également une présomption de non-discernement pour les mineurs de moins de 13 ans.</p>
Georgia/ Géorgie	<p>Updated March 2020</p> <p>In August 2019 the new LEPL¹ Youth Agency was founded as a part of the Government's structural reform plan. The Youth Agency, which reports directly to the office of the Prime Minister, took over the functions of the following institutions:</p> <p>Youth Policy Management Department of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEPL Children and Youth National Centre; • LEPL Children and Youth Development Fund.

¹ Legal Entity of Public Law - A legal entity under public law is a separate organisation from legislative and state government bodies, established under an appropriate law, an ordinance of the Government of Georgia or an administrative act of a state government body based on law, which independently carries out political, state, social, educational, cultural and other public activities under state control;

The main goal of the Youth Agency for the next three years is a comprehensive reform of the youth sector in Georgia. The main challenge being to close the gaps in the current youth ecosystem. (Definition of youth: 14 - 29 years of age.)

The Youth Agency of Georgia has already developed a three-year fundamental reform strategy and an action plan, which is divided into four phases.

One of the priorities of the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe is to promote democracy through education, culture and youth engagement. Consequently, the support of youth engagement and development of inclusive and participatory youth policy work on the national and local level became the cornerstone of the reform.

The priorities of three-year reform strategy are based on Georgia's National Youth Policy and it aims at:

- developing inclusive and participatory youth policy work on the national and local level through legislative acts and regulations and through supporting the municipal institutions with the formulation and implementation a municipal youth policy;
- creating more opportunities for young people by providing high quality Youth Work services, non-formal education programmes and information;
- providing grants and capacity building activities for youth organizations;
- enhancing the qualification of youth workers;
- promoting a healthy lifestyle, human rights, tolerance and gender equality.

While defining priorities of the reform two important events were organized in Georgia on the topic of youth participation and youth work.

The Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth in cooperation with the Youth Agency of Georgia, hosted an international peer-learning event on strengthening the potential of youth work in Eastern Europe. The event was held on 27-28 November in Tbilisi, Georgia. The event brought together about 60 participants: policy makers, youth workers, NGOs and researchers, and will focus on quality development of youth work at local level.

The second event, international conference "Advancing youth participation in local and regional life" was organized by Youth Agency with the support of the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth and National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia (NCYOG). The event took place on 29 November 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The aim of the conference was to strengthen the capacities of Georgian stakeholders (at national, regional, local levels) in the field of youth participation and to provide opportunities for the development of international cooperation between Georgia and other European countries in the area of youth participation.

Regarding the implementation of the reform, the first phase of the reform was already completed successfully in August 2019. It had an aim to consolidate all governmental resources in the youth field in one organization. Therefore, it was decided to transfer youth issues from the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports to the new Youth Agency that was established under the Prime Minister's Office. The Youth Agency took over the youth portfolio and now it is responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of Youth Policy, as well as for the reforming of the youth sector in Georgia.

The second phase completed in February 2020 and it was about the development of strategic documents and action plans on different directions of the reform. And also, after the series of meetings and negotiations Youth Agency representatives have managed to bring together all the major stakeholders into a common vision of the reform and to get their support in the implementation process of it.

	<p>The third phase will launch in March 2020, when the Youth Agency will start implementation of pilot projects in selected municipalities of Georgia.</p> <p>The fourth phase will start in the second half of 2021, after finishing the evaluation process of pilot projects implemented in 2020. This fourth phase will be the last part in the process of establishing the sustainable ecosystem of the youth sector that is defined in 3-year reform plan and during this phase all remaining municipalities will be included in the reform process.</p> <p>It should be mentioned, that the Parliament of Georgia also plays a big part in the reform process. The Sports and Youth Affairs Committee created a working group, with technical assistance from UN agencies based in Georgia, led by UNFPA Georgia, with the goal to review the government's current youth policy action plan and to work on the development of a new youth policy concept 2030, which will become the main document determining youth policy development in Georgia for the next ten years.</p> <p>The Parliament of Georgia will adopt "youth policy concept 2030" in this spring session of 2020 and after that they will hand over it to the Youth Agency to develop the national youth strategy 2025 and a series of time-limited action plans till the end of 2020. The Parliamentary Committee will maintain an oversight role scrutinizing the implementation of the new youth strategy.</p> <p>The strategy itself will be based on youth policy concept 2030 adopted by the parliament of Georgia in 2020 and Youth Policy adopted by Government of Georgia in 2014. This process will be participatory, where the line ministries, civil society organizations and young people will be involved as in the development as well in the implementation of strategy; and Youth Agency will take into consideration all the recommendations prepared by Youth policy advisory mission to Georgia, that was organized on 26-28 September 2019 with the aim to provide advice to the Youth Agency on the development of a participatory youth policy based on the Council of Europe's norms and standards. And the second Youth policy advisory mission to Georgia that will be organized on 22-24 April 2020 with the aim to provide assistance for the development of the National Youth Strategy 2025.</p>
Germany/ Allemagne	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <p>No Hate Speech Movement</p> <p>The No Hate Speech Movement is an initiative of the Council of Europe and has been officially launched in Germany in June 2016, funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) as part of the federal programme "Live Democracy!". The German NGO "New German Media Makers" (Neue Deutsche Medienmacher) coordinate the campaign, focusing on the empowerment of users targeted by hate speech, promoting counter narratives and enabling journalists to adequately deal with hate speech in order to establish a more civilized discussion culture and respectful forms of communication in social media platforms. To secure the dynamics created by the national campaign of the No Hate Speech Movement long term, the BMFSFJ will continue to support the German campaign as part of the federal programme "Live Democracy!". until 2022.</p> <p>The campaign against hate speech online managed to generate more than seven million website visits since its launch, being available not only in German, but also in English and plain language. Furthermore, the website of the campaign is continuously updated. Additionally, the campaign also cooperates with legal advisors as well as academics and activists to gain more insight and background knowledge concerning hate speech and how to deal with it. This knowledge is completed by the latest scientific research findings.</p> <p>Since the launch of the campaign, representatives of the No Hate Speech campaign organized and participated in various events offline, also addressing a wide audience of multipliers working in areas such as media, education and politics. For instance, the campaign team organized and held various train-the-trainer workshops at regional and national news stations throughout Germany.</p> <p>Another vital part of the campaign is the establishment of networks; connecting relevant organizations, initiatives and individuals with each other. This network is recorded as a competence matrix, which is constantly updated. During the annual national campaign meeting the various individuals are informed about the current state and projects of the No Hate Speech campaign.</p>

In cooperation with scientists, journalists and Twitter and Facebook experts the No Hate Speech campaign developed a manual on how to counter hate speech effectively, mainly for media officials, but also the general public. Furthermore, the campaign will establish an online-helpdesk. An interactive website that aims to offer tips and instant guidance for people and especially journalists and social media managers who are confronted with hate speech.

Further development of the federal programme “Live Democracy!”

The Minister for Family Affairs, Dr. Franziska Giffey paved the way for a seamless continuation, hence the second funding period of the federal programme “Live Democracy!” started in January 2020. Prevention does not work with a time limit. It needs to happen consistently so that it can unfold its long-lasting preventive effect.

The federal programme has taken lessons learnt from the first funding period into account. With the Start of the second funding period in 2020 an update and modernized structure of the programme uses innovative approaches and focuses more on current social challenges. The programme's previous two fields of action “Promoting democracy” and “Prevention of radicalisation” were complemented by a field of action “Shaping diversity” in order to underline the importance of democratic action for peaceful coexistence and social cohesion within a diverse society.

With the beginning of the second funding period the federal programme is supporting 40 civil society organisations as providers of competence centres and competence networks in 14 thematic areas (anti-Semitism, right-wing extremism, internet among others)

Within the framework of the federal programme “Live Democracy!”, during the first funding-period funding was provided on the basis of the guidelines on the granting of subsidies and benefits to promote the child and youth services by the Child and Youth Services Plan (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes – KJP).Independent Funding Guidelines have been implemented for the second funding period.

Joint Youth Strategy of the Federal Government

On 3 December the Federal Cabinet decided on the youth strategy of the federal government. "Shared responsibility: politics for, with and by youth" ("In gemeinsamer Verantwortung: Politik für, mit und von Jugend").

The joint Youth Strategy of the Federal Government is a commitment by all ministries to involve the younger generation in decisions that affect them and to offer young people the best possible conditions for mastering the challenges of this specific phase of life. In its Youth Strategy, the Federal Government describes the current situation in nine youth-relevant fields of action. It identifies areas in need of action and lists a total of 163 measures. These measures are either new or have been developed further to meet youth-specific needs. The needs for action and core statements form a guideline for the future design of youth policy.

The Cabinet decision marked the start of the implementation process of the Youth Strategy. The task now is to realise these Youth Strategy measures. Based on the need for action identified in the Youth Strategy, further projects that benefit young people and young adults are to be developed – in interministerial cooperation.

The Interministerial Working Group on Youth (IMA Jugend), which has already developed the Youth Strategy, is continuing to coordinate the implementation process. At IMA Jugend, representatives from all Federal Ministries exchange views on current projects and measures relevant to young people. The IMA also coordinates central participation instruments such as the Federal Youth Conference 2020 (Bundesjugendkonferenz 2020) and the Youth Policy Days 2021 (JugendPolitik Tage 2021). The Federal Ministry for Youth has the lead responsibility on this matter. A civic advisory board advises the Federal Ministry for Youth on the involvement of youth interest groups as well as of the Länder and municipal umbrella organisations.

In line with its Youth Strategy, the Federal Government has also explicitly focused on COVID-19-related challenges faced by the younger generation in particular, and has discussed and addressed them along with young people in different dialogue formats. A youth hearing involving young people and their interest groups took place on 11 March 2021 and serve to elaborate youth-policy

recommendations for the post-COVID era. In addition, also the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Youth discussed the difficulties faced in particular by young people at transition points (e.g. from school to work/higher education) as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and possible measures to support them.

The Federal Government's 16th Report on Children and Youth

The 16th Report on Children and Youth focuses on promoting democratic education from childhood to early adulthood. Young people encounter political education in a wide range of social spaces and everyday contexts. The responsibility to provide age-appropriate and up-to-date education falls to many different protagonists. The Report analyses political education in a range of contexts, including families, childcare facilities, schools and all-day education settings, vocational education and universities, child and youth work, youth education connected to political parties, protests and social movements, voluntary services, the Bundeswehr, and the media and digital worlds.

The Expert Commission for the Report sees democracy and political education as being challenged by far-reaching social changes such as globalisation, climate change, migration, digitalisation, and demographic change. The Report also pays attention to groups rejecting, undermining or even openly attacking democracy as well as to widespread phenomena such as frustration with political parties and politicians and a feeling of one's own political powerlessness.

The report has identified the following key findings and recommendations:

Political education is democratic education: Political education is a process of forming responsibility which is aligned with the "irreducible core" of democracy, alongside principles such as equality, pluralism, human rights, the rule of law, the separation of powers, and the protection of minorities.

Political education goes beyond theoretical subject-matter: Political education is not just a matter of acquiring knowledge about political and social institutions and their functions. Rather, it is held to be a multifaceted learning process which is about developing the ability to analyse and judge and the capacity to act politically.

All young people have a right to political education: Young people's right to political education can be inferred from applicable laws, but there must be a stronger obligation to honour that right and it should be more strongly enshrined in law. There is also a need for greater recognition and expansion of migrant organisations as providers of political education. Also, unhindered access to political education must become a widely-established reality for young people with disabilities.

Political education is not just about preventing extremism: Reducing the role of political education to preventing extremism carries the risk of giving up core principles of political education, especially that young people should be given opportunities based on their capabilities and not on what they lack.

Political education is transnational: The report criticises the fact that political education is all too often conceptualised in categories based on the nation state, and calls for more transnational learning experiences. This applies particularly with a view to Europe.

Political education and political participation go hand in hand: A well-founded political education, alongside effective opportunities to participate, contributes to winning young people over to democracy and empowering them.

Political education for young people is youth policy: Political education must consider not only young people's rights, but their interests and living circumstances, both in terms of public discourse and the services it provides itself.

COVID-19 creates challenges and learning causes for political education: The Report describes the COVID-19 pandemic and the strategies to handle it as a "stress test for an open democratic society". It identifies limited and unequal educational opportunities as key challenges. The Report also criticises the lack of opportunities for young people to participate in the response to crises, as well as a view of young people only as school students. It also draws attention to the existential threats to providers of extra-curricular political education. In addition to this, the Report identifies causes for political education arising from the pandemic, such as when considering fundamental rights and how they can be restricted for disease control purposes. The European Union and national statehood in times of crisis should also be debated, as should, for example, the role of democratic and civil society bodies in the public sphere. Discussions must also consider how conspiracy theories are sustained and disseminated in the context of pandemics.

	<p>EU-Presidency</p> <p>On EU-level Germany held the Council Presidency from 1 July - 31 December 2020. In the field of youth the Presidency had proposed two documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Conclusions on fostering democratic awareness and democratic engagement among young people in Europe - Council Resolution on the framework of establishing a European Youth Work Agenda <p>Both documents were negotiated in the Council bodies and were adopted in the EU Youth Ministers Council on 30 November 2020.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Presidency pushed forward the negotiations on the future European Solidarity Corps in the so called Trilogue with the European Parliament and the European Commission.</p> <p>During the Presidency two main events were organised: The EU Youth Conference (2-5 October), as the first conference within the new cycle of the EU Youth dialogue, and the 3rd European Youth Work Convention (7-10 December) in the overlap of the Chairmanship in the Council of Europe and EU-Presidency. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic both events took place in a virtual setting.</p>
Greece/ Grèce	<p>Updated October 2019</p> <p>Supporting young people in Greece and designing policies aimed at the answering of their interests and concerns lie among the top priorities of the new Hellenic Government.</p> <p>To this respect, under the leadership of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, we immediately proceeded with the establishment of a new General Secretariat for Professional Education, Training and Lifelong Learning, as an integral Body within the Ministry.</p> <p>This new Structure was delegated with an expanded competence responsibility and executive role for implementing the governmental policies on the area of Training, in two main Sectors related to young people and partially to adults:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vocational Training and Lifelong Learning 2. Youth and non-formal education policies <p>The top priorities set for the designing of our national policy on Youth are related to what identify as highest among the diverse issues pertaining to the interests and concerns of young people in the country, many of them not differing much from those of young people around Europe.</p> <p>Specifically, among the top priorities of the Government for the Youth Sector are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support young people's employability - Combat unemployment of youth - Combat youth brain drain - Support young people with disadvantages (i.e., young handicapped, in general, young people faced with discrimination due to diverse cultural or socio-economic background, or diversity in relation to religion, gender orientation, physical or psychological disabilities etc.). <p>High priority is going to be given to the support of young refugees in the country, as this issue is quite critical, due to continuous rising numbers of incoming flows, mainly in Greece and then in other European areas as well.</p> <p>In relation to the above, new programmes and initiatives and, in parallel, drastic redesigning of existing programmes are underway, expecting implementation starting from 2020 onwards.</p> <p>Overall mission: The designing and implementation of governmental policy in the areas of Life Long Learning and Youth</p>

	<p>The General Secretariat for Professional Education, Training and Life Long Learning is an integral Body within the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, implementing its mission through the following six (6) Units:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direction of Youth Policies 2. Direction of National Strategy for Youth 3. Direction of Life Long Learning Policies 4. Independent Department for International and European relations 5. Independent Department for Implementation of European Legislation 6. Apprenticeship Department and Work Based Learning <p>This new General Secretariat was delegated with an expanded competence responsibility and executive role for implementing the governmental policies in the area of Training in the sectors of Youth and Lifelong Learning.</p>
Holy See/ Saint Siège	<p>Updated in October 2019</p> <p>" En décembre 2019 se tiendra à Rome la deuxième rencontre entre les représentants du Saint-Siège auprès des différentes institutions internationales et une centaine d'ONG d'inspiration catholique actives dans ces mêmes institutions. La promotion d'une société plus inclusive sera au centre des échanges, avec une attention particulière sur le secteur de la jeunesse et sur l'éducation formelle et non formelle. "</p>
Hungary/ Hongrie	<p>Updated January 2020</p> <p>The Hungarian No Hate Speech Campaign had a closing ceremony at 13rd December, we will discuss the conference's result here as well. The financial support was ensured by the Ministry of Human Capacities.</p> <p>Updated October 2018</p> <p>I. Report on the Action Plan IV of the National Youth Strategy</p> <p>In the beginning of this year, the General Youth Department started reviewing and drafting a report of the fourth action plan of the National Youth Strategy of Hungary that lasted from 2016 until 2017. We have collected all the inputs from every ministry and now we are finishing it. The report should be published after the Parliamentary Elections to be held on 8 April.</p> <p>Besides we are preparing our new Strategy for Young People. Its construction is in line with the preparation of the post EU Youth Strategy and we are about to meet the recommendations of the committee of the ministers of the Council of Europe even deeper. Even more within the strategy a strong emphasis will be placed on mental health, social questions, digital awareness, active citizenship and critical thinking.</p> <p>II. Free language exam</p> <p>This initiative was introduced in 2017 by the minister of human capacities and has already entered into force. From 1 January 2018 the government reimburses the expenses of every new successful complex language exam (oral + written) to young people under 35 even if they have already passed one or more language exams in one or different foreign languages and regardless the type of the exam (e.g. TELC, Euroexam, etc.)</p> <p>III. No Hate Speech Campaign</p>

	<p>It is led by the Hope for Children Public Foundation and National Youth Council of Hungary. The Hungarian Campaign Committee is going to participate in the closing conference and they are ready and strive for maintaining the campaign and its platform in Hungary in the future as well.</p> <p>IV. Programme for strengthening young people's digital awareness</p> <p>It involves experts from governmental, economy, youth, education sectors and aims to provide families, educators and young people with guidelines, information and knowledge how to become aware of challenges and dangerous aspects</p> <p>V. Pact 4 Youth</p> <p>Roundtable that involves stakeholders from governmental and economy sector and such youth and youth led organization as National Youth Council of Hungary, No Hate Speech Campaign Committee of Hungary and the European Youth Card Association members. This initiative aims to draft proposals on handling the challenges of the labour market and fostering the successful integration of young people into the labour market for the government.</p> <p>VI. V4 + EaP Youth Conference</p> <p>The annual conference under the Hungarian Presidency is going to be organized from 28 until 31 of May in Budapest. Three priority topics are foreseen to become the basis of our conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Opportunities for young people b) Digitalization c) Section of the Hungarian Youth Delegate to the United Nations <p>VII. Southern Great Plain Regional Youth Map</p> <p>This project was introduced this week on Monday in Gyula city at the conference which aimed to find solution and answers on young people's situation and to facilitate the participants in getting familiar with each other's work and share the good practices. The map project aims to get an idea on the followings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In which settlements do youth workers and youth policy officers work; b) Where has a local youth strategy or action plan been established; c) Where has a community space for young people been built up.
Iceland/ Islande	<p>Updated February 2020</p> <p>Minister of Education, Science and Culture has begun the work on policy on Youth Work (Youth work is a part of Youth Act). The scope of the policy will be youth work. The scope of the policy will be youth work. The Recommendation CM/Rec (2017)4 is one of the key documents that will be used in this work and has now been translated in Icelandic (the recommendation and explanatory memorandum).</p> <p>The European Charter on local youth work, Europe Goes Local, has been translated and implementation strategy is in place.</p> <p>There has been changes on the law on the Ombudsman for Children in Iceland. The Ombudsman for Children shall organise every other year a Children's Congress where 250 children (12-17 years old, selected randomly) and about 200 MP's, Governmental officials, local authorities, representatives from the labour market, etc. come together to discuss issues concerning children and youth. The first Children's Congress was held in November last year and the result of that has been introduced to the Government. The Ombudsman of Children is also working action plan on how to increase influence children and youth on policy making.</p> <p>Ministry of Social Affairs has made a contract with the Icelandic Youth Council regarding involvement of young people when it comes to policy making. The Youth council will also be consulting the Minister and the Ministry on youth affairs and how to increase participation of young people.</p>

	<p>This is truly a milestone for young people and a very positive step.</p> <p>No Hate Speech</p> <p>The National Committee “No Hate Speech”, which was founded in 2013, will continue its work in Iceland regardless of the continuation of the European No Hate Speech campaign. The committee and the project is now a part of a contract between the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and SAFT (Society, Family and Technology) (http://saft.is/english/)</p>
Ireland/ Irlande	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <p><u>Irish Youth Legislation</u></p> <p>Youth work has been enhancing the lives of young people and adults in Ireland for more than 100 years. It was given formal statutory recognition in the Youth Work Act 2001, which defines youth work as:</p> <p><i>A planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young people through their voluntary involvement, and which is complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training and provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations.</i></p> <p>This legislation creates space to develop and co-ordinate youth work programmes and services including co-ordination with education and other programmes. The purpose of this act is to provide a statutory framework for the provision of youth work programmes and services by the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs, intermediary agencies and by the National and Regional Youth Organisations.</p> <p><u>Irish Youth Strategy</u></p> <p>The National Youth Strategy 2015–2020 has its basis in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children & Young People (2014-2020) (BOBF). This framework sets out the Government's agenda and priorities in relation to all children and young people under the age of 25 years and provides for the development and implementation of policies and services in relation to the following interconnected and mutually reinforcing outcome areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being • Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development • Safe and protected from harm • Economic security and opportunity • Connected, respected and contributing to their world <p>The National Youth Strategy 2015-2020 was produced, in a collaborative manner, with a wide range of stakeholders and takes a cross-sectoral, whole-of-society, approach to supporting young people in their everyday lives. It is a universal strategy for all young people and provides for the needs of young people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, the poorest outcomes. It is complemented by the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making (2015-2020) and the LGBTI+ Youth Strategy (2018-2020).</p> <p>Implementing the National Youth Strategy is a shared responsibility across government departments, agencies and youth interests. All youth services funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs employ the National Youth Strategy's Outcomes and Actions to plan and structure their strategy for delivering youth programmes.</p> <p><u>Recent developments on national implementation of youth policies</u></p> <p><u>Youth Climate Justice Fund</u></p>

The Youth Justice Climate Fund was established in 2020 to focus on youth engagement as part of the global response to climate change. This fund is underpinned by the understanding that we are a global community and that climate change affects some parts of the world much more acutely than others. The education and empowerment of young people, which aims to give them an effective voice in the future of environmental management and its social and economic impacts, is critical in achieving just transition and climate justice. As such, this fund supports youth-led action and innovation that seeks, at some level, to raise people's awareness of this global perspective and of the critical human rights impact of climate change.

Targeted Youth Funding Reform

There has been significant reform of the targeted youth service funding scheme in Ireland and mechanisms to ensure quality youth service provision are embedded within the new scheme, which was launched in 2020. For more information, see: <https://ubu.gov.ie/> Reform of the Youth Services Grant Scheme, which provides funding to 30 national and regional youth organisations, is currently underway.

UBU Your Place Your Space is a youth service funding scheme designed to target young people who are marginalised, disadvantaged, or vulnerable and whose outcomes fall short of general population outcomes. This scheme, which launched in July 2020, provides services that support young people to develop the personal and social skills required to improve their life chances, including with respect to their health, education, employment and social connectedness. These out of school supports offer a wide range of quality activities, which are mainly community-based.

The introduction of UBU Your Place Your Space contributes to the broader efforts of Government policy which acknowledges that "a positive community context can enable civil and democratic engagement, and play a part in breaking the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage by acting as a protective factor against substance misuse, criminality, social exclusion and deprivation"

The effectiveness of the new scheme will be measured through a suite of performance and oversight requirements. Together with a strong focus on outcome measurement and evaluation, these features will provide relevant data and findings to inform policy and practice and will ensure the scheme can respond to lessons learned and emerging priorities.

Skills Summary

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs recognises that young people's transferrable life skills are vital to the economy and that they are already being developed through volunteering and taking part in youth work activities. The challenge now is to make future employers aware of this. To meet this challenge Skills Summary was developed as part of a collaborative project between the National Youth Council of Ireland, Accenture and SpunOut.ie, funded by DCYA. Skills Summary helps young people measure the skills they gain when participating in youth work and volunteering, such as leadership, problem solving, teamwork and adaptability, and helps them communicate the value of these skills to future employers.

Recommendation CM/Rec (2017)4 on Youth Work

Universal Youth Funding Reform

The Youth Services Grant Scheme makes funding available on an annual basis to 30 national and major regional voluntary organisations. This funding is intended to ensure the emergence, promotion, growth and development of youth organisations with distinctive philosophies and programmes aimed at the social education of young people. This scheme is currently undergoing reform to ensure that quality youth work is safeguarded and supported.

North South Education and Training Standards (NSETS)

	<p>NSETS is responsible for the professional endorsement of youth work programmes on the island of Ireland. NSETS works to ensure and promote quality standards in the education and training of youth workers through an endorsement process based on a rigorous assessment of all aspects of programme content and delivery. NSETS professional endorsement represents a formal recognition by the youth work sector that programmes of study in youth work have met prescribed criteria and are fit-for purpose.</p>
Italy/Italie	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <p>1) <u>Institutional changes:</u></p> <p>As of 13 February 2021, the On. Fabiana Dadone was appointed Minister for Youth. The Department for Youth Policies and the Universal Civic Service of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (from now on “the Department”) is her operating arm.</p> <p>2) <u>New initiatives:</u></p> <p>The Department developed a web platform named Giovani 2030 (Youth 2030) addressed to young people in the age group 14 to 35. The name recalls the Agenda 2030, the reference date for the UN objectives to make the planet a fairer and cleaner place. Giovani 2030 will offer news, insights on volunteering, opportunities for education, training, apprenticeships, jobs, culture, entertainment, sport, etc. It will also foster youth participation. Indeed, it will have a section welcoming proposals, ideas and suggestions from those who want to contribute and have an exchange with policy makers. Giovani 2030 is already on-line in preview at www.giovani2030.it.</p> <p>The Department is developing a National Youth Card and applied to become member of EYCA. All Italian youth will be able to obtain the European youth card free of charge. Two Italian Regions (Lazio and Sardinia) are already EYCA members.</p> <p>In the framework of the Italian Presidency of the G20 (1 December 2020 - 30 November 2021), the Department is promoting youth participation at the Y20 Summit that will take place in Milan in July. The event will be organized by the youth organization “Young Ambassadors Society” with the support of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The young delegates will discuss the following topics: 1) inclusion; 2) sustainability, climate change and environment; 3) innovation, digitalization and the future of work. The conclusions will be gathered in a final communiqué to be presented to the G20 leaders.</p> <p>Italy also holds the co-presidency of COP26, and will host the Pre-COP26 in Milan (30 September- 2 October 2021). In this framework, the Italian Ministry for the Ecological Transition is organizing the meeting “Youth4climate: driving Ambition”, in Milan from 28 to 30 September 2021. The meeting will gather 400 young people (age group 18 and 29) from the 197 Countries that ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The objective is to elaborate proposals to be presented at the pre-COP26 and the Cop-26 that will be held in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021. In addition, the Department, the Ministry for Ecological Transition, the National Youth Council and the National Youth Agency are collaborating for setting up a Permanent Youth Committee and a National Youth consultative body on climate change.</p> <p>In the framework of the Sustainable Development National Pre-Conference held in March 2021 and organized by the Ministry for Ecological Transition, the Department, the National Youth Agency and the National Youth Council attended a special session dedicated to the involvement of young people in the updating of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. A number of youth organizations participated in the event.</p> <p>To contrast the effect of the COVID-19 pandemics and with a view to promote intergenerational exchange, the Department launched the project “Time to Care” aimed at supporting the participation of 1.200 young people (18-35 years of age) in social projects managed by the Third Sector in favour of the elderly and vulnerable people.</p>

	<p>The Universal Civic Service is launching a pilot project on digitalization called “Digital Civic Service”. About 1000 young volunteers will be trained and will then promote digitalization. The project stems from the cooperation of the Department for Youth Policies with the Department for Digital Transformation that finances the project.</p>
Kazakhstan/ Kazakhstan	
Latvia/ Lettonie	<p>Updated February 2021</p> <p>Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Latvia is currently developing a new youth policy planning document for upcoming planning period, “Youth Policy Guidelines 2021 -2027” The guidelines will also include National Youth Programme 2021 – 2023.</p> <p>The National Youth Programme will define the youth work priorities for 2021 as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to strengthen the establishment and improvement of a high-quality sustainable youth work system at the local level; 2) to promote the active civic and political participation of young people 3) to increase professional competencies of youth workers by strengthening their mutual cooperation and exchange of good practices 4) to foster inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in civil society and its processes 5) to strengthen learner self-government organisations 6) to prevent the mental health risks of young people during and after the Covid-19 pandemic <p>Due to Latvian administrative-territorial reform it has been decided to postpone the annual contest “Youth Capital City of Latvia” up to 2023. The contest was implemented since 2016 by the Ministry of Education and Science and its aim is to strengthen the role of youth work at local level. As a result of this contest a local municipality or a union of two local municipalities is declared as the Youth Capital City for the next year. Throughout this year, different youth events and initiatives of youth work and youth participation are taking place therein.</p> <p>Previously biennial contest “The Best in Youth Work” which aim is to express the appreciation of the Ministry of Education and Science to the local governments, persons who are involved in youth work, as well as youth organisations and associations, now will be organised every year.</p> <p>To keep youth work quality on appropriately high level, in the beginning of 2020 Ministry of Education and Science started an update process for profession standards of Youth workers and Youth affairs specialists. Within this update process, it is supposed to develop a new profession standard for separate strands of one common Youth worker profession.</p> <p>In 2021 it is planned to resume working party on non-formal education in youth work. The goal of this working group will be to establish framework for recognition of non-formal education in youth work and its competences at national level.</p> <p>In order to facilitate the participation of young people in decision-making process, changes in Youth Advisory Council composition have been made. As a result of these changes, a wider representation of the Youth Organizations in the Council are ensured.</p>
Liechtenstein	
Lithuania/ Lituanie	<p>Updated October 2018</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth work <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supporting of open youth centers (OYC) and open youth spaces (OYS) programmes; b. Trainings for OYC/OYS specialists, working with young people also trainings about open youth work; c. Promoting of new forms of open youth work – street youth work and mobile youth work: municipalities should analyse the situation and Department will provide financial support for projects + methodological support for municipal youth specialists

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Intergovernmental and cross-sectorial work <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adoption of new Youth law; b. Recognition of youth worker as an separate, different specialist; c. Recognition of open youth work and different types of open youth work as a social service (input open youth work into a Social Services Catalogue); d. Work with ministry of Culture in order to input open youth work into a Reglament of libraries as a service, could be provided at the libraries for the young people e. Work with Police Department in order to train policeman and community workers empowering them with the methods of open youth work; f. Work with the Ministry of Education also with business associations about the preparing legal acts and working mechanisms for recognition of competences gained through volunteering, youth activities and non-formal education as in sector of education, also in employment (both in public and business sectors). 3. Creation of national system of Youth volunteering; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Legal basis in a national level; b. Reglamentation of volunteering and creation of local network and coordinator at the municipal level; c. Supporting of regional networks and national network – trainings for mentors, coordinators of voluntary activities at the municipal level 4. Studies and researches <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Evaluation of National youth policy development 2011 – 2019 years programme results; b. Evaluation of quality of youth policy in the municipalities; c. Research: youth and internet, digital competences, social networks 5. Promoting of active youth participation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Institutional grants for national youth organizations; b. Institutional grants for regional youth councils c. Institutional grant to National youth council (LiJOT) d. Trainings for regional youth councils e. Trainings for the leaders of non-formal youth groups and youth initiatives.
Luxembourg	<p>Updated September 2020</p> <p>Like in a lot of other countries, the main challenge during the last months was to adapt the youth work offers to the restrictions due to Covid-19. Most of the youth centers put in place digital offers and kept contact with the young people with different tools of online communications. Special helplines for young people have been reinforced to tackle mental health issues and for instance lower the risk of depressions among young people. A lot of activities have been elaborated that can be done at home, like special sport challenges, cooking, handcraft and so on.</p> <p>The other main activities regarding youth policy are going on like foreseen. The national report on the situation of young people with a special focus on wellbeing and mental health will come out next year and the work on the new national action plan of youth policy 2021-2024 has begun.</p>

Malta/Malte	<p>Updated April 2019</p> <p>Youth Policy</p> <p>In 2015 the Maltese Government revised its National Youth Policy for the fourth time. This document is entitled 'Il-Politika Nazzjonali taż-Żgħażaġħ Lejn l-2020 Viżjoni Komuni għall-Futur taż-Żgħażaġħ' – 'National Youth Policy Towards 2020 A Shared Vision for the Future of Young People'.</p> <p>The National Youth Policy is underpinned by three separate but interlocking pillars. The first pillar is the reality of the lives of young people in Malta; the second pillar relates to the development of youth policy over the past 20 years at both European and national levels; and the third pillar concerns greater democratic participation, equitable economic and social progress for all, and inclusive change.</p> <p>The policy intends to effectively support and encourage young people in fulfilling their potential and aspirations while addressing their needs and concerns. It intends to support young people as active and responsible citizens who fully participate in and contribute to the social, economic and cultural life of Malta, Europe and beyond.</p> <p>As a result of this document in 2017 the first Inter-ministerial working group on youth policy was set up, chaired by Agenzija Zghazagh, the National Youth Agency. This working group is made up of all the different Ministries that have a stake in youth policy. The group is set to meet up twice a year and report on any development in youth policy in the respective areas.</p> <p>Youth Work</p> <p>Since 2014, Youth Work has been formally recognised and is now regulated as a profession. The Youth Work Profession Bill gives formal professional recognition and status to youth workers. It also regulates the profession and determines the qualifications and conditions under which youth workers can acquire such recognition.</p> <p>Since 2018 Agenzija Zghazagh which is the biggest youth work provider on a national level in Malta has been working to develop a regional service. The plan is to divide Malta into 4 regions, the North, Central, South and Gozo region. The idea is to take youth work services closer to the local communities. "of these services the South and the Gozo regions are already set and running.</p> <p>NOHATE</p> <p>Since the NOHATE Campaign ended an NGO called SOS Malta, engaged in a project called #STOPHATE. The project which is funded through a national funding scheme aims at creating policy as well as raising awareness through various social media campaigns. The policy document which has been drafted is currently being finalized to be presented towards local authorities so as to provide a basis for further legislation and enforcement of the law in cases of hate speech. This combined with the discussion that is being generated on social media to bring forward a positive discussion and provide educational material to the public to foster discussion.</p>
Republic of Moldova/ République de Moldova	<p>Updated September 2020</p> <p>Youth policy Public authority responsible for youth - Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MoECR)</p> <p><u>Legal framework</u></p> <p>A new Law on Youth was adopted by the Parliament in July, 2016, which redefines the youth age barrier as 14 – 35 years old. The law contains new concepts/definitions, such as: youth work; non-formal education of young people; youth worker; youth organization; youth centre; regional youth council etc. The Law regulates the principles and objectives of the youth policies, fields of state intervention in the youth area and the requirements from youth policy stakeholders.</p> <p>In august 2020, a working group was created by the Commission responsible for Youth within the Parliament, to amend the Law on Youth. Main amendments that are being discussed are: recognizing Youth Pass, material and financial support for youth organizations, creating consultative commissions on youth problems in local public authorities etc.</p>

National Strategy for Youth Sector Development 2020 (adopted in 2014). There were established 4 main priorities within the document: youth participation; services for youth; economic opportunities for youth; strengthening the youth sector.

- ✓ The Report on the implementation of the Strategy for 2018 was submitted to the Government at the end of March
- ✓ In partnership with UNICEF Moldova, we performed a Mid-term review of the implementation of the National Strategy for Youth Sector Development 2020
- ✓ Government Decision Draft regarding the review of the Action Plan of the Strategy

As 2020 is the last year of the Strategy implementation, we are in the middle of the evaluation process. The evaluation results should show us our strengths and shortcomings for the past 6 years of implementation. Starting January 2021, we are planning to work on a new Strategy. According to our plans, it should be adopted by June.

National Agency for Programs Development and Youth Work

The Agency was created in August 2020 and is planned to be fully working by 2021, and will act as an implementation unit of the Ministry's policies and programs. It will also be responsible for collecting statistical data and develop programs based on the information gathered, develop youth work, ensure external collaboration, monitor and evaluate current programs etc.

Youth Programs

Moreover, the youth policy in Moldova is built based on the **Participation** principle (as a priority is the involvement of young people in the decision-making process).

In this context, we would like to mention some national programs that are in the process of implementation and of course in line with the **Committee of Ministers Recommendations on Youth** and other CoE policy documents, as well as in the same line with commitments stipulated in the Association Agreement signed between the Republic of Moldova and the EU.

- ✓ In this regard, it was designed and annually launched the **National support program for strengthening and development of Regional Youth Councils**, which encourages the establishment of self-representation structures of young people. This platform contributes to build a culture of genuine youth participation and empower young people to promote their rights and keep local governments accountable for mainstreaming youth policies at the local level.

Program Components:

I Component – Consulting and empowering Regional Youth Councils

II Component – Co-financing activity programs of Regional Youth Councils

Currently, 24 Regional Youth Councils are active, being part of the National Network of Youth Councils

In 2020 there were 612 young people - members of the National Network of Youth Councils.

- ✓ In order to capitalize the youth potential we need the civil society become strong and active. Thus, MoECR implements the **Annual Grant Program**, which allow NGOs to benefit of support, financial and logistic.

29 Youth NGOs received funding in 2020 within the **Annual Grant Program of the Ministry** - dedicated to support and develop youth NGO sector in Moldova, which provides, on a competitive basis, logistical and financial support to achieve initiatives, programs and youth projects, consolidating in this way cooperation with civil society.

The programs are focused on implementing the priorities of the National Youth Strategy.

In the pandemic context, we have allowed youth organizations to change their activity plans to respond to challenges that young people are facing. Even though we are having a lot of financial reserves from the Grant Program, as activities went mostly online, the money we saved we are using to support other Youth Organizations for local projects, that are based on the ever changing COVID-19 situation.

3 projects categories:

Local / regional projects up to 10,000 €

National / International projects up to 17,000 €

- ✓ Another program implemented by the ministry is the **Youth Capital**, which is an initiative taken from the experience of the European Youth Forum. This program involves the selection of a locality from the Republic of Moldova, within which, during one year, the youth activities of the

	<p>Local Public Authority, Regional and national NGOs, international organizations, and Central Public Authorities are concentrated. Youth Capitals were the following localities: Ungheni (2011), Cahul (2012), Ialoveni (2013), Soroca (2014) Singerei (2015), Ialoveni (2016), Varnița (2017), Cahul (2018) and Costești (2019).</p> <p>In 2020 we have elaborated and adopted a new Regulation for the program. Taking into consideration that this years Youth Capital (Sipoteni) had very limited possibility to implement their action plan, the program was prolonged to 2021.</p> <p>✓ We have started working on a new Program that focuses on prevention of alcohol and drugs consumption among young people, based on the Youth In Europe Model. It should be adopted in December 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering programs and its support mechanisms are a priority for us. Within the ministry, a Commission on certification of host institutions for volunteering activity is functioning. The volunteers in Moldova use the following instruments of work: Volunteering contract; Nominal volunteering certificate; Voluntary book; Letter of Recommendation. The main volunteering activities are National Volunteering Week; Festival of Volunteers; National Conference on Volunteering. At this point, we have about 180 accredited host organizations for receiving volunteers, and about 2100 volunteer books released. <p>In the area of youth services and recognition of the youth work in Moldova: An important achievement can be considered the National Youth Centres Development Program, which is implemented during 2017-2022. In this regard, the partnership between the MoECR and UNFPA Moldova was established by signing the agreement for the Joint Fund for Development of the youth services, including those most vulnerable. The program is implemented in the territorial-administrative units of the Republic of Moldova, where the local public authorities of the second level are interested and undertake the responsibility to develop and expand the territorial coverage of youth services. Starting with 2019, other partners joined the Joint Fund like the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Council of Europe (CoE).</p> <p>Program Components: Component I: Professional development of human resources in the youth centers; Component II: Support for the development of the technical and material basis of youth centers; Component III: Support for the development of the District / Municipal Grant Program to fund Youth Initiatives / Youth Projects (7 Programs co-financed in 2020)</p> <p>- 22 districts have signed already Partnership Agreements with the Ministry on the implementation of the Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Youth Sector Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amending the Law on Youth; ▪ Evaluate the current Youth Strategy and elaborate a new one; ▪ Youth infrastructure development; ▪ Implementation of the Youth Centers Development Program 2022; ▪ Development and recognition of youth work and youth worker; ▪ Implementation of the National Youth Capital Project ▪ Ensuring attainment of the Annual Grant Program for youth organizations; ▪ Implementation of the international engagements on youth (Association Agreement with EU, Youth priorities and recommendations of the Council of Europe, GUAM, UN, Central European Initiative, Visegrad group, etc.).
Monaco	
Montenegro/ Monténegro	<p>Updated February 2021</p> <p>At the national level, the two most important institutions in the domain of youth policy are the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports and Directorate for Sports and Youth, established by the Decree on the State Administration's Organization and Manner of Work ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 118/20 od 07.12.2020, 121/20 od 10.12.2020, 001/21 od 04.01.2021, 002/21 od 05.01.2021)</p>

1. The Parliament of Montenegro adopted the new **Law on Youth** on April 4 2019 ("Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 025/19" from 30.04.2019). The main reason for creating the new Law on Youth is to improve the planning and implementation of youth policy by strengthening the institutional framework, empowering youth services in which young people can get skills and knowledge that contribute to their personal and social development. Also, the Law specifies methods of constituting youth advisory bodies, as well as the realization of youth policy by non-governmental organizations, with a focus on their participation in the work of national and local advisory bodies.

The Government of Montenegro has already adopted all three bylaws recognized within the Law

- the Rulebook on criteria and conditions for choosing a space for youth service ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 074/19 of 30.12.2019)
- the Rulebook on the method of functioning youth services and the performance of the administrative and technical jobs needed for their functioning was adopted ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 009/20 of 21.02.2020)
- the Rulebook on conditions, manner and procedure for election of members of the Council for Youth ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No.058/20 od 19.06.2020)

2. **The National Youth Strategy 2017-2021** and its annual action plans are also being implemented. This Strategy clearly positions youth as a matter of interest to Montenegro and through a holistic approach envisages cross-sectorial and interdepartmental co-operation of youth policy actors. The Strategy defines six key priorities (outcomes) regarding Montenegrin youth:

- A. Young people achieve economic and social security through improved access to the labor market and employment
 - B. Young people have access to quality education
 - C. Young people are active citizens, involved, motivated, proactive and participate in decision-making and community development processes, in the creation of policies and their implementation
 - D. Young people are healthy, they are safe, have access to an adequate support system for transition to adulthood and self-realization
 - E. Young people have access to quality cultural contents as creators and consumers
 - F. Normative and institutional framework for the implementation of youth policy has been established.
- (more at www.strategijazamlade.me)

Action Plan for the implementation of the Youth Strategy for 2019 was realized in the scope of 95%, whereas 90% of those activities were completely realized and 5% partially. The Report for 2020 is to be completed by the end of March 2021. Total budget funds spent for the implementation of Action Plan of the Strategy for 2019 was over one million EUR (regular budgetary funds). Some of the activities were realized through donations of international organizations (OSCE, UNDP, UNICEF...)

Additionally, since 2017 more than 900 000 € was allocated to projects for young people through the open calls for youth organizations/NGO's. The Open call for 2021 is planned by beginning of II quarter.

3. As stipulated by the Law on Youth (Articles 19 and 20) NGOs may establish **Representative (Umbrella) Association of NGOs implementing youth policy**. This is an association that consists of at least 30 NGOs that implement youth policy, from at least six municipalities, of which coastal, central and northern municipalities are represented by two members. According to the Law on Youth representation of the mentioned Association of NGOs shall be determined by the Ministry for a period of one year by issuing a certificate on representation. The process of establishing *Representative (Umbrella) Association of NGOs implementing youth policy* in Montenegro has been initiated by 35 youth NGOs in March 2020. In November 2020 the Ministry has issued the certificate on representation to "Montenegrin Youth Network".

Additionally, according to the Article 16 of the Law, the Representative (Umbrella) Association shall propose two representatives in the membership of advisory governmental body - Council for Youth

(once it is established) of which at least one shall be a young person, but both with the mandate of one year.

4. Local self-governments (secretariats in charge of the youth policy at local level) are responsible to develop youth policy and provide conditions for its implementation at the local level. According to the Law on Youth (Article 14), municipalities are obliged to adopt **Local youth action plans**, and as such, they have to be in harmonization with the National Youth Strategy. Therefore, all the municipalities were obliged to submit the draft of the local youth action plan to Ministry of Sports and Youth (now Directorate for Sports and Youth) in order to obtain an opinion on its harmonization with the Strategy (before continuing the procedure of its adoption in the local parliament).

Accordingly, in 2020 and 2021 all 24 municipalities in Montenegro adopted Local Youth Action Plans and started its implementation. This brings us to the conclusion, that there has been significant enhancement in implementing youth policy at local level.

5. **Youth services** (youth clubs and youth centers) are one of the key infrastructural mechanisms for improving youth participation, their networking and the development of life skills and non-formal education. An intense work has been done in Montenegro to provide such services for young people. Correspondingly, in 2019 and 2020 close to 236.000EUR was allocated for the reconstruction and adaptation of 11 youth clubs in Montenegro. Youth clubs are open in Mojkovac, Plav, Petnjica, Danilovgrad, Nikšić, Šavnik, Cetinje, Bar, Kotor, Pljevlja and adapted Youth Center in Podgorica. Besides the abovementioned, youth clubs exist and are supported by the Ministry (now Directorate) in Berane, Tivat, Budva, Tuzi and Ulcinj. In the upcoming period, the intention is to open youth services in every municipality in Montenegro and to support the work of the existing ones. For the time being, slight primacy have had the municipalities in the northern part of the country due to the fewer opportunities young people in this region have the chance to experience.

6. Ministry of Sports and Youth in cooperation with the European Youth Card Association and the NGO "Center for Youth Education" provide continuous support in implementing project of **European Youth Card in Montenegro** since April 2018. European Youth Card (EYC) represents internationally recognized benefit card for young people age 13-29 who use it free of charge for more than 200 discounts in Montenegro and over 70 000 discounts in Europe. Since 2018, in collaboration with our partners at both national and local level, we have distributed more than 10 000 free cards to young people across Montenegro who have thus become beneficiaries of the benefits and discounts of the card in 37 European countries.

7. From the very beginning, the Government of Montenegro provided an open and indisputable support to the entire process of establishing the **Regional Youth Cooperation Office in the Western Balkans (RYCO)**. We are particularly proud of the fact that Montenegro was the first country that fulfilled all three conditions for establishing the Regional Youth Cooperation Office arising from the Berlin Process. The establishment of RYCO represents an additional stimulus for the mobility development of young people at national and regional level and their better cooperation, which is a regional response to the common challenges and problems of young people. The Government of Montenegro maintains continuous cooperation with RYCO through the Governing board. Additionally, in 2021 Montenegro is taking over the chairmanship in the RYCO Governing Board which shall be a great opportunity to continue the path of showing devotion to youth-related topics and bringing added value to the functioning of this important regional intergovernmental structure.

Also, the Government consistently supports the Local branch office of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office and participates in the events organized by RYCO. Moreover, it has provided a new and more spacious office for the Local branch office in purpose of expanding the capacities in both human resources and program activities.

	<p>8. No Hate Speech Campaign</p> <p>The Ministry of Sports and Youth (now Directorate for Sports and Youth), the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Public Administration and the Police Directorate have signed a Cooperation Agreement on "Digital Literacy and Protection of Children and Youth on the Internet". Bearing in mind that internet is one of the main sources of information for children and young people, as they represent the most sensitive category, therefore particular attention should be paid to these target groups in the field of cyber security and preventing hate speech. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness among children, young people and adults alike, of the need to develop digital literacy, as well as the proper use of new technologies without which survival in the modern world is impossible. Within the campaign several activities have been conducted, i.e. held panel discussions with young people in all three regions in Montenegro (central, coastal and northern), launched the website of the campaign www.mladime.me etc. In August 2020, the quiz Safe Surf 4 Me was organized on the Public Broadcast – National TV service. The quiz winners have received valuable prizes. This was the opportunity to see how much do children and young people know about internet, its safe usage, and the dangers lurking there.</p> <p>Also, the National Operational Team for Prevention and Suppression of Radicalization and Violent Extremism was formed in order to indicate the threat of radicalization to which everyone is potentially exposed, however, children and young people are at particular risk. The Team involves 22 representatives of state bodies (state administration bodies, the Supreme Court, the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office, administrative bodies, public institutions and non-governmental organizations). Great efforts have been made to help young people learn about occurrence of radicalization and extremism, prevent it, and build and maintain a positive value system with young people. So far numerous trainings, panel discussions and workshops were held, and the Manual for recognizing, preventing and combating radicalization and violent extremism within students was published (link https://zajednoprotovekstremizma.me/prirucnik-za-prepoznavanje-prevenciju-i-suzbijanje-radikalizacije-i-nasilnog-ekstremizma-kod-ucenika/)</p>
Netherlands/ Pays-Bas	
North Macedonia/ Macédoine du Nord	<p>Updated October 2018</p> <p>The Agency of Youth and Sport is currently working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiating youth law by forming three working groups, one from representatives from the coalition's SEGA and NMSM, one group from working assembly youth club and one from the Agency and involvement from the Ohrid Institute via political youth parties will be involved. There will be a consultative process managed by the NGO's with assistance and support from the assembly youth club and the agency. The coordinative body will have the task of preparing a rulebook on the work of the groups, as well as technical tasks. After that period during the month March an analysis of the existing situation will be conducted and the beginning of the proposal proses for youth law. From April a first draft text will be prepared for adoption. - The agency of youth and sport began a process of revision of the national youth strategy through consultative meetings with the civil sector and relevant institutions to analyse past experience of formulating the national youth strategy, analysis of the current situation, begin the process of establishing a methodological approach for the revision of the youth strategy and define the timeframe. - In analysing the current situation, the Agency of youth and sport will launch a wide consultative process by creating documents and measures for implementation of the national youth card, which will enable young people to have access to discounts and benefits in the areas of mobility, accommodation, culture, services and services and products. The card will allow young people to be part of Europe where everyone is mobile and active, AMC will launch a process of informing about the opportunities that are intended for young people to be socially, culturally, educative and economically mobile.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The youth guarantee, in coordination with relevant institutions, the agency will contribute a pilot project that will help establish a network among young people, businesspeople and state institutions. This network will contribute opportunities for youth education, pre-education trainings for young people in order to facilitate the way out of the labour market, increase youth competitiveness and contribute to directing young people on a professional path. -The manual for youth local councils is after the final stage of preparation, and from April this year, in co-operation with the OSCE, trainings will be organized in each municipality to encourage awareness of the support of youth local councils. - The main goal of the youth work is to enable young people to form their own future and is a narrower expression for the activities of social, cultural, educational and political nature intended for the youth, and the AMC aims at great support for defining youth work through coordination meetings with youth organizations for communication on the relevant topic, meetings with the Center for Vocational Education and Training for measures of defining and meetings with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy for legal solutions. - The Agency has taken part in the election of a youth representative of the Regional Office for Youth Cooperation (RYCO). Currently a working committee is created by members of civil society organizations who will meet next week in the AMC to review applications from applicants and choose a youth representative. On March 20th the first meeting of advisory and representatives in Macedonia will take place, bringing together the RYCO members and representatives. - Guided by the good examples of the Council of Europe, European experience and regional experience, the youth in the Republic of Macedonia need to participate in decision-making on issues that directly affect them. Considering that the programme of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia 2017-2020 emphasizes the support and involvement of young people in the decision-making process, the Agency is beginning a process of the good European practice of the Co-Management body and structural dialogue which will make a significant contribution towards the realization of the specific, but also general goals of the programme, i.e. towards the essential democratization of the society. The Co-management body will bring together government officials and youth representatives to review and make recommendations for youth policies and to make them more informed in decision-making. Successful examples at the European regional and national level are a strong recommendation for introducing a co-management body in the Republic of Macedonia, precisely through its regulation in the Law on Youth, whereby the role of youth organizations should be strengthened
Norway/ Norvège	<p>Updated September 2020</p> <p>The Norwegian government's child and youth policy is based on the following objectives and principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A safe upbringing in family and in the local community • Equal rights and opportunities • Participation and influence • High quality services for everyone <p>Norwegian youth policy is cross-sectoral with emphasis on collaboration and coordination between local and central authorities, and with the voluntary sector. In addition, children and young people's participation is emphasised.</p> <p>Recent policy developments across sectors include:</p> <p><i>Gender equality and education</i></p> <p>Two Official Norwegian Reports (NOUs) on gender and young people have recently been released. The findings and recommendations will have implications for further policy development; one describes gender differences in school performance and educational attainment, another overall gender equality challenges among children and young people. The reports propose various measures to address identifies issues.</p> <p><i>Health</i></p>

The Government's youth health strategy (2016 – 2021) covers the age group 13–25 years and sets out several goals related to mental health, healthy lifestyles and sexual health among youth. Young people's own views and experiences were central in the development of the strategy. Measures that have been undertaken to achieve the goals in the strategy include:

- A national programme for public health run by the Directorate of Health which aims to strengthen mental health and substance abuse prevention among young people as part of the municipalities' public health work. An important aspect of the programme is to strengthen municipalities' capacity to develop, implement and evaluate knowledge-based measures.
- A cross sectoral National Plan for children and young people's mental health (2019–2024) which covers measures to ensure that more children and young people between 0-25 experience good mental health and a good quality of life, and that those who need it should receive appropriate and effective treatment. The plan contains both health-promoting, preventative and treatment-oriented measures.
- A national grant scheme administered by the Directorate of Health to promote mental health and well-being among students in higher education and prevent problems related to drug use. Universities, colleges and vocational colleges as well as student organizations can apply for project grants.
- **A Sexual Health Strategy (2017-2020) which** includes activities for increasing young people's knowledge and skills to safeguard their own sexual health.

The Government has also initiated a drug reform process with the goal of transferring responsibility for society's response to the use and possession of illegal drugs for personal use from the justice sector to the health sector. A committee was set up to prepare for the implementation of the reform and has handed over an Official Norwegian Report to the Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. A reform will potentially have significant implications for policies and measures relating to young people and drug use.

Social inclusion

The Government has initiated a collaborative effort between municipalities, the voluntary sector and top-level authorities to ensure that all children and youth, regardless of their parents' social and financial situation, can participate regularly in recreational activities. In addition, the Government has initiated a 'Recreation Card' trial, with the aim of giving children and young people 6 to 18 years the opportunity to participate in organised leisure time/recreational activities regardless of economic resources. The aim is to develop a national universal scheme.

Culture

The Government is developing a *White Paper* on children and youth culture which will be presented jointly by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Research. Arts for Young Audiences Norway, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, involved children and young people in policy development around several of the topics that will be addressed in the forthcoming White Paper.

Youth participation at local and national levels

From 2019, every municipality must have a local youth council, that advises local decision makers. A digital guide has been developed to support youth council members and provide guidance to municipalities.

The Norwegian government has declared that it will strengthen youth participation in democratic processes at the national level. Ministries are establishing ad hoc youth panels to advise the government on various policy issues. Currently three panels have been established:

- 1) The Ministry of Local Development and Modernisation has set up a panel focusing on regional policy development
- 2) The Ministry of Children and Families has set up a panel focusing on measures for children growing up in low income families.
- 3) The Ministry of Children and Families has set up a panel focusing on the development of a national 'Recreation Card' with the aim of giving children and young people 6 to 18 years the opportunity to participate in organised leisure time/recreational activities regardless of economic resources.

There are plans to set up more panels in various ministries and on different policy topics.

	<p>No Hate Speech</p> <p>No Hate Speech Movement in Norway "Stopp hatprat" are continuing their activities. The No Hate Speech Ambassadors are young people who act as role models and do peer-to-peer human rights educational activities with other young people, as well as organising youth conferences, take part in debates, governmental consultations, stands, demonstrations, etc. The No Hate Speech community of practitioners on human rights education are youth workers, youth leaders and teachers who learn and share experiences on using human rights education and the Bookmarks-manual in class and youth work. The movement in Norway remains a place for young people to meet and address hate speech as a human rights violation and change the knowledge, skills and attitudes of others. The Norwegian movement cooperates with the informal network that continues the work against hate speech after the coordination from the Council of Europe ended and wish to keep the legacy of the movement alive.</p>
Poland/ Pologne	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <p>Information on activities in the field of youth policy at national level in Poland (October 2020 - March 2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In response to the postulates of youth organisations regarding increasing the role of youth councils operating at local government units (youth commune council, youth municipal council, youth regional council), the draft amendment to the act on self-government was developed in dialogue with social partners. Currently, the draft project is being consulted. The objectives of the proposed regulations are primarily: institutional strengthening of youth councils at local government units and increasing their efficiency and impact on local communities. ▪ The Government Plenipotentiary for Youth Policy, Piotr Mazurek, in cooperation with the Council for Dialogue with the Young Generation, started regional consultations of the national strategy for the young generation. Various stakeholders were invited to consultations: representatives of youth councils at local government units, student councils, scouts, youth non-governmental organizations and non-affiliated young people who want to have a real impact on policies concerning youth. The aim of the consultation is to develop solutions, collect opinions and ideas that will be included in the strategic document on state activities in the field of youth policy. ▪ Minister of Justice has established the Youth Justice Council. The aim of the Council is primarily to involve young people in the dialogue regarding the judiciary and legal education in Poland. In addition, the Council will support activities undertaken by the Minister of Justice in the field of youth and undertake the initiatives that will promote free legal aid and free civic counseling. The Council will be composed of 12 to 24 members, selected from among the candidates submitted for recruitment.
Portugal	<p>Updated October 2020</p> <p>Since the CDEJ last meeting in March 2020, the youth sector in Portugal was, as all over Europe and internationally, strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The situation lead to the urgent need to adapt to the new circumstances and turn into the digital. In this framework not only the services had to adapt, for instance placing officials working from their homes, but also adopt new ways of keeping the contact with young people and youth organizations active.</p> <p>To meet this challenge new strategies had to be developed and methodologies and activities had to be adjusted to a <i>new normality</i> that didn't take away problems and needs of young people, now caused or worsen by this sudden and turbulent social context</p> <p>1. Launch of the new IPDJ portal</p> <p>The new IPDJ portal was launched in April, with the address https://ipdj.gov.pt. This new tool is meant to be more accessible, more complete and user friendly, technologically with faster and more intuitive navigation and better interactivity. It brings together in a single domain information - at local, national and international levels -, interaction and online services, which until April 2020 were dispersed in 3 different websites (the National Youth Portal https://juventude.gov.pt; the Sports Portal, www.idesporto.pt, and the IPDJ institutional website). The portal is also a more dynamic and refreshed tool to better communicate with IPDJ target publics, taking advantage of the capabilities and potential of the new information and communication technologies, namely giving more emphasis</p>

to social media and translated into keywords such as: youth, sport and physical activity, health, learning, active citizenship, integration and sharing.

2. #SERJOVEMEMCASA campaign

During confinement due to the pandemic situation, the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth (IPDJ) launched the #SERJOVEMEMCASA (*beingyoungathome*) campaign, with proposals for activities, workshops and information available to youth, alongside with the #SERATIVOEMCASA (*beinghativeathome*) campaign, addressing the Sports field and users.

This campaign took place on the various platforms of IPDJ, through its new Portal and its social networks, Instagram and Facebook. There was a set of activities, workshops, webinars and information about online safety and digital citizenship sharing moments created by and in cooperation with young volunteers.

3. Online safety and digital citizenship | Naveg@s em Segurança Program

IPDJ has developed, during the last decade, in a partnership within the scope of the Safer Internet Centre – Portugal, a Youth Volunteering project to raise awareness of young people for Online Security and Digital Citizenship - "Programa Naveg@s em Segurança", which consists in the realization of a face-to-face Awareness Sessions framed in a format of information and peer to peer counselling. With the pandemic and confinement situation, the awareness methodology had to be rethought and adapted to the new social context.

The young volunteers of Naveg@s Program organised 15 webinars and awareness online sessions, producing the resources (presentations and videos) and addressing issues like fake news, human rights online, social networks, hate speech online, Cyberbullying, data protection, and others. These sessions took place from April till August 2020.

A collection of infographics on Online Hate Speech is also being finalized. These are intended to alert to this issue, giving clues on how to deconstruct hate speech, and how to combat it, from a pedagogical perspective. These are tools that can be used online or in youth awareness actions for young people through our information network or through youth associations, among others.

4. Campaign #Dáumtempo | "Give a Time!" – Lisbon Metropolitan area

Considering that Metropolitan Lisbon geographical area has one of the highest COVID-19 infection rates in the country since the end of the confinement period, IPDJ has in course the #Dáumtempo (*giveatime*) campaign, through the youth volunteer program "Agora Nós" focusing in this region.

As part of the strategy for the prevention, containment and mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Lisbon region, the IPDJ Lisbon and Tagus Valley Regional Directorate (that includes the Lisbon Youth Centre, which holds the Council of Europe Quality Label), challenged around 250 volunteers (organized in groups of about two dozen), to provide information, in an informal and participatory way, to the youth community, in terms of security issues, namely next to public places - public services, cafes, terraces, restaurants, markets, among others.

The awareness-raising action between peers took place in two phases in July and more recently in September / October.

The central aim of this volunteer activity, where young people play the key role, is to contribute to the safety of citizens, multiplying efforts to prevent, contain and mitigate the pandemic. This is done through the use of personal protective equipment and multiplying the recommendations regarding respiratory etiquette, restrictions on mobility, practices of social distancing and, above all, highlighting the implications / consequences of non-compliance with the established rules and guidelines.

In addition to raising awareness for the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic, this initiative encourages the practice of organized volunteering, which stimulates the skills of young people, allowing them to perform tasks for the benefit of the community.

5. Youth mental health

Promotion and prevention of health related issues among young people have been overarching aims of the "Cuida-te+" programme, a health programme of the Portuguese Institute on Sports and Youth, created in 2008, renewed in 2019. It is dedicated to minimize the likelihood of non-communicable diseases, by promoting health education, health literacy, early detection, counselling and referral to

young people, ultimately leading to more meaningful and productive lives. This programme was originally set up with three essential concerns: -Awareness raising on youth health and healthy lifestyles; -Preventive intervention on addictive behaviours; -Counselling on sexual and reproductive health.

A renovation process of the programme was undertaken with the purpose of addressing recommendations emerging from empirical evidence, which pointed to:

- Dramatic increases in socioeconomic inequality in many domains of adolescent health and overlaps with unequal distribution of income.
- A need of competencies and expertise on prevention principles, theories and practice among those who develop prevention interventions, namely trained and/or specialized professionals.
- Prevention interventions should form part of a coherent long-term prevention plan, monitored on an ongoing basis allowing for necessary adjustments.
- Prevention delivered should be based on scientific evidence as an investment in the well-being of young people.

Hence, a renovation of the former model was put in place, taking into account recent literature and also the view of stakeholders, youth professionals, health professionals, public health service providers and policy makers that were invited to comment, discuss and review a pre-editing version.

Key adjustments were put forward: -Coherence, matching the results of local needs assessment with intervention mechanisms; -Adequate training to strategic players and professionals; -Coverage of a range of community settings (youth associations, families, schools, universities, workplace, entertainment venues, etc.); Need to involve university to support the implementation of the programme and its monitoring and evaluation.

Implementing Cuida-te+ programme has been a shared responsibility across government departments, stakeholders and youth interests, in what refers to youth health and the four main intervention areas (addictive behaviours, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition and physical activity and mental health. This framework provides for the development and implementation of policies and services in relation to the following interconnected and mutually reinforcing operational mechanisms:

1. Customised services, with
 - a. Mobile Units for awareness raising activities,
 - b. Youth health counselling services made available and free for all from 12 to 25,
 - c. Dedicated Hot line for sexual and reproductive health counselling
2. Health literacy promotion services, including
 - a. Youth Health section in IPDJ Portal, including youth mental health contents and useful tools for skills developing
 - b. Health Education through non formal education such as theatre, music, dance, arts or sports activities
 - c. Capacity building for intervention players.

In concrete terms, in 2020 (considering concerns arising from COVID-19 overall situation):

- a guide was drafted for intervention players;
- as part of the #SERJOVEMEMCASA campaign, five webinars dedicated to mental health;
- counselling services were made available by videoconference (or even e-mail, phone or chat tools), concerning psychologic support;
- several materials on isolation, anxiety, depression, etc were published, against the backdrop of COVID-19;
- launching the call for proposals concerning 2.b. operational mechanism;
- national protocols on youth health, particularly Mental Health, with Directorate-General of Health (DGS), General Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD) or Regional Administrations of Health (ARS).

6. International Youth Day 2020– 12 August | "Youth Involvement for Global Action" | Environmental sustainability awareness actions on 35 beaches across the country.

This year, the theme of the International Youth day was "Youth Involvement for Global Action", that granted young people the opportunity to celebrate and integrate their voices, actions and initiatives,

	<p>as well as to defend their full, universal and equitable involvement in efforts to meet the challenges facing humanity.</p> <p>The aim was to clarify the need to involve young people, making local, national and global institutions more inclusive, in order to strengthen their capacity and relevance in achieving global action. According to international data, there are today about 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24, about a quarter of the world's population, and it is therefore essential to emphasize the importance of youth for the progress of society and urgent fight against the scourge of climate change.</p> <p>Thus, on August 12 IPDJ promoted, in collaboration with the National Youth Council and the National Federation of Youth Associations, awareness raising actions on environmental sustainability, through the involvement of more than 700 young people involved in the cleaning of 35 beaches, oceanic and river beaches, which had the support of all the municipalities involved.</p> <p>IPDJ also invited various public and private entities at national, regional and local level, to join this day's celebrations and to make discounts and / or free tickets in their activities / services around the country available to young people.</p> <p>From the North to the South of the country, hundreds of opportunities were available with discounts and tassels for young people, from 12 to 25 or 29 years, in museums, public transportation, national parks, water and leisure parks, sports facilities among many others, with conditions of hygiene and safety considering the pandemic period.</p>
Romania/ Roumanie	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The National Council for Youth, the ministry's new dialogue partner from the youth civil society, has started its activity. Big and small youth organizations work alongside the ministry to develop youth policies complying with a clear regulation. At the end of February, the first plenary session took place in the presence of the minister of youth and sports. 2. The youth state of play 2020 was released in December. More focused was put on disadvantaged youth in order to ensure more inclusive policies in the future. 3. The new Youth Strategy (2021 – 2027) will focus on education, employment and entrepreneurship and inclusion. 4. The Ministry of Youth and Sports received the certification as provider of youth work courses. Moreover, the ministry has collaborated with the National Agency in providing digital youth work courses.
Russian Federation/ Fédération de Russie	<p>Updated February 2021</p> <p>The COVID-19 has made its own adjustments to the development of youth policy in the Russian Federation, together with other global changes. New challenges associated with the events taking place in the world, new priority goals of the socio-economic development of our country, outlined by the President and the Government of the Russian Federation, required a systemic renewal, development of tasks and mechanisms of state youth policy.</p> <p>1. On 30th of December, 2020, the President of the Russian Federation signed the Federal Law "On Youth Policy in the Russian Federation" (hereinafter – the Federal Law).</p> <p>The Federal Law determines the goals, principles, main directions and forms of the implementation of youth policy and also regulates the relations between the subjects carrying out activities in the field of youth policy during its implementation on the territory of the Russian Federation. The Federal Law defines at the national level such definitions as "youth", "young family", "youth policy", "youth public associations".</p>

	<p>Today the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (hereinafter – the Ministry), together with other federal executive bodies, is developing normative legal acts that can supplement and expand the implementation of the Federal Law on the territory of the Russian Federation. Moreover, the Council for the Implementation of the State Youth Policy has been created in the Ministry. It is an advisory body created by the Ministry in order to ensure interaction in the implementation of the state youth policy of the Ministry with the state authorities of the Russian Federation, state authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, as well as with other organizations participating in the implementation of state youth policy.</p> <p>2. The Ministry developed the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation (and it was approved on the 12 of December, 2019) No. 1646 amending clause 4.17 of the Regulation on the Ministry in terms of providing support to organizers of volunteer activities, volunteer organizations, including their interaction with state and municipal institutions, socially oriented non-profit organizations, state and municipal institutions that provide organizational, informational, methodological and other support to volunteers.</p> <p>In order to implement the clause 7 of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Concept for promoting the development of volunteering in the Russian Federation until 2025, the Ministry created the Federal Educational and Methodological Center for the Support and Development of Volunteering based on the Russian State Social University. In 2020, organizational and methodological support for the activities of organizers of volunteerism was based on the Russian State University named after A. Kosygin.</p> <p>One of the meeting's results of the President of the Russian Federation with representatives of volunteer organizations (on 5th of December 2019 within the framework of the International Forum of Volunteers) became the instruction to create an international youth center (hereinafter – the Center) to organize youth exchanges and conduct internships within the framework of such exchanges, including the volunteering field.</p> <p>We suggest that the Center will become a resource platform that includes not only organizing youth exchanges and conducting internships within the framework of such exchanges, but also expanding opportunities in the field of international youth cooperation in the Russian Federation in general.</p> <p>3. In 2020, the Ministry provided educational institutions of higher education with detailed information about the All-Russian action of mutual assistance "We are together" and methodological recommendations on organizing the work of regional volunteer headquarters to help people in the situation of the spread of COVID-19. That helped to inform students about how to participate in the activities of the volunteer movement. These recommendations, as well as a link to the official portal of the action, are posted on the official website of the Ministry in the information and telecommunications network "Internet".</p> <p>4. Changes are taking place in most areas of society, including the situation on the labor market, during the fight against COVID-19. Ensuring employment and professional development of young people is one of the main tasks of the state youth policy of the Russian Federation.</p> <p>Today the Ministry has developed a set of measures aimed at ensuring the employment of students and graduates of universities. For example, as part of that set, a program was implemented, as a result of which, in the spring and summer of 2020, more than 15 thousand students from 149 educational institutions of higher education subordinated to the Ministry were employed in a variety of positions: from digital assistants to consultants-psychologists for working with social vulnerable groups of the population.</p> <p>Also, within the framework of the implementation of a set of measures to promote the employment of students and graduates on the basis of educational institutions of higher education, there are also specialized structural units – Career and Employment Centers. Their goal is to increase the attractiveness of students and graduates in the labor market, and most importantly, to assist them in finding work.</p>
San Marino/ Saint Marin	
Serbia/ Serbie	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <p>Currently, the Ministry of Youth and Sports is in a process of preparation for the implementation of the procedure amending the Law on Youth, revision of the National Strategy for Youth 2015-2025 and development of the Action Plan for its implementation.</p> <p>The implementation of 87 projects awarded in 2020 has been completed. More than 50.000 direct beneficiaries were involved in programmes and projects for quality leisure time, active participation of</p>

	<p>young people, non-formal education, programmes that promote youth information, self-employment and entrepreneurship support.</p> <p>Through the national volunteer program "Youth Rule" the Ministry of Youth and Sports supported 159 youth volunteer projects of non-formal groups throughout Serbia; 46 volunteer camps; large volunteer action and two online campaigns through which over 2000 young people invested more than 30.000 volunteer hours for local communities. They were included in the development of public spaces where they will spend their free time in the future, in environmental activities, as well as in those promoting intergenerational cooperation, understanding, tolerance and equal opportunities for all. Healthy and safe lifestyles were also promoted, solidarity and humanity, especially towards socially disadvantaged groups. In cooperation with UNICEF and the Young Researchers of Serbia, the online platform was launched and it included 1000 volunteers so far.</p> <p>The Survey on the Position and Needs of Youth in Serbia for 2020, the Analysis of the Implementation of the National Youth Strategy and the Action Plan for 2019, as well as the Analysis of Basic Indicators of the Position of Youth in Serbia - Comparative Analysis with other EU countries, were conducted.</p> <p>During third week of November the Global Education Week has been marked. Trainings for youth workers and leaders from 18 youth associations and youth offices throughout Serbia were organized, also campaigns and online activities as an online quiz in knowledge of the principles of global education. Strengthening the capacity of the national network and educators, as well as all activities during the Global Education Week is supported by the North-South Center of the Council of Europe. Delegation of Serbia participated at the 3rd European Youth Work Convention that was held in digital format in December 2020. In accordance with the key points from the event, there is an idea to establish within the National Youth Council a special working group for Bonn process.</p> <p>As a result of the cooperation of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and several youth associations and federations on social inclusion of vulnerable groups through multiple projects and consultative process, the document „Educational package for strengthening the capacity of youth civil society organizations and youth offices for social inclusion of young people" was created in December 2020.</p> <p>Also in December 2020, a special training for mayors and presidents of municipalities was organized. They had the opportunity to learn from the youth policy actors how they can improve youth policy in local community, about youth offices, local action plans for youth, as well as the establishment of local youth councils, while ensuring the highest standards of youth participation, youth work and non-formal education.</p> <p>In order to implement the goals of the National Youth Strategy, the Ministry of Youth and Sports continues to support youth associations with the aim to increase active participation of young people in society, volunteering and encourage their involvement in the development of youth policy in Serbia. This Ministry launched in February 2021 public calls to support self-government units, youth offices and youth organizations, in total value of EUR 1.950.000.</p> <p>Serbia remains dedicated to the improvement of regional cooperation in youth field through Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO). The fourth open call of RYCO for CSOs was launched in September 2020 and contracts with 4 CSOs from Serbia were signed in February 2021. The selected projects will create partnerships with organizations in the region which will enhance youth cooperation in the fields of dealing with the past, youth empowerment and development, social inclusion of youth at risk, intercultural dialogue and freedom of media.</p>
Slovak Republic/ République slovaque	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <p>The Ministry of education, science, research and sport of the Slovak Republic is currently working on the preparation of the new Strategy for youth for the years 2021-2028. As we want to ensure the participative process of the preparation, draft of the strategy was discussed within the Inter-governmental working group and this week the round tables are taking part around Slovakia in order to engage young people, youth workers and other actors in consultations of the proposed strategic objectives. Moreover, we are discussing the possibilities of collecting data from youth organisations about the impact of Covid-19 to their work in order to better understand the need for policies, that have to be adopted. Also, national agency for Erasmus+ in the field of youth and sport is planning to gather data from beneficiary final reports of Erasmus+ (Youth) and European Solidarity Corps how participants and organizations have been dealing with the pandemic situation. In the first months of 2021, the Ministry announced a call for grants for youth work actors in the total amount of 2,2 million euros. In order to proceed with the non-formal education and youth work activities, IUVENTA- Slovak Youth institute provided a lot of workshops and trainings online and many of them were streamed live via Facebook.</p>

1. In the year 2020 the Office of Youth became deeply involved in preparation of the EU Presidency within trio framework (Germany, Portugal, Slovenia), starting with cooperation in setting up the relevant documents for the youth sector, for exam, Resolution on the framework of establishing a European Youth Work Agenda ("historical" step forward in direction of more productive synergies between CoE and EU institutions in the field of youth work).

2. Office for Youth published in 2019 two-year public tender: Strengthening the competencies of young people through active citizenship for greater employability. Tender represent continuation of the previous tender for the period 2016 - 2018 - explained more in detail below.

In 2016 the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (hereinafter: MIZŠ) - Office for Youth published a call for tenders for programmes promoting active citizenship among young people to increase employability 2016–2018.

The initiative is partly financed by the European Union, through the European Social Fund. The project is carried out within the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the Period 2014–2020, priority axes: 8. "Promoting employment and supporting transnational labour mobility", investment priorities: 8.2 "Sustainable integration in the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through implementation of the Youth Guarantee", specific objective: 8.2.1 "Reduce youth unemployment".

The aim of the tender is to provide co-financing of projects carried out by organisations operating in the public interest in the youth sector, aimed at promoting active citizenship among young people to increase youth employability and employment.

The expected results of the tender are: to enhance the employability and employment rate of the target group both in youth sector organisations and beyond – to encourage a more diversified approach to the employment of young people through youth work – to enhance young people's competencies for active citizenship and to promote the social recognition of such competencies – to enable youth sector organisations to address and solve the problem of youth unemployment and, consequently, to increase the recognition of the competencies of youth workers for promoting youth work and increasing its socio-economic potential. The core of the programmes is the inclusion and employment of target groups both within and outside the youth sector. With the aim of achieving the set goals, the tender will encourage innovative forms of youth work, including new approaches to solving the issue of youth unemployment, that have the potential for a wider impact on youth work and youth policy. Enhancing the quality of youth work can also improve practices in the areas where youth work and employment overlap. As a result, quality youth work can contribute to the objectives of employment policies further by opening up the possibility of involving all young people in youth work, as well as to the objectives of the social inclusion policy. Quality youth work is therefore always to the benefit of young people, improves the environment and practice of youth work, and contributes to the wider objectives of youth policy. Projects were supported that will, in line with the subject matter, purpose, and objectives of the tender cover at least one of the following areas to promote employability and increase youth employment: - implementing non-formal education activities in the context of youth work to strengthen competencies and empower young people and transfer relevant skills and competencies to young people; - strengthening the human, organisational and programme capacity of organisations in the youth sector to implement youth work for the purpose of better addressing youth unemployment, to identify the problem and to actively resolve the issue of the life situation of young people related to their entry into the labour market; - networking among young people and young people with relevant organisations to ensure young people better access to employment.

The public tender's target group was young people from 15 to up to 29 years of age. In order to be eligible, a young person must be at least 15 and less than 30 years old at the date of inclusion in the operation, and not in an employment relationship in accordance with the ZDR-1.

3. The European Solidarity Corps Programme implemented in Slovenia by MOVIT (Erasmus+, youth) is based on the achievements of more than 25 years of implementation of European programmes for youth and solidarity, and in particular the European voluntary service and the implementation of the first phase of the European Solidarity Corps (hereinafter: ESC). The ESC Programme is expected to enhance the quality of and facilitate access to solidarity-related activities. The programme activities cover three areas:

- Solidarity projects
- Volunteering activities (volunteering projects, volunteering partnerships)
- Traineeships and jobs

	<p>The ESC offers the young the possibility to gather in order to build a more inclusive society, to support vulnerable groups and to respond to social challenges. It provides inspirational and profound experiences to young people who desire to help, learn and develop.</p> <p>Volunteering projects offer young people (18-30 years of age) the opportunity to volunteer (individually or in a team) abroad or in their country of residence. Projects must respond to basic needs of society, contribute to strengthening the community and enable volunteers to acquire experiences, skills and competencies necessary for their personal, educational, social, civic, and professional development.</p> <p>Solidarity projects are activities that are initiated, developed and implemented by young people (18-30 years old) themselves, who express their solidarity by accepting the responsibility and committing themselves to making a positive change in their local community. Participating in a solidarity project is an important informal learning experience enabling young people to boost their personal, educational, social and civic development.</p>
Spain/ Espagne	<p>Updated September 2020</p> <p>Youth Policy Governance and Structure of the Decision-making process</p> <p>Spain is a decentralized country formed by a Central Government (which manages the General Administration of the State through the Ministries and the rest of the public entities) and the governments of the regions (autonomous community – Comunidades y ciudades autónomas) 17 Autonomous Regions and two Autonomous Cities (Ceuta and Melilla). They have their own and independent governance: Autonomous Government, an Autonomous Administration, a directly elected Autonomous Parliament, set up by each Statute of Autonomy approved from 1979 onwards. On a third level, every region has a local authorities such as provinces and municipalities, which have their own competences in the local governance.</p> <p>The distribution of competences and policies is distributed among these governmental structures through the Spanish Constitution (1978, hereinafter CE) in its Title VIII: some are managed by the Autonomous Communities (art. 148, CE), and others belong exclusively to the Government (art. 149, CE).</p> <p>Youth Policy</p> <p>The CE in its article 48, states that “public authorities will promote conditions for the free and effective participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural development”. Therefore, public authorities must develop youth policies in their own level of competences, so it is done by the Autonomous communities which assume exclusive responsibility in their own statutes of autonomy. Although this structure has remained so, it does not mean that the State cannot make laws on this matter.</p> <p>In the national level there is no National Youth Law but a variety of different tools and strategies seeking to coordinate political performances. In February 2017, the Secretary of State for Social Services and Equality announced the preparation of the Second Action Plan of the Youth Strategy 2017-2020. The Youth Strategy 2020 (Estrategia Juventud 2020) is currently in force, approved by the Council of Ministers on the 12th of September 2014. Besides these strategies and their development, there is an ordinary budget for the Youth Promotion and Services from the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, which is in charge of the Youth issues.</p> <p>Although most of the actions related to youth are carried out through the autonomous communities and local bodies. In the national level the decision-making structure relies on the Spanish Institute for Youth (Instituto de la Juventud, hereinafter, Injuve) and the Interministerial Commission for Youth which coordinates the youth policies of the different regions.</p> <p>The Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España, hereinafter CJE) is a platform of national wide youth organizations and regional youth councils, and it is in charge of channeling the youth proposals and views to the public authorities and other entities, as well as the society in general.</p> <p>National Youth Strategy (http://www.injuve.es/conocenos/ediciones-injuve/estrategia-juventud-2020) this link lets to download a pdf document that contains the strategy.</p>

Spain actually is carrying out the 2020 Youth Strategy. It is an interministerial initiative promoted by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, through the Spanish Institute for Youth, including the European Youth Strategy 2010-2018, and the current one 201-2027. All Ministries have taken part in the definition and contents of the Strategy through the Interministerial Commission for Youth.

The strategy was approved by the Council of Ministers on the 12th of September 2014. It covers two different Action Plans: the first Action Plan encompassed the years 2014 to 2016 and the second Action Plan currently includes the year 2017 to the year 2020. However, the second Action Plan has not been presented and approved by the Interministerial Commission for Youth yet.

The Strategy is divided into three parts:

1. Analysis of the policies and actions related to youth in the last few years, which make up the background information of the Strategy.
2. The topics and areas of action: education and training; employment and entrepreneurship; housing; health and equality; participation, volunteering and inclusion, as well as institutional cooperation.
3. Youth indicators catalogue: as a reference for the follow-up and assessment of the Strategy.

These indicators are related to emancipation, education, employment, health, social engagement and social networks areas.

The main goal of the Strategy is to become a reference for the youth policies in Spain and to enhance the implementation of policies and services for youth which have an impact in all these areas.

It also encourages collaboration concerning youth between the different Ministries and other administrations such as autonomous communities, local authorities and provinces. The Youth Strategy also implies cooperation between all the social agents and actors related to youth issues, including social and civil organizations.

The 2020 Youth Strategy (Estrategia Juventud 2020) is implemented through Action Plans including actions related to youth from the different ministries. Thus, an assessment plan of the strategy is being set up.

The 2020 Youth Strategy is focused on six axis of action:

1) AXIS 1 Education and training.

- Improving the Spanish Education System quality in order to raise employability and entrepreneurship.
- Encouraging the non-formal training system.
- Identifying and encouraging new niches and sources of employment through training.

2) AXIS 2 Employment and entrepreneurship.

- Encouraging the establishment of youth employment opportunities
- Encouraging the entry of youth in the labour market.
- Increasing the number of self-employed youth as well as the number of companies established by people under 30 years of age.
- Encouraging the entrepreneurial culture.
- Promoting the implementation of a youth guarantee system.

3) AXIS 3 Housing.

- Raising the youth emancipation figures.

4) AXIS 4 Health, leisure and sports.

- Promoting actions taken in order to encourage healthy life habits.
- Reducing the use of drugs and narcotic substances.
- Fighting any kind of violence or discrimination.

5) AXIS 5 Participation, volunteering, inclusion and equality.

- Improving channels and tools to raise the participation and voluntary work of associated and not associated youth, especially those linked to ICT.
- Fighting against social exclusion of the most disadvantaged groups of youth population.
- Promoting equality.

6) AXIS 6 Institutional Cooperation.

- Encouraging cooperation between public administrations, national and international bodies and youth entities which may have an impact on youth, through the following areas of youth cooperation.

Youth Dialogue Initiative:

The EU Youth Dialogue, related to coordination on the European youth policy, the EU Youth Strategy 2020-2027 and the Youth Goals, is proposed as a tool to acknowledge and channeling the needs of youth at all levels. This implies the primary task of including not only the people responsible for making decisions, but also young people from all over the territory.

The first objective is to encourage the participation of young people in democratic life and encourage debates on the bases of European youth policies through consultations and debates at the national, regional and local level. These debates involve young people and those experts and people responsible of the decision making process on youth policies.

The second objective is to offer young people mechanism and activities to participate and collaborate directly in the design of the Spanish and European public youth policies.

The Youth Dialogue is based on thematic cycles, covering the trio of EU Presidencies. The issues of every cycle are debated through consultations running at European and national level in EU Members. The consultations at the national level are carried out by the National Working Groups, which are formed by different agents such as the governmental authority on Youth, the national youth council, youth organizations, researchers, etc.

The results of the consultations are the basis of the EU Youth Conferences, where representants from ministers for youth and youth field work together to define the Conclusions at EU level.

The result of the EU Youth Conferences are recommendations for the European and national level policies in the field of youth, which are reflected in a Resolution of the Council of the European Union.

During the last VII Cycle (organized in an 18-month process, from January 2019- to June 2020), the motto has been "Creating opportunities for Youth", issues focused on the future of work have been addressed, to professionals of youth and rural youth. He has been guided by the presidencies of Romania (from January to June 2019), Finland (from July to December 2019) and Croatia (from January to June 2020).

	<p>The Romanian Presidency focused on the study of the challenges young people face in relation to the future of work in the sub-theme "Quality employment for all", directly related to the European Youth Goal 7 "Quality employment for all".</p> <p>The Finnish Presidency highlighted the improvement of the quality of youth work under the sub-theme 'Quality of youth work for all'.</p> <p>During the Croatian Presidency, different opportunities for rural youth were explored, in line with European Youth Goal 6 - Empowering rural youth.</p> <p>In Spain the Youth Dialogue is involved at national level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Working Group (NWG): taking part representants from the Spanish Youth Council (CJE), the Spanish Institute for Youth (INJUVE) and some other organizations at the national level. • Embassies for the Youth Dialogue: formed by young people who help to carry out dialogue processes between youth and decision-makers at the local and regional level, implementing the program territorially in collaboration with the CJE , the Youth Institute, local / regional Councils, the General Directorates of Youth and other youth entities. And this is the most pioneering initiative, with respect to programs in other European countries. • Associated and non-associated youth, local / regional / state level organizations, Councils, etc. with whom consultations are made on the issues raised from the European Commission. <p>To the current date, 15 Youth Embassies for Youth Dialogue are listed, 141 participants are member of the embassies and 449 young people are involved, from a total of 1230 young participants, of which 242 were from rural areas.</p> <p>Throughout 2019, according to the EU youth cycle issues, a series of consultations were held with various students groups and leaders from different communities.</p> <p>The consultations focused on the use of surveys, thematic groups, large dialogue events with young people, workshops, participatory research, and participatory visual methods. The innovative approach helped increase participation.</p> <p>These activities allowed young people to give visibility to their demands, and try to find the connection with Youth, transfer their concerns, and to identify and solve the weakest and problematic areas in the field of Youth policies. The proposals, recommendations and "good practices" were to be implemented in the medium and long term, aimed to work on youth unemployment, the exodus of young people from rural areas, due to lack of training and technological resources, and the consequent demographic slowdown in "empty Spain".</p> <p>If further information required you can visit these links (http://dialogojuventud.cje.org/) and (http://www.injuve.es/etiqueta/dialogojuventud).</p> <p>Much of the information described above has been consulted in youth wiki (https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/overview-spain).</p>
Sweden/ Suède	<p>Updated September 2020</p> <p>National Youth Policy</p>

	<p>In 2020, the Swedish government has continued the work with a new youth policy communication which includes an updated national action plan. The policy is based on multiple reports from agencies, organisations, scientists and statistics about young people's living conditions, and is based on the Swedish government's youth policy goals which are that all young people are to have good living conditions, power to shape their own lives and influence over the general development of society</p> <p>To secure the equal opportunity to influence and participation for all young men and women, the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil society were commissioned in 2020 to create strategies for how municipalities can strengthen youth's knowledge and participation in the democracy. The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare will during 2020 review and analyse prior and ongoing research about youth's organisation and political participation.</p> <p>The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society has during 2020 continued to support municipalities working with young people not in education, employment or training. In February 2020 the agency published a sub-report covering systematic obstacles and structural challenges for the NEET group and lists various problem areas and the need for more efficient activities that can provide strategic, early and coordinated long-term efforts directed towards young people. In 2021 a final report will be published presenting a national coordinated support for the NEET-group. In February 2020 The Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services got the mission to evaluate the efforts which aims to improve mental health and prevent mental health issues and suicide among children and young people. The Swedish Media council published the report <i>Youth, media and mental illness</i> in 2020 analysing the correlation between media use and mental health issues among youths.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has had several impacts on youths' lives and organisation, especially effecting vulnerable groups. The restrictions regarding public gatherings makes it harder to access rights and participation, especially larger meetings such as political demonstrations. There are serious indications of increased number of unemployed young people and NEETs. Due to the situation with the pandemic, there is also a tangible risk that an increased number of young men and women could experience new or aggravated symptoms of decreased mental health. The Covid-19 pandemic has made it hard for youth organisations to continue with their ordinary activities.</p> <p>Due to the pandemic, the Government has decided to grant an extra SEK 50 million to youth organisations for 2020-2022. The Government has also directed extra investments in the work of civil society (especially the work towards vulnerable groups), public meeting rooms and child- and youth organisations. The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society has been commissioned to compile and disseminate information about the Government's support measures for the civil society concerning the pandemic.</p>
Switzerland/ Suisse	<p>Update October 2020 :</p> <p>Le gouvernement suisse entend mieux protéger les mineurs des contenus médiatiques inappropriés. Le 11 septembre 2020, il a approuvé un projet de loi fédérale sur la protection des mineurs en matière de films et de jeux vidéo. Les indications de limite d'âge et les contrôles de l'âge pour les films et les jeux vidéo suivront désormais des règles uniformes dans l'ensemble du pays. Cela garantira un niveau de protection des mineurs comparable à celui en vigueur dans l'Union Européenne.</p> <p>Réalisée sous l'égide de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS-Europe) tous les quatre ans, l'étude HBSC s'intéresse à divers comportements de santé des jeunes de 11 à 15 ans. Addiction Suisse a mené cette enquête pour la neuvième fois en Suisse. Plus de 11'000 filles et garçons ont été interrogés. L'étude révèle notamment qu'un jeune sur dix a été harcelé au moins une ou deux fois sur les réseaux sociaux.</p> <p>Les résultats du «Monitoring médias Suisse» publiés le 29 septembre 2020 par l'Office fédéral de la communication, font ressortir deux tendances: les médias sociaux sont particulièrement utilisés par</p>

	<p>les jeunes (15-29 ans) pour se forger un avis. Ces médias ont plus d'influence sur la formation des opinions que les médias classiques ou la presse écrite. Cela a une influence sur la démocratie. En effet, avec le filtrage de leurs algorithmes, les réseaux sociaux produisent des alvéoles dans lesquelles on retrouve principalement des opinions proches de la sienne. Cela réduit donc l'hétérogénéité de points de vue.</p> <p>Le 24 septembre 2020, le Parlement suisse a décidé de réaliser un Office de l'ombudsman des droits de l'enfant en Suisse. Le gouvernement a deux ans pour élaborer les bases légales nécessaires à cet office qui sera indépendant et facile d'accès. Il offrira notamment des informations et des conseils juridiques et jouera le rôle d'intermédiaire entre l'enfant et les organismes publics et formulera des recommandations.</p> <p>Updated March 2020</p> <p>La plus grande action de bénévolat de Suisse engageant des jeunes (env. 15'000) a eu lieu pendant 72 heures, à partir du 16 janvier 2020. Au final, plus de 235 projets ont été réalisés. L'opération, qui a lieu tous les cinq ans et a été mise en place pour la quatrième fois en Suisse, était placée cette année sous la devise de la durabilité (Agenda 2030 de l'ONU). En l'espace de 72 heures, des groupes de jeunes issus d'associations, d'organisations pour les immigré-e-s, d'associations sportives et de l'animation socioculturelle ont mis en oeuvre leur propre projet innovant et d'utilité publique dans toute la Suisse. Cela représente plus d'un million d'heures de bénévolat. Ce projet est celui des Organisations de jeunesse suisses, coordonné par le Conseil suisse des activités de jeunesse.</p> <p>Lutter contre la propagande extrémiste en ligne en y opposant des contre-discours et discours alternatifs, telle est la démarche adoptée par la Plateforme nationale Jeunes et médias de l'Office fédéral des assurances sociales. Ces discours ont été élaborés par des jeunes de toute la Suisse dans le cadre de quatre projets pilotes soumis à une évaluation scientifique. Les résultats de cette évaluation font aujourd'hui l'objet d'une brochure pouvant servir de guide pour de futurs projets de prévention de la radicalisation</p> <p>La Plateforme nationale Jeunes et médias traitera en 2020-2021, les thématiques prioritaires que sont la protection des données et les discours de haine en ligne (Hate Speech). Les travaux sont menés conjointement avec le Service national de lutte contre le racisme.</p> <p>Le programme « Citoyenneté- indépendamment de l'origine, de l'âge et du sexe » de la Commission fédérale des migrations souhaite permettre et promouvoir la participation et lutter contre les discriminations, notamment liées au fait d'être étranger. Dans une démocratie, tout le monde devrait pouvoir participer à la prise de décisions. La commission soutient financièrement différents projets qui explorent des voies innovantes pour promouvoir la participation.</p>
Turkey/ Turquie	<p>Updated March 2021</p> <p>Youth Centers, Youth Camps and Youth Offices: Although participation is limited due to the pandemic in the last six months, youth camp activities are still being carried out. 40 youth camps across Turkey continue to provide services to young people. 18,010 young people benefited from the youth camps in 2020.</p> <p>Youth centers continue their activities by complying with protective measures. In addition, new youth centers have opened and as of February 2021, the number of youth centers has reached 363. 1255 youth leaders (youth workers) working in youth centers continue their activities under pandemic conditions, especially through volunteering projects and activities to support disadvantaged social groups. Within that period, the number of members of the youth centers has increased and reached 2,429,479.</p> <p>In order to increase the accessibility of youth services, Youth Offices are established to support the functions youth centers. Youth offices are the facilities established in schools, universities, dormitories,</p>

neighborhoods, sports halls and organized industrial zones, affiliated with the Youth Centers for the benefit of young people who cannot participate in the activities of the Youth Centers. As of 23 February 2021, there exist 56 youth offices in universities, 54 in dormitories, 43 in high schools and secondary schools, 18 in neighborhoods. Apart from these, there exists 3 more youth offices. Volunteering activities are organized, and non-formal education opportunities are provided in these offices.

Quality Assurance: In order to maintain and improve the quality of services offered to young people, the questionnaire study conducted regularly with young people who benefit from non-formal education opportunities in youth centers has been renewed in the last 6 months. Besides, another questionnaire study is conducted to analyze the needs of young people and to map the changing leisure time activities during the pandemic process. With the aim of determining youth policies for the post-pandemic process, it is considered as the first step to create an accurate profile of the needs and expectations of young people, which have been reshaped due to the changes during the pandemic process.

Volunteering: In addition to the non-formal education activities provided in youth centers, the volunteering activities carried out in 2020 have been formed of 6 different teams within the scope of the "Volunteering Club" activities. The names of the teams are; "Health and Mercy Team", "Education Team", "Zero Waste Team", "Environment Team", "Health Team" and "Disaster and Management Team". The total number of members of volunteering teams has reached approximately 11,721.

Moreover, Young Volunteers Platform, National Volunteering Program of Turkey has been more effective and accessible for young people by developing a mobile application and improving the website of the Program. Despite the pandemic, the number of individual members of the Platform has reached 162,945, the number of corporate members has reached 2478 and the number of volunteering announcements has reached 24,500. During the pandemic of Covid-19, volunteering activities focus on social groups affected by the economic problems caused by the pandemic. Our young people have offered meals they prepared by themselves with the ingredients provided by the public, to the poor and the needy groups through the organizations held by our Ministry. With this project launched in 2020, hot meals are offered to 2000 people each day.

Besides, International Photography Contest Themed "Volunteering" is organized aiming to reflect the volunteering phenomenon esthetically. 1122 young photographers between the ages of 18 and 35 from different countries of the World have participated in the contest with 3186 photographs and this contest has contributed to the awareness-raising of the international community on volunteering.

Youth Policy: The studies on establishing a new youth policy are in progress. These studies focus on action (program) areas determined as a result of field research. The Policy, Approach and Discourse Coordination Board, established within the Ministry in November 2020, carries on studies with stakeholders to detail these action areas in a data-based manner.

Youth Projects Support Program: Through Youth Projects Support Program, Our Ministry is supporting the cultural, artistic, educational, and social integration projects of a large number of organizations such as non-governmental organizations and academic institutions aiming to support personal and social development of youth and increase youth participation in every aspect of life. In this context, thousands of projects have been supported throughout our country in 2020 under the titles of "Volunteering", "Personal Development", "Physical Activity, Exercise and Sport", "Book Coffee", "Culture and Art", "Innovative Ideas", "Environmental Consciousness" and "Protection of Animals".

National Youth Council: The main purposes of the National Youth Council are to ensure personal development and active participation of young people in society in social, economic, and political fields, to contribute to the policies developed in the field of youth, to implement national and international studies and projects, to help coordination between youth and youth organizations, to increase the participation of young people in decision-making and implementation processes. Presidential Decree on the establishment of the National Youth Council of Turkey is scheduled to be issued by 31 December 2021.

	<p>Youth Wiki: With respect to international alignment in youth policy, we attach importance to keep up with the developments in European Union in the field of youth policy. We take place in Youth Wiki program which is organized by European Commission and we arrange several activities in order to ensure its vast utilization among youth workers and young people.</p>
Ukraine	<p>Updated October 2020</p> <p>The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine (further – the Ministry) was re-established in March, 2020 as a result of re-organization of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.</p> <p>The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine in cooperation with UNICEF in Ukraine has developed a draft Strategy of the Development of Youth Policy in Ukraine till 2030. The aim of the Strategy is to create opportunities for Ukrainian youth to be competitive in the modern world and to make a significant contribution to the further development of Ukrainian society. The document is planned to be approved by the end of 2020.</p> <p>The Ministry elaborated the Concept of the State Targeted Social Program «Youth of Ukraine» for 2021-2025 using the developments received during the preparation of the Strategy. Based on the Concept, work on the development of the State Targeted Social Program «Youth of Ukraine» for 2021-2025 will start soon.</p> <p>The State institution «All-Ukrainian Youth Center» was established as a training and educational base to assist in the development of regional youth centers and implementation of training programs for them.</p> <p>Following the Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on youth work the National Training Program "Youth Worker" is implemented (42 basic trainings and 5 specialized trainings for NGO representatives and civil servants working with youth were held in 2019, involving about 900 participants. 3 basic trainings are planned for October 2020).</p> <p>Ukrainian Pact for Youth – 2020 is being implemented as a part of the European initiative. The main goal of the initiative is to unite the efforts of the companies, governmental and education institutions to contribute to youth employability. Since 2016 149 companies and organizations have signed the Pact and have created 807 partnerships with the educational sector and about 45 thousand places for internships, practices and youth employment. Based on the results of this initiative the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine re-signed the updated Ukrainian Pact for Youth for 2025 and involved the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture and the Ministry of Education and Science.</p> <p>In cooperation with UNICEF, an online portal of the National Volunteer Service was launched, which will contain information about volunteer projects, different volunteering opportunities for young people and NGOs.</p> <p>In cooperation of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine a new project “Youth for Democracy in Ukraine” was launched in October, 2020 within the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021. 10 different amalgamated communities of Ukraine have already started work in accordance with the first component for a long-term capacity-building activity in charge of youth policy.</p>
United Kingdom/ Royaume Uni	<p>Updated April 2021</p> <p>England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Treasury announced a Spring Review of programmes to support youth services to be conducted in 2021. The youth review is focusing on outlining a clear direction for the out-of-school youth agenda, to ensure that longer term spending and programmes are suitable for the needs of young people and levelling up opportunities. As part of this review, we are considering the needs of young people following the pandemic. • The UK is not participating in the next Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. We are exploring new international opportunities for young people and the youth sector

(outside of formal education settings such as schools and universities).

- The Government has committed £97.5m to run the National Citizen Service programme, a four-week social action programme for young people aged 15-17, in 2021. The NCS Trust will continue the work it began last summer supporting young people and their communities through the Covid recovery delivering the Government's flagship youth programme for up to 48,000 young people in 2021 as well as providing school and further education support and digital content.
- A £16.5 million Youth Covid-19 Support Fund (YCSF) was launched to support grassroots youth clubs, uniformed youth groups, and national youth and umbrella organisations, to mitigate the impact of lost income during the winter period due to the coronavirus pandemic, and ensure services providing vital support can remain open. The funding for the YCSF has come from the £750 million charities support package and £1.7 million of this funding has already been allocated to vital youth work qualifications and training. Of this £750 million, at least £88m has been provided to organisations who support children and young people to achieve their potential.
- The £500 million Youth Investment Fund remains a manifesto commitment for this Parliament as part of our transformative levelling up agenda. The Youth Investment Fund has committed £30 million as capital investment in youth services for 2021-22, which is on top of the £750 million charity funding package. This will provide an investment in new and refurbished spaces for young people, so they can access positive activities and support from youth workers.
- We have invested in youth volunteering through the joint £50m #iwill Fund which creates social action opportunities for young people aged 10-20. The fund will continue until 2022. We are also committed to enabling young people to share their views to inform decision making including:
 - Contributing funding to the UK Youth Parliament which enables youth participation in the democratic process and decision making at all levels.
 - Funding the Youth Steering Group and Young Inspectors Group which oversee the development and implementation of policies affecting young people. This ensures young people are directly involved in the commissioning, monitoring and evaluation of national programmes affecting young people.
- In terms of supporting young people into work and employment, from September 2020 we started implementing a Youth Offer for all 18 to 24 year olds making a claim for support and who are looking for work. The Youth Offer offers wrap-around support, helping young people access local work provision including:
 - Youth Employment Programme (YEP) offers a structured 13-week programme focussing on referring young people to the most appropriate support. This may include sector-based work academy programmes, traineeships, work experience, Mentoring Circles, Kickstart placements or apprenticeships. This programme is now live and 1000s of work coaches are helping young people access the right local opportunities for them.
 - Youth Hubs - are co-located and co-delivered with our network of external partners and are rolling out nationally. Young people who require it, can access further tailored support for up to 6 months to meet any skills gaps to bring them closer to labour market opportunities. There are currently no physical Youth Hubs open, primarily due to national restrictions. There will be over 100 Youth Hubs, with one in every JCP district.
 - Youth Employability Coaches (YECs) across the country are flexibly supporting young people with significant complex needs and barriers to help them move into employment. We will additionally, offer these young people 6 weeks of in-work support, once they have secured employment. 150 Youth Employability Coaches (YECs) have been recruited and are in place.
- The Kickstart Scheme has also been launched to provide funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds who are at risk of long term unemployment including those who are in vulnerable groups and those with disabilities. Kickstart aims to give young people the chance to build their confidence and skills in the workplace, and gain experience that will

improve their chances of progressing to find long-term, sustainable work. To date, employers have created nearly 150,000 jobs for young people and more than 4,000 young people have started their jobs since November.

Northern Ireland

- The Department of Education invests in youth work to support and encourage children and young people as they mature and reach their potential as valued individuals and responsible citizens. Youth work is an important area of education policy and directly contributes to the Department of Education's vision and priorities for education. Investment in youth work contributes to achieving agreed defined outcomes for young people in a cost-effective manner. The strategic aims of youth work in support of the DE vision are:
 - To contribute to raising standards for all and closing the performance gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people by providing access to enjoyable, non-formal learning opportunities that help them to develop enhanced social and cognitive skills and overcome barriers to learning; and
 - To continue to improve the non-formal learning environment by creating inclusive, participative settings in which the voice and influence of young people are championed, supported and evident in the design, delivery and evaluation of programmes.
- To achieve these aims, involves the following:
 - Alignment of youth work policy with the strategic priorities for education, which will help shape and modernise provision in order to produce more equitable outcomes for young people;
 - The proportionate targeting of services based on need with a clear focus on those most in need of additional support to achieve their potential, embrace diversity, and overcome disaffection; and
 - A clear focus on the provision of measurable, quality learning experiences for young people.
- In Northern Ireland, the Priorities for Youth policy continues to be implemented. The final major commitment, to implement a new funding scheme, will be effective from 1 April 2021. This will replace a series of historic/legacy funding schemes by a single funding scheme. Other policy commitments are largely in place and continue to be progressed.
- Youth Work providers continued to receive funding support throughout the pandemic. Much youth work moved to online delivery. The Regional Youth Development Plan was updated to reflect Covid response actions. A £1m Outdoor Education Centre Covid relief fund was also provided to address inescapable costs given the lack of income and to ensure these centres could continue to provide outdoor education to young people in the future. Lessons learnt have been documented to inform future policy.
- Youth work has also been to the fore in delivering programmes to address the needs of young people at risk from paramilitary activity with positive outcomes and has been to the fore in delivery of community relations, equality and diversity programmes and initiatives.

Wales

- The Youth Work Strategy for Wales (2019) is a shared vision across the sector to strengthen youth work approaches to supporting young people across the whole of Wales, and to help move towards a sustainable model for youth work for the future. The Strategy was created directly with young people and the sector and this approach reflects our commitment to systems leadership – a young people and workforce empowerment approach – that will help ensure the sector plays an active role in developing and implementing the new strategic direction. The strategy contains 5 aims, each of which are a focus for the Interim Youth Work Board to consider as a part of the work towards their final report recommendations in Summer 2021. Once the report is published, the Welsh Government will consider their recommendations and refresh the Implementation document that underpins the Strategy to ensure it addresses any actions resulting from that report.

	<p>Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Scottish Government's ambition to create a fair and equal country is coordinated through Scotland's National Performance Framework. We have 11 national outcomes, one of which to ensure "young people grow up loved, safe and respected so that they can realise their full potential". Having a vibrant youth work sector is key to ensuring we realise Scotland's National Performance Framework ambitions. Scotland's National Youth Work Strategy (2014-2019) contains a set of sector-led youth work outcomes. The strategy aims to ensure young people are confident, resilient and optimistic, able to express their voice and able to broaden their perspective. We are currently refreshing our youth work strategy to ensure youth work plays a key role in Scotland's Covid recovery and that youth work is integrated across policy areas.
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