



Strasbourg, 4 April 2023

## **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><b>Updated February 2023.</b></p> <p><b><u>National Youth Strategy 2022-2029</u></b></p> <p>As of 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, Albania has The National Youth Strategy 2022-2029, approved by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 692, dated 26.10.2022, published in the Official Gazette no. 144, dated 01.11.2022.</p> <p>The National Youth Strategy 2022-2029 was prepared pursuant to Law No. 75/2019 “On Youth”, which provides the legal basis for drafting strategic policies and programs for youth</p> <p>NYS 2022-2029 encompasses 3 political goals, 9 specific objectives, and a series of measures and activities. NYS was prepared based on a new methodology, by a very broad consultation process with youngsters all over Albania, making their voice heard and addressing the challenges they face on a daily bases.</p> <p>The work on this strategy commenced with a series of consultation sessions held with youth across the country, in which the government was represented by the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Youth and Children. The consultation sessions were attended by more than 1200 young people. Additional consultation meetings were held with 45 different youth organizations and 61 representatives from local self-government units.</p> <p>NYS envisages the preparation of policies for the activation, involvement and activity of young people in Albania and addressing the problems faced by young people today.</p> <p>National Youth Strategy 2022 was prepared in alignment with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albanian Government Program 2021-2025;</li> <li>• Stabilization and Association Agreement;</li> <li>• Strategy for Youth in the EU 2019-2027;</li> <li>• Sustainable Development Goals 2030;</li> <li>• Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>The national policy of the youth strategy and programming efforts are focused on ensuring equal rights and opportunities, support and engagement for vulnerable, marginalized youth and youth most affected by poverty, violence, maltreatment, disability, and social exclusion. This strategy intends to guide Albanian youth towards further action that positively affects their future. The policies designed for the purposes of this strategy comprise the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth actively participating in society and feeling empowered to express themselves with their own voice</li> <li>• Building youth’s employment skills, supported by youth-oriented career counseling and employment services, increasing and improving opportunities to enter into the labor market on the basis of equity and equal chances.</li> <li>• Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth</li> <li>• Innovation and quality education to support youth in reaching their full potential</li> <li>• Safety, protection and inclusion of youth in the entirety of their diversity, particularly endangered or vulnerable youth.</li> <li>• Coordinated, evidence-based cross-sectorial youth policy with well-funded provision, monitoring and horizontal and vertical evaluation mechanisms.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Law on Youth</u></b></p> <p>Law No. 75 was adopted in 2019 by the Parliament of Albania. Article 3.f of the law specifies that youth are persons from 15 to 29 years old. The law defines activities, mechanisms and authorities responsible for protecting and promoting youth rights in both Albania and the Diaspora, and it increases the participation of youth in policy-making and decision-making processes at both central and local level.</p>

The law was adopted to protect youth rights and to create conditions for their activism, participation and support. This law introduces the following important concepts:

- Non-formal education for youth in terms of activities outside the education system and based on volunteering and active participation;
- Structured dialogue among youth, their organizations, organizations working with them, and state institution representatives, by emphasizing cooperation based on active, systematic, transparent, continuous and long-term interaction.
- Safe youth spaces, but only as safe physical spaces for young people, including youth with disabilities that do not have access to digital elements or social and civic platforms of safe space for youth.

Regarding the bylaws pursuant to Law no. 75/2019 "On Youth", 5 (five) out of 5 (five) acts provided for the implementation of this law have been approved, as follows:

1. Decision no. 681, dated 02.09.2020 of the Council of Ministers "On the means of establishment, organization and functioning of the National Youth Agency (AKR)" (Official Gazette no. 158, dated 08.09.2020);
2. Decision no. 969, dated 02.12.2020 of the Council of Ministers "On determining the criteria and procedures for the election of members of the National Youth Council, as well as the means of its organization and functioning" (Official Gazette no. 211, dated 12.04.2020);
3. Decision no. 1141, dated 24.12.2020 of the Council of Ministers "On determining the criteria and procedures for the selection of youth organizations and / or for young people who receive funding from grant funds from the state budget, dedicated to youth" (Official Gazette no. 5, dated 13.01.2021);
4. Decision no. 274, dated 12.05.2021 of the Council of Ministers "On determining the criteria to be set by the National Representative Youth Organization" (Official Gazette no. 73, dated 17.05.2021).
5. Decision dated 24.12.2021 of the Council of Ministers "On the means of establishment, administration, maintenance of the database for youth, as well as the means of its interaction with other state databases".

The Law defined "youth work" as "any activity of a social, cultural, educational or environmental nature, with or for young people, in groups or individually, aimed at motivating and supporting youth, by contributing to their personal and social development, and the development of society in general", but it does not define criteria on "youth worker or youth leader".

The law puts forward the development of a legal framework for two youth consultation structures: The National Youth Council (NYC) and the Local Youth Council (LYC), which should be strengthened and established in municipalities where they do not exist.

The law stipulates the provision of funding sources for youth policies, programmes and activities, emphasizing the contribution of local budgets in this regard, in addition to the state budget. Concurrently, it provides for other legitimate sources of funding, such as revenues generated by the activities of youth organizations, donations, sponsorships, European programmes, etc. The law provides for the establishment of the following organizational structures:

- The institution responsible for youth is the National Youth Agency (NYA) established by Decision No. 681, dated 2.09.2020 of the Council of Ministers, and it replaces the National Youth Service (NYS).
- The National Youth Council, an advisory body that is subordinate to the Minister of State for Youth and Children, and is responsible for youth. Decision No. 969, dated 2.12.2020 of the Council of Ministers defines the criteria and procedures for the election of the National Youth Council and its organisation and operation.

- The Local Youth Council is an advisory body, which is subordinate to the mayor in each local government unit.
- The National Youth Representation Organization (NYRO), which is to be established as an NGO to represent youth in accordance with decision No. 274 dated 12.05.2021 of the Council of Ministers.

### **Local Youth Councils**

The Local Youth Councils are consultative bodies that act under the mayors of the respective municipalities and their main function is to act as an independent advisory body on youth issues for the mayors and other government agencies. These councils coordinate and cooperate with the local government to activate the youth in the drafting of policies, decisions and plans for the youth. The purpose of the Local Youth Councils is to promote the dialogue between generations, to engage young people as a third party and to make them part of political decision-making. As of Today, in Albania there are 55 out of 61 LYC established.

### **National Youth Agency**

The National Youth Agency is a budgetary institution, under the Minister of State for Youth and Children in Albania, focused primarily in informal education of youngsters as well as supporting Youth Organizations and Municipalities through a Grant Scheme to support project proposals for Youth empowerment as well as creation of Youth Centers, respectively. As of 2022, NYA has adopted the LoD Methodology from UNDP as a granting scheme, which guarantees efficiency and transparency of the whole process. As of 2022, 24 Youth Organizations and 5 municipalities are supported financially, compared to 2021, where 12 Youth organizations and 4 municipalities were supported.

### **Youth empowerment activities**

• **The two-day seminar on the priorities of the future Decent Work Program for Albania 2022 - 2026**, took place on 17 - 18 November 2021. The meeting enabled a tripartite discussion on our common priorities related (but not only) to issues in line with the United Nations Program 2022 - 2026 in Albania, with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, with the global environmental priorities and especially with the strategic aspiration of Albania to meet the objectives for the opening of negotiations with the EU. In this context, the contribution of the State Ministry for Youth and Children through NYA was considered valuable, important in determining the priorities of the future Decent Work program, which will have our contribution in terms of employment and preparing young people for the labor market through initiatives such as Youth Guarantee, Youth NEETs (Not in Employment, Education and Training), development of professional and life skills of employees and future employers, etc.

• **The National Youth Agency organized on November 24-26, 2021, the Winter School "Youth in local politics"** with about 60 responsible representatives in the field of youth at each unit of local self-government. The Winter School is developed in the framework of the initiative for the establishment of Local Youth Councils (KVR), which will function as advisory bodies to each municipality. This activity aimed to train participants in setting up youth structures and empowering youth responsible persons in each municipality. Also, this school aimed to get acquainted with the procedures that will be followed for the establishment of RCCs as an increased attention of local policies towards young people.

### **National Internship Programme**

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 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.

### **RYCO**

1. During 2021, RYCO has supported 12 regional projects implemented by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Of these supported projects, 2 of them were led by Albanian CSOs. Meanwhile 3 other organizations have been partners in projects led by other countries.

The two projects from Albania were led by the organization "People in Focus" and the organization "Institute of Romani Culture in Albania" (IRCA).

The project implemented by IRCA in cooperation with an organization from Northern Macedonia aimed at:

- To enable Roma and non-Roma youth and other minorities to jointly develop and lead quality youth work projects, which contribute to the intercultural acceptance of diversity in local communities and the further development of their competencies . Activities include workshops, research on intercultural dialogue, a report reflecting the current situation, radio podcasts and a summer school.

During the IRCA project, 30 young people from Albania and Northern Macedonia were exchanged.

### **2. ROUTE Regional Volunteering Scheme ROUTE WB6.**

The number of young people from the region who have participated in voluntary exchanges is over 170 young people. Of these, over 50 are from Albania.

### **3. Superschools:**

Promotion of the regional exchange program of high schools in over 70 schools in Albania and over 90 teachers. During 2022, 52 youth exchanges will take place at the regional level from high schools.

### **Combating hate speech**

The battle against hate speech and the safeguarding of human dignity has become a vital topic that is being worked on more and more as a result of Albania's education policies and the active approach of youth that was developed in recent years. The work of the national institutions, together with the special contribution of the civil society subjects, is focused on studying the phenomenon and actively spreading awareness. There are media organizations and CSOs that try to address hate speech through different projects and undertakings, such as training journalists and considering the role of the media in spreading hate speech. Successful campaigns and actions in regard to fighting hate speech

	<p>have been established in recent years. This has been achieved by raising awareness among media actors and journalists.</p> <p>European Centre, Woman to Woman NGO, and the Albanian Media Council - KSHM, as part of the project "Independent Media for a Democratic Government has developed one of the activities for strengthening and increasing the capacities of the members of the Coalition "Together for free speech" focusing on the legal notion of "hate speech" and the importance of reporting in online media issues that affect aspects of gender equality related to the language of hatred.</p> <p>"No-Hate Alliance" was formed established in Albania in the year 2020. Its founding members are the independent public body People's Advocate, the Anti-Discrimination Commission, the Audio-visual Media Bureau, and the non-governmental organization Albanian Media Council. They pledged to monitor hate speech and discrimination in Albanian society, stop such incidents, and work together to raise awareness about the need to build an inclusive society. They have been active and have made statements and declarations on several public cases of questionable media coverage, particularly in relation to the LGBT community. Although their power is limited, the fact that these types of institutions have come together in an area where little concerted effort has been done before is certainly positive.</p> <p>Civil society has also taken its work internationally, developing inspiring projects between countries, such as the case of the AHEAD project. This project aimed to contribute to strengthening the capacity building of young people (part of minorities) and the protection of youngsters belonging to minorities by supporting them in structuring new mechanisms in public consultations in the partner's country (replicable all over Europe) on the issue of non-discrimination and fighting every form of hate speech against ethnic minorities, Roma and migrants. This project involved 4 partner countries which constituted youth people with fewer opportunities, Roma people, representatives of local and county institutions, media representatives, and lawyers. Approximately there were 800 participants involved in awareness campaigns against hate, 800 in comparative research, 200 in national training, 150 participants in the development of toolkits and training to analyze hate speech, and 40 young people in the international network to combat discrimination and hate speech.</p> <p>"Speak Out Against Hate Speech - Council of Europe" is another initiative in our country. The campaign was composed of various online and offline activities, focusing on European human rights values, as well as addressing the specific issues of LGBTI persons and the Roma community, as the groups most affected by hate speech in Albania. Also, within this project, the online platform <a href="http://www.nohatespeech.al">www.nohatespeech.al</a> has been developed. This platform is a collective space where everyone can feel free and safe to be informed, learn more, and contribute to the fight against hate speech.</p>
Andorra/ Andorre	<p><b>Updated March 2023</b></p> <p>L'Andorre se trouve actuellement dans un processus de définition de ses politiques de jeunesse. En 2022, le Département d'Enfance, Adolescence et Jeunesse du Ministère des Affaires Sociales, Jeunesse et Egalité a demandé une « Advisory Mission » au Conseil de l'Europe pour améliorer les politiques nationales de jeunesse.</p> <p>La délégation du Conseil de l'Europe est arrivée en Andorre au mois de juin pour connaître la réalité de l'Andorre et les différents projets qui s'adressent aux jeunes.</p> <p>En Novembre 2022, le rapport a été envoyé aux autorités andorranes avec des recommandations concrètes et pratiques pour l'immédiat et le moyen terme. Le rapport a été traduit au catalan et renvoyé à tous les agents de jeunesse du pays.</p> <p>En Septembre 2023 une nouvelle visite des experts du Conseil de l'Europe est prévue pour évaluer les travaux.</p> <p>Le nouveau Plan de la Jeunesse d'Andorre doit être prêt à son implémentation début 2024.</p> <p>1. Information et accès aux ressources</p> <p>a. <b>Pàgina web</b> <a href="http://www.guiajove.ad">www.guiajove.ad</a></p>

En Andorre les ressources de jeunesse ainsi que l'enseignement sont recueillis dans un site web [www.guiajove.ad](http://www.guiajove.ad). Le site web est devenu l'outil de référence pour les travailleurs de jeunesse et les services d'orientations scolaires.

#### **b. COEP**

Le Centre d'Orientation Éducative et Professionnelle, géré par le Gouvernement, est un service gratuit qui répond aux demandes d'orientations éducatives et d'accès à l'emploi des jeunes.

### **2. Qualité de vie**

#### **a. Emancipació Jove :**

Le gouvernement a mis en place un programme pour faciliter l'accès au logement aux jeunes de 22 à 30 ans. Ce programme offre des aides économiques à la caution et au loyer pour permettre l'émancipation des jeunes du pays.

#### **b. Pla Nacional contra les drogodependències :**

Le plan national contre les addictions (PNCD) propose chaque année des activités au sein des centres scolaires pour faire face à la consommation d'alcool et cannabis chez les jeunes.

#### **c. Bus Jove :**

Actuellement le transport public est gratuit pour toute la population de l'Andorre.

### **3. Emploi**

#### **a. TAMPOLINE 2 :**

L'Andorre participe à nouveau en tant que partenaire dans le programme Interreg - POCTEFA de l'Union Européenne. Ce programme vise à améliorer la coopération frontalière entre l'Espagne, La France et l'Andorre. TRAMPOLINE 2 offre aux jeunes de l'Andorre des nouvelles opportunités de mobilité 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.

#### **b. Forum Étudiants-Entreprise :**

Le Forum Étudiants – Entreprise est un projet qui vise à mettre en contact les entreprises du pays avec les jeunes en âge de travailler à la recherche active d'un emploi. L'objectif du projet est de rapprocher le monde du travail aux jeunes.

#### **c. Espai de Suport als Joves Tutelats i Extutelats :**

Pour les jeunes adolescents en risque d'exclusion, le gouvernement andorran a mis 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 des jeunes au cas par cas.

### **4. Protection sociale**

#### **a. Pla Nacional de l'Infància i l'Adolescència**

En 2022, le Département d'Enfance, Adolescence et Jeunesse du Ministère des Affaires Sociales, Jeunesse et Égalité a publié le premier plan de l'Enfance et l'Adolescence de l'Andorre avec le soutien du Conseil de l'Europe.

#### **b. Protocol PAI et PAS**

	<p>Les nouveaux protocoles ont été mis en place pour améliorer la capacité d'action des services sociaux en cas de mauvais traitements ou abus sexuel du mineur.</p> <p>5. Participation</p> <p><b>a. Pla Nacional de la Joventut d'Andorre</b></p> <p>La deuxième phase de réalisation prévoit la participation des jeunes, en particulier pour les âges comprises entre les 18 et les 30 ans. On s'attend la participation de 1.500 – 2.000 jeunes.</p> <p><b>b. Comunitat de treball del Pirineus (CTP)</b></p> <p>L'Andorre fait partie du groupe de travail sur jeunesse de la CTP. Chaque année une dizaine de jeunes de l'Andorre participent au Forum Transpyrénéen de la Jeunesse qui vise à proposer des actions et des projets ayant un impact chez les jeunes des territoires membres de la CTP (Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Occitanie, Catalunya, Aragón, Euskadi, Navarra et l'Andorre).</p>
Armenia/ Arménie	<p><b>Updated January 2023</b></p> <p>State Youth Policy Situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia started to organize the preparation works of National Youth law, which will be in line with the Council of Europe's standards in the field of youth.</li> <li>The department of Youth Policy, Supplementary and Continuing Education of The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia, through the grant and procurement procedures implements several events, some of which are annual, and some are implemented on a rotational basis.</li> </ul> <p><i>In the framework of the work plan of the Department of Youth Policy, supplementary and continuing education of the Ministry of ESCS of Armenia implemented several various projects in 2022.</i></p> <p>Especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"100 Ideas for Armenia" competition is held to develop the innovative thinking of young people, to involve young people in the processes of solving problems of socio-economic development of the Republic of Armenia, and to promote civil initiatives to implement scientific and technical developments and innovative projects. In 2022, 137 applications from all 20 nominations were submitted to the competition. There were winners in the nominations of Chemical, Technical, Agricultural, Historical Sciences, etc.</li> <li>"Youth capital of the year" The purpose of this event is to activate youth life in communities, improve inter-community communication and relations, directing the implementation of various activities to the selected youth community. As a result of expert evaluation of the annual competition and short message (SMS) voting, the organizing committee of the "2022 Youth Capital of the Republic of Armenia" competition declared Hrazdan the winner from the cities of Alaverdi, Armavir, Yeghegnadzor, and Hrazdan, and for 2023 from 2 participant cities Tsaghkadzor and Metsamor as a winner is selected Metsamor.</li> <li>"Events dedicated to the International Youth Day" The events dedicated to August 12 were large-scale, covering the Youth Capital (In 2021-Kapan, 2022 Hrazdan) of the Year and all regions. The Ministry coordinates the events and projects dedicated to the day by state, local, and international organizations, young people, youth NGOs, and other NGOs.</li> <li>Implementation of The "Youth Worker Training" course is aimed at youth workers, those who work with young people, and those whose work is aimed at solving the problems of young people. The project's goal is to strengthen the capacities of specialists involved in youth work, work with young people and work aimed at solving youth problems.</li> <li>The "Democracy here/ democracy now" campaign continues in Armenia through MoESCS and NGOs.</li> </ul> <p>Some projects implemented within the campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>On August 12, it was scheduled to celebrate International Youth Day in the youth capital of RA- Hrazdan, within the framework of which there was an informational event.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The NGOs, which were implementing projects funded by the COE, EYF took part in presenting their programs and opportunities offered to young people.</i></p>



	<p><a href="https://erit.am/am/view/1910">https://erit.am/am/view/1910</a> <a href="https://escs.am/am/news/13510">https://escs.am/am/news/13510</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the frames of the "Stay tuned, be involved" camp, "Pathway to" public organization which project was carried out by the European Youth Fund of the Council of Europe, in the frame of "Democracy here, democracy now" camp,.hosted Department of Youth Policy, Supplementary and Continuing Education of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia. During this project, the participants had training about active citizenship, youth involvement, discrimination, stereotypes, getting acquainted with the basics of public speaking, preparing speeches on a variety of topics <a href="https://erit.am/am/view/1911">https://erit.am/am/view/1911</a></li> <li>• "Yeghvard" youth-environmental non-governmental organization together with YEE - Youth and Environment Europe international organization on September 18-25 in Aghveran carried out a capacity-building course on environmental legislation, public participation in the decision-making process, and advocacy topics, which were conducted using the methodology of non-formal education. During the project, people from 12 European countries almost 37 participants had an educational visit to the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of RA. <a href="https://escs.am/am/news/13856">https://escs.am/am/news/13856</a></li> <li>• At the end of 2022 as a result of the Democracy Here - Action Week in Strasbourg "Yeghvard" Youth Ecological NGO and the National Contact Point hereinafter The Ministry of Education, Science, Sport and Culture of RA in cooperation implemented "Youth for Meaningful Participation" 5 days project. <a href="https://erit.am/am/view/2028">https://erit.am/am/view/2028</a></li> <li>• In September 2022, there was a youth forum at the national level, where members of the Armenian delegation in Strasbourg were present as well. The themes for discussion were the following. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Youth work in RA regions (including activities aimed at involving young people excluded from formal and informal educational programs and employment (NEET group).</li> <li>2. Activity of youth centers in Yerevan, RA regions, communities, features of the activity, and existing problems.</li> <li>3. Youth civic activism, from community preservation to development and influencing decision-makers.</li> <li>4. Cooperation between state, local, international, and public structures in the direction of raising and solving the problems of young people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manual (guide) on "Youth participation in decision making processes in democratic societies" is published. The language is Armenian <a href="https://escs.am/am/news/14923">https://escs.am/am/news/14923</a></li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p><b>Priorities for Youth Sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Drafting the National Youth Law;</li> <li>○ Develop Youth infrastructure;</li> <li>○ Implementation of the Youth Centers 2022-2026;</li> <li>○ Development and recognition of youth work and youth workers;</li> <li>○ Popularize the "National Youth Capital of the year" program</li> <li>○ Increase the Annual Grant projects of the Ministry suggesting to youth organizations;</li> <li>○ Fortify the youth international engagements</li> </ul>
Austria/ Autriche	<p><b>Updated February 2022</b></p> <p>With the new federal government, responsibility for youth policy has been transferred to the Federal Chancellery.</p> <p><b>Education/Training until 18:</b></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. <a href="https://ausbildungbis18.at/en/">https://ausbildungbis18.at/en/</a></p>

## Competence Framework for Youth Workers:

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. In Austria, the aufZAQ Competence Framework is regarded as the binding standard for trainings of youth workers. Download in EN: [https://www.aufzaq.at/wp-content/uploads/aufZAQ\\_Competence\\_Framework.pdf](https://www.aufzaq.at/wp-content/uploads/aufZAQ_Competence_Framework.pdf)

Further information about the Competence Framework for Youth Workers [only in German available] [www.kompetenzrahmen.at](http://www.kompetenzrahmen.at)

In December 2020, the first non-formal courses from educational providers in extracurricular child and youth work were assigned to the National Qualifications Framework at levels III and IV. <https://www.qualifikationsregister.at/en/nqr-register/nqr-zuordnungen/>

## 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 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.

As part of the Austrian Youth Strategy, each federal ministry developed and defined one or more national "youth objective(s)" 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.

The development of new youth goals and measures is an ongoing process. This will be implemented in a coordination round between all federal ministries.

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. This is an ongoing process to emphasize youth-related aspects in national strategies and action plans.

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/](http://www.youthgoals.eu/)) were implemented appropriate. The 11 European Youth Goals are considered in the 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 and will be assigned to a European Youth Goal
- The measures, which contribute to the national youth objectives also are 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.

	<p><b>Youth participation</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>A core criterion of the Austrian Youth Strategy is the active <b>inclusion</b> 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> <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.). Another possibility when defining measures are to draw on youth-related surveys and research to take into account the different life realities of young people. Nevertheless, the Federal Chancellery encourages furthermore all ministries to participation processes with young people.</p> <p><b>No Hate Speech</b></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 <a href="http://www.nohatespeech.at">www.nohatespeech.at</a></p>
Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	<p><b>Updated October 2022</b></p> <p><b>State Youth Policy:</b></p> <p>In Azerbaijan, youth policy is considered as one of the strategic directions of state policy with the strong support of the government.</p> <p><b>Law on Youth Policy:</b></p> <p>In the accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on "Youth Policy" adopted in 2002 (subsequently amended in 2017 and 2019), young people are persons aged 14-29 years old. The Law defines the goals, principles, main directions, and legal bases of the youth policy, which regulate the relations in this sphere and coordinate the interaction of institutions related to youth work.</p> <p>The main goals set out in this document are to create conditions for the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people, to assist in the realization of their skills and competencies, to solve their economic and social problems and to guarantee the protection of their rights.</p> <p><b>The Ministry of Youth and Sport:</b></p> <p>To ensure the implementation of youth policy, in 1994, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established as a central state body. Since 2006, it has been transformed into the Ministry of Youth and Sports.</p> <p>The Ministry implements this policy through the preparation and realization of regulations and state youth programs in cooperation with relevant institutions (other public and private stakeholders or youth NGOs), supports youth initiatives, organizes both national and international level events, finances the projects of youth NGOs, promotes the participation of Azerbaijani youth in international youth events (volunteer and youth exchange programs, etc.) in order to expand and develop international relations and cooperation among young people.</p> <p><b>Youth Development Strategy of Azerbaijan for 2015-2025</b></p>

Creating the right roadmap to ensure the intellectual, physical and spiritual development of young people and their active participation in the socio-economic, social and political life of the country is one of the priorities that the state focuses on.

In this regard, the State programs "Azerbaijani youth in (2005-2009), (2011-2015), (2017-2021)" were implemented and followed up by the development of the Youth Development Strategy for 2015-2025. As a result, the document of "Development Strategy of Azerbaijani youth in 2015-2025" was approved by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

As can be seen, in general, the visions of Youth Development Strategy (2015-25) and the State programs are to achieve the effective implementation of youth policy in Azerbaijan, to promote the active participation of young people in all spheres of society and to support young people's creative and innovative potential.

In particular, the Strategy is aimed at developing of young people and improvement of their potential meeting modern requirements, and has 32 goals, for the implementation of which not only the Ministry of Youth and Sport, but also other stakeholders - public organizations, the business sector and other government bodies are responsible. Within the framework of the Strategy, Azerbaijani youth are mainly united into 17 social groups.

Among the objectives of the Strategy, international cooperation occupies a special place. In this direction, coordinating the activities of Azerbaijani youth living or studying abroad, creating conditions for youth participation in international exchange and volunteer services, developing relations and networks with youth of foreign countries, expanding the borders of intercultural dialogue, friendship and peace, and expanding the ranks of young friends of Azerbaijan are defined as tasks to be achieved.

More than 20 normative-legal documents (laws, governmental programs, etc.) regulating a youth policy both directed to development and protection of the rights of young citizens have been adopted since 1994.

Within the framework of the last State Program "Azerbaijani Youth" covering the years 2017-2021, activities such as health protection of young people, youth employment, and entrepreneurship activities, awareness-raising activities on human rights and gender equality, development of volunteering and revealing the creative potential of young people were implemented.

***Some examples of youth events:***

- The information session on the new youth campaign of the Council of Europe "Democracy here, Democracy now" was held on April 26, 2022, in Baku, Azerbaijan by the National Council of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. This was the first information session held among member states of the Council of Europe.

According to the program, representatives of the Council of Europe Youth Department, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, a member of the European Steering Committee for Youth from Azerbaijan and, a member of the Trainers Pool (TP) of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, the chair of the National Youth Council and a member of the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth spoke about the new youth campaign and its importance, the opportunities for participation and possible activities within the campaign, as well as the need to prepare a national action plan for the active involvement of young people in the campaign.

In the second part of the information session, group work took place with the participation of the moderator and youth, and as a result of discussions and consultations, a draft action plan was prepared for implementation within the framework of the campaign.

- In September 2022, a 3-day seminar called "Networking in non-formal education for youth workers and trainers" was held. The opening of the seminar was attended by the deputy minister of Youth and Sports, the head of the Baku office of the Council of Europe, the executive director of the Youth

Foundation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the executive of the program of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, members of the Trainers Pool of the Council of Europe.

The main goal of the seminar was to review the situation regarding the quality and accessibility of non-formal education and training activities in Azerbaijan. The seminar also reviewed the approaches that form the basis of youth work and non-formal education in the Council of Europe, and informed the participants about general ethical and professional standards related to non-formal education.

- In December 2022, within the framework of the event "Resources for strengthening youth work in Azerbaijan", a presentation of important publications of the Council of Europe in the field of youth work, translated into Azerbaijani, took place in Baku.

The event was also aimed at reviewing the activities carried out in 2021 (see below).

In the framework of the Action Plan of the Council of Europe for Azerbaijan for 2018-2021, a special program of bilateral cooperation was implemented between the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. As part of joint cooperation, in 2021, training courses on human rights and education of democratic citizenship were held for young leaders and activists in the regions, online seminars for employees of youth houses and centres working with youth and the projects of youth organizations were supported. In addition, a number of documents and publications of the Council of Europe in the field of youth work have been translated and published into Azerbaijani.

The following publications were presented:

- "Land of Dignity" a game for learning social rights with young people through human rights education
- Youth Sector Strategy 2030
- Council of Europe Youth Portfolio
- Quality Label for Council of Europe Youth Centres
- Quality Label for Council of Europe Youth Centres. The role, value and impact of youth centres.
- Serious approach
- Have your say
- Compass Handbook on Human Rights Education with Youth Participation (updated 2020)

The presentation was attended by senior officials of state institutions of Azerbaijan and the Council of Europe, deputies of the parliament of Azerbaijan, representatives of young leaders and youth organizations.

### ***Young Ambassadors on SDG***

In 2021, 17 new Young SDG Ambassadors were selected for the period 2021-2023. The initiative of Young Ambassadors for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was launched within the framework of the project "Creating new platforms for supporting the active participation of young people in global political discussions" jointly implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Nations Development Program in Azerbaijan since May 1, 2018. SDGs Young Ambassadors are selected for a two-year term, and for the first time in Azerbaijan, they were selected in 2018.

During 2018-2020, 17 Young Ambassadors contributed to the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals on a voluntary basis, to encourage the participation of young people in achieving the SDGs, to inform society about the steps taken at the local, national and international levels, and to

	implement initiatives related to SDGs in the country. As a result of their activities, hundreds of young people in Azerbaijan have learned about the SDGs and taken action to achieve the global goals.
Belgium/ Belgique	<p><b>Updated March 2023</b></p> <p><b>UPDATE YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENTS FLEMISH COMMUNITY OF BELGIUM</b></p> <p><b>I. FLEMISH YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS POLICY PLAN (<i>Jeugd- en Kinderrechtenbeleidsplan</i>)</b></p> <p><b>Coordination and consultation</b>  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 for the Flemish Minister for Youth;  + horizontal consultations are organised throughout a reflection group on youth and children's rights policy in which the youth sector and other relevant policy fields' administrations are represented; Additionally, a network of contact points is established for youth and children's rights policy within eleven Flemish policy fields.  + vertical concertations are organized between the Flemish minister competent for children (including children's rights) and youth affairs and other Flemish ministers within their respective domain;  + what is more, the youth dimension is included in horizontal policy plans of the Flemish Government, therefore embedding the youth perspective in policy plans of other policy fields (e.g. the <a href="#">Flemish Action plan on fighting poverty</a> or the <a href="#">Flemish Energy and Climate Plan</a>).</p> <p><b>NEW CONCEPT: ACTION-ORIENTED PLAN</b>  The Youth and Children's Rights Policy Plan is limited to a number of cross-sectoral/policy themes! 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 described below will be operationalised.</p> <p><u>The five priority objectives</u></p> <p><b>1. Well-being and positive identity development</b>  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 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 an amount of 140 000 euros a year 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.  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. The goal is to increase the number of available practical handholds and the level of expertise in the field of youth work by 2022.  This priority is operationalized through concrete objectives and actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government of Flanders shall pursue a targeted integrity policy which actively works to tackle violence in an integrated manner, starting from the story and needs of the child or young person</li> </ul>

- We shall stimulate knowledge building, exchange of expertise and cooperation, starting from the position and living environment of the child or young person
- We shall focus on tackling (cyber) bullying in a coordinated integrated manner
- The government of Flanders shall stimulate initiatives both on a collective and individual level that lead to encounters, enhance toughness and acknowledge the resilience of each child and young person
  - We shall focus on caring networks that improve the quality of life
  - We shall promote the resilience and mental toughness of children and young people, starting from the needs of the child or young person

## **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 out space', access to relaxation, accessibility, ... It is important that the voice of children and young people is included in the design and planning of our public spaces.

Public spaces are being made friendlier to children and young people by involving them in the design of their neighborhoods. Research has been set up to find good practices for the participation of children and youngsters.

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 project call for the multifunctional and shared use of youth infrastructure (including playgrounds and public spaces).

More concretely, this second priority is operationalized in the following objectives and actions:

- The government of Flanders shall recognise the role and place which children and young people occupy in the public space and its design
  - We shall work together with children and young people as co-creators of public space
  - We shall improve the multifunctional and flexible use of public space with targeted actions in the areas of infrastructure, housing policy and mobility
- The government of Flanders shall pay attention to liveable and sustainable coexistence, with children and young people as the driving force
  - We shall make networks that focus on intergenerational co-existence more sustainable
  - We shall encourage healthy and sustainable working methods and attitudes towards life

## **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 recognized 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. Research was launched to identify regulitis and to find good practices for local governments to avoid it. A testing ground is prepared to support social entrepreneurship in and by youth work. It was launched in April 2022. For the recognition of competences of young volunteers we are making an overview of good practices.

Operationalisation of the priority into concrete objectives and actions:

- The government of Flanders shall acknowledge, strengthen and stimulate the voluntary civic engagement of children and young people
  - We shall recognise and optimise what works well



- We shall encourage the engagement by and the voice of children and young people by focusing on innovative forms of engagement and volunteering by children and young people
- The Government of Flanders shall recognise and improve the development of talents, qualities and competencies resulting from volunteering
  - We shall focus on methodologies that identify, develop and recognise talents and competencies linked to engagement.

#### **4. Leisure activities for all**

The Flemish government wants all children and young people to enjoy their leisure time to the fullest. 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, among others for 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 settings. The goal of this campaign is to provide answers to the real needs among children and young people with disabilities.

Operationalisation of the priority into concrete objectives and actions:

- The government of Flanders shall be committed to solution strategies for removing barriers to an integrated leisure policy
  - We shall involve children and young people as co-creators in fleshing out and designing on demand and tailored leisure time activities
  - We shall facilitate inspiring practices and methodologies that focus on guidance, exchange and encounters
- The government of Flanders shall support and stimulate the elaboration of a leisure policy based on cross-fertilisation
  - We shall encourage inspiring cross-fertilisation between and within different sectors and/or policy levels to promote an integrated leisure policy
  - Within the existing provision, we shall commit to a targeted focus on reaching specific target groups

#### **5. Media literacy**

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 manner in an increasingly international and digital world.

To help realise all of this, the Flemish government is improving the media literacy training of professional Youth 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.

The action journalism by children and young people aims to empower them as recipients, users and co-creators of media. This is 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. A learning network on digital youth work is active. It is based on research and its recommendations made in 2021.

Operationalisation of the priority into concrete objectives and actions:

- The government of Flanders shall strengthen the competencies of children and young people in a mediatised society, while paying attention to the key role of people in charge of upbringing and youth leaders
  - We shall stimulate and develop knowledge, skills and attitudes through information, training, guidance and support
  - We shall strengthen children and young people in their competencies as recipients, users and creators of printed, audiovisual and digital media



- The government of Flanders shall be committed to a more inclusive media literacy policy through resilience building
  - We shall challenge online mechanisms that affect the physical, mental and/or sexual integrity of children and young people
  - We shall be committed to building knowledge in children and young people about their rights so as to empower them in protecting their integrity

Next to the five cross-sectoral priorities identified above, the Flemish Youth and Children's rights policy plan emphasizes the importance of youth participation throughout the five priorities and the For more information on the Youth and Children Rights Policy plan 2020-2024, please consult its English translation, available at: [https://www.vlaanderen.be/cjm/sites/default/files/2021-04/Vlaams%20Jeugd-%20en%20Kinderrechtenbeleidsplan%202020-2024\\_EN.pdf](https://www.vlaanderen.be/cjm/sites/default/files/2021-04/Vlaams%20Jeugd-%20en%20Kinderrechtenbeleidsplan%202020-2024_EN.pdf)

## II. GENERATION RESILIENCE

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.

- 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"

In the planning of the relaunch after Covid-19, a budget of another 3 million euro was reserved for socially vulnerable children and young people. With this money 29 projects were supported to reinforce resilience. 30 million euro was reserved for youth infrastructure, of which 7,7 million euro will be used for the projects of local youth organizations and local governments in 2021 and 2022. There are 3 foci: 1. Durable and quality basic provisions; 2. Safe and accessible meeting places; 3. Youth friendly design of neighborhoods' and play areas. Participation of the young people in the project was a criterium for subsidization.

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/cjm/nl/nieuws/vlaamse-regering-investeert-30-miljoen-euro-jeugdinfrastructuur>

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/cjm/nl/cultuur-en-jeugdinfrastructuur/investeringsubsidies-voor-kwaliteitsvolle-basisvoorzieningen-en-inrichting-van-jeugdinfrastructuur>

## III. NEW YOUTH DECREE/POLICY

Flemish youth minister Benjamin Dalle's ambition during this legislature is to bring together 4 different Flemish decrees and streamline them into a new youth decree. These four decrees are: 1. The Renewed Flemish youth and children's rights policy; 2. The subsidization of supra-local youth work, youth centers and youth work for special target groups, 3. The support and stimulation of local youth policy and 4. Additional subsidies for employment in the cultural sector (DAC). Specifically, the intention is to provide both a legal and substantive redesign of the regulatory framework. This process in which the youth sector is involved through participation moments began in the fall of 2021 and will be completed by the end of 2023.

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/cjm/nl/participatiemoment-geïntegreerd-jeugddecree-11-mei-2022>

<https://bataljong.be/beleidsdossier-geïntegreerd-jeugddecree>

## IV. AWEL CHAT UKRAINE

The online helpline 'awel' listens to all children and youth with a question, a story and/or a problem. Children and youth can reach awel by phone, e-mail, chat or via awel's website. Contact is completely anonymous and free of charge. On behalf of the Flemish Government, awel has started a chat room in Ukrainian and Russian where Ukrainian children on the run who are located in our country can find help.

	<p><a href="https://awel.be/oekraïne">https://awel.be/oekraïne</a></p> <p>F</p> <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>
<p>Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Bosnie- Herzégovine</p>	<p>Updated March 2023</p> <p>On July 4, 2016, <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Agreement on the Establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office</b> (hereinafter: RYCO) on the Western Balkans Summit in Paris.</p> <p>In September 2021 the RYCO launched its new programme for school exchanges in WB6 – Superschools with the objectives to support the peacebuilding and reconciliation processes and intercultural learning and dialogue among schools, students and their communities. The programme is part of a multi donor project “Western Balkans School Exchange Scheme” co-financed by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) together with the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO). The project contributes to the overall objective of increasing skills and knowledge of young people in the Western Balkans by enhancing education systems and promoting cooperation in the region, through establishing a regional school exchange scheme.</p> <p>The total budget of the programme is EUR 5.5 million. A total of 200 youth exchanges will be supported throughout the Western Balkans during the three years of the project implementation. 50 projects, or 100 secondary schools from the region, were awarded within this first cycle of the Superschools programme implementation, which in the coming period will contribute to the realization of the RYCO's mission in the Western Balkans region. Eighteen secondary schools from Bosnia and Herzegovina were included in the implementation of the first cycle of this program. Currently, the second cycle of the Superschools exchange programme has been implemented.</p> <p><b>The PRONI Centre for Youth Development</b> has become a new member of the European Youth Card Association. It 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 closely with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>The European Youth Card program in Bosnia and Herzegovina started on the International Youth Day in 2020 and in 40 days of the program activity 1000+ youth cards were issued. The card was made available for free for youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the end of March 2021. The card can be obtained on the card website <a href="http://www.omladinskakartica.ba">www.omladinskakartica.ba</a>. 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.</p> <p>The European Youth Card Program in Bosnia has been supported in 2022 by the BiH Brcko District Government and by the Delegation of European Union to BiH with 2500 EUR respectively for promotional activities.</p> <p>The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted <b>the Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs (Lisbon + 21 Declaration)</b> 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</p>

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.

**The Youth Policy of Republika Srpska 2023 - 2027** is adopted in January 2023. The new Policy defined for strategic goals with a total of 15 priorities and 44 measures, and three strategic projects, and the total the amount of 266,389,000 KM has been planned for the implementation.

Based on the defined strategic focuses and proposed development visions, the following objectives of the Policy were set:

- Improve the opportunities and interest of young people for a better life in Republika Srpska;
- Encourage the initiatives for responsible action of young people in the community;
- Encourage the development of healthy lifestyles of young people and a responsible attitude towards the environment;
- Promote excellence and create role models among young people.

The key projects envisaged by the Policy:

1. Establishment of a resource center for young people;
2. "Startup Srpska" support program for young entrepreneurs;
3. Establishment of the first science and technology park in Republika Srpska.

The Youth Policy of Republika Srpska has been developed continuously since 2006 in the form of five-year policies, so the policy covering the period from 2023 to 2027 is the fourth in a row.

**The Youth Policy of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2022-2026** is adopted in February 2023 seeking to improve the youth position in the BiH Brcko District as well as the effective management of existing and new resources of the administrative unit of the Government of the Brcko District responsible for youth issues.

The Policy also aims to improve the youth sector and youth organizations in the Brcko District, as well as the relationship between the government and young people, and it contains a comprehensive approach to building social, economic, educational, cultural and other conditions for the permanent well-being of young people and their active and responsible participation in society.

In 2021, **Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the Youth Wiki online platform** (<https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki>) based on the participation in the Erasmus+ program. The platform presents information on European countries' youth policies.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina received two grants from the European Commission for 2021/2022 and 2022-2024. The following activities have completed under the two grants so far:

- Ten chapters of description of youth policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina are drafted and upload to the encyclopedia website;
- A dedicated website for the promotion of the encyclopedia in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been created and translation of the first five chapters of description of youth policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina upload to the website – [www.youthwikibih.ba](http://www.youthwikibih.ba).
- Ongoing promotional activities are carried out on a regular basis including social media posts, newsletter and an event to present the project has been planned for 2023.

Updated February 2023

The Youth Act provides the legal framework of the national youth policy. It is adopted in 2012 and determines the basic principles, management and financing of the activities carried out in implementation of the state youth policy.

The state youth policy is a purposeful and consistent activity of the state, municipalities, youth organizations and society. It aims to create favorable conditions for achieving full personal development of the young people and securing their participation in the public and economic life, as well as their inclusion in the governance processes at local, regional and national level through activities promoting the development of youth in the country. The state youth policy is implemented by the Council of Ministers through the Minister of Youth and Sports and in accordance with the National Youth Strategy. The National Assembly adopts a National Youth Strategy on the proposal of the Council of Ministers.

The National Youth Strategy framework contains:

- analysis of the challenges facing the youth policy;
- vision for the development of youth policy;
- leading principles in the implementation of the strategy;
- strategic goals of the state youth policy;
- basic measures and financial mechanisms for the implementation of the strategy;
- expected results of the implementation of the strategy;
- actions on monitoring, evaluation and updating of the strategy.

The National Youth Strategy (2021-2030) sets out the long-term goals and priorities of the state youth policy for a 10-year period. It was approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria in July 2021 and in December 2022 and is adopted by the National Assembly on 31 January 2023. The strategic document is based on the understanding that youth policy must be youth needs-based, cross-sectoral and collaborative policy that ensures equality and inclusion, promotes participation and empowerment and takes into account age and regional specificities. The vision of the National Youth Strategy 2021-2030 perceives the youth as “capable, engaged and empowered young people who are ready to develop their full potential and to meaningfully contribute to the development of the Republic of Bulgaria in the context of the European family and the global world.” The vision should be achieved by following 7 strategic priorities:

- Promotion of non-formal learning
- Promotion of employment and support of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
- Promotion of young people’s engagement, participation and empowerment
- Development and establishment of youth work at national level
- Connectivity, tolerance and European belonging
- Promotion of health and environmental-friendly lifestyle
- Promotion of culture and creativity among young people.

For the purposes of the implementation of the National Youth Strategy, the Council of Ministers adopts National Youth Programmes on the proposal of the Minister of Youth and Sports. The

national youth programmes are administered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Namely they are the National Youth Programme (2021-2025) and the National Programme of Youth Activities under article 10a of the Gambling Act (2023-2025). Under these programmes yearly the Ministry of Youth and Sports funds youth projects in areas such as promotion of youth work and youth participation, health and well-being for young people – both mental and physical health, civic engagement and youth empowerment, non-formal learning for acquisition of skills and key competences, social cohesion, environment protection, leisure time, creativity and culture, tolerance, voluntary activities including in crisis contexts, prevention of various forms of addictions and aggression, prevention of cyber bullying and online abuse, countering disinformation and fake news, etc.

In the timeframe of the development of the new strategic document on youth and in regard to the findings of the conducting various assessments and analyses of the national youth policy, the need for an update of the national youth legislation was identified. The national youth policy faces a couple of challenges in terms of:

- the limited youth participation in the decision-making process at local and national level;
- effectiveness of the existing mechanisms for cross-governmental cooperation;
- sustainability of the consultation mechanisms with civic society stakeholders and young people;
- youth activities and youth activism, especially at local level.

With view of addressing these challenges, the Youth Act was amended and entered into force in August 2022. Major amendments comprise changes in the period and content of the reporting, the inclusion in the legislative framework of the activities of the Public Council on Youth Issues and mandatory municipal youth councils in municipalities over 45,000 people.

In 2022, the regulatory document (Ordinance No 1 of 10.06.2022) that governs the terms and conditions for financing of projects under national programs for the youth was amended to better the conditions for youth activism and empowerment in small municipalities, by making small towns and schools in small municipalities also eligible for funding. It addition provides the opportunity for “informal groups” of young people to apply and implement youth projects.

In pursuance of the strategic objective for development of youth work and following the implementation of the EYWA, a National Working Group on Youth Work is established in 2022. The working group comprises of representatives of public authorities, youth organisations, faculty, etc. Currently the working group works on establishing a definition of youth work, mapping of youth work at national level and designing of a code of ethics for youth workers and a system for monitoring of youth work.

In terms of youth policies at European level, a National Working Group on EU Youth Dialogue is established and working in accordance with the European Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and the Resolution establishing guidelines on the governance of the EU Youth Dialogue. The working group works for awareness raising on the EU Youth Dialogue processes at national and local level among

civil society, young people, nongovernmental organizations and institutions; supports the process of implementation and promotion of specific policies for achieving youth goals determined by the relevant EU trio presidency; carries out consultations; ensures consistent and continues process of EU Youth Dialogue implementation, etc.

As a national contact point for the Council of Europe's Democracy Here | Democracy Now campaign, the Ministry of Youth and Sports assisted the process for drawing up a youth delegation that took part in the flagship initiative of the campaign "Youth Here: Democracy Now - Council of Europe Youth Action Week" in Strasbourg, during the summer of 2022. The delegation was headed by a representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and comprised of 6 youth delegates selected by a transparent and inclusive procedure, representing different youth organizations as well different regions of the country.

The Council of Europe's Democracy Here | Democracy Now campaign is part of the 5th thematic key area "Tolerance and European identity" of the National Youth Program in 2022 and in 2023. By adding it to the National Youth Programmes' key thematic areas the Ministry of Youth and Sports encourages young people and their organizations to develop projects under the Campaign slogan.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is also the national coordinator for the European Year of Youth activities at national level and implements a project funded by the European Commission. The motto of the Bulgarian initiatives under the EYY is "Sustainable development – Europe 2050: Let's hear the young people of Bulgaria". Within this framework the main initiatives that the Ministry of Youth and Sports implements include numerous activities in the following thematic areas:

- Youth volunteering – cause for sustainable development here and now;
- Youth vision – Europe 2050;
- Youth civic space 2022;
- The sport and the family – ambassadors for health, tolerance, environmental protection and culture;
- National information campaign.

In March 2023 the Final Conference will take place in Sofia and will bring together 100 young people, experts and policy makers to elaborate on good approaches for a more effective, efficient and cooperative youth policy that conforms to the principles of good governance.

Croatia/ Croatie	<p><b>Updated February 2022</b></p> <p>Since July 2020, national youth policy is within the scope of <b>Central State Office for Demography and Youth</b>. Even though recognized as a unique field, youth policy is a shared domain across other ministries (Ministry of Science and Education, Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy; Ministry of Health etc.).</p> <p>Central State Office for Demography and Youth is preparing a new <b>National Program for Youth</b> 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. It is expected to be adopted in 2022.</p> <p>Croatia will actively participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue under the Trio Presidency France-Czech Republic-Sweden with the aim of strengthening the Dialogue and including all young people with a special focus on the European Youth Objectives # 10 Maintaining a Green Europe and # 3 Inclusive Societies.</p> <p><b>Youth Advisory Board of Government of the Republic of Croatia</b> is 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 national 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. Their work is regulated by Act on Youth Advisory Boards whose implementation regularly monitors Central State Office for Demography and Youth. The Act is going to be amended in some sections during this year.</p> <p>Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic Central State Office for Demography and Youth put stress on protecting mental health of young people during and after the crises. In cooperation with the Croatian Psychological Chamber the Office has launched telephone lines exclusively for young people with the aim of psychological counselling. The project will continue as long as needed.</p> <p>The Office participates in European projects such as the Europe Goes Local and the Youth Wiki and it is a national body responsible for monitoring and supervising the management of the Erasmus + programme in the field of youth and the European Solidarity Corps. The Republic of Croatia is one of 29 participants in the Youth Wiki, an online platform presenting information on European countries youth policies. Central State Office for Demography and Youth supports the implementation of the project through financial assistance.</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. Special emphasis is put on the priority area "Youth in Rural Areas" in order to implement activities that respond to the needs of young people in rural and remote areas and create additional opportunities for young people that might increase their quality of life and involvement in community.</p> <p><b>Croatian Youth Delegate to the United Nations</b> participates in all activities organised at national, European, and international level and he actively advocates the needs and interests of young people. Youth Delegate was elected with the aim of including active and promising young citizens of the Republic of Croatia in the UN General Assembly.</p>
Cyprus/ Chypre	<p><b>Updated February 2023</b></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"> <li>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;</li> </ol>



2. The establishment of a Youth Policy Institute and the
3. Development of a National Youth Centre.

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:

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

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.

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.

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.

Furthermore, in the frame of evidence-based policy, the YBC conducted two Youth-Barometer surveys within 2020..

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.

In April 2022, the YBC organised the 4<sup>th</sup> National Youth Conference with the participation of more than 350 young people, aged 18-35, from all over Cyprus (students from high school and universities, young people from NGOs, young unemployed, young employees etc). All these young people participated in workshops on specific thematic areas, along with representatives from the ministries and other governmental services. The workshops resulted in some important conclusions that will be part of the new National Strategy of the Youth Board of Cyprus that will be drafted in 2023. Moreover, the conclusions will be forwarded to the ministries and/or services of the government that deal with youth issues and policies, with the recommendation to take them into consideration.

Moreover, the Youth Board has been in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport that is coordinating the project for the creation of mechanisms for the validation of non-formal



and informal learning, including the set up of the occupational standards for the youth workers. The project will be finalised till the end of 2022 and it is estimated that the pilot implementation will start during 2023.

Additionally, a very specific program named: “Young Cities” has been launched since 2020 (a cooperation between the Youth Board of Cyprus and the National Betting Authority of Cyprus). The project helps young people that are involved in the creation of a project in their own Municipality or Community. The program is running in cooperation with the Municipality or the Community and helps young people to learn some skills during a period of 10 weeks seminars/lessons for specific themes and then to decide a project that they would like to see in their Municipality or Community. The program follows a bottom-up procedure that enables young people to have an active participation in their own local Authority.

Among the above, the YBC continued with its several programs that help the main strategic goals:

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

**Some new developments or / activities during 2022 are:**

- National Youth Strategy: Within the framework of the mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy, the second progress report for the three-year period 2020-2022 will be prepared, which will form the basis for the final evaluation of the Strategy. Moreover in 2022, the internal processes for the design of the new National Strategy have been initiated.
- Youth Work: Within 2022, Youth Board of Cyprus (ONEK) carried out an awareness campaign on social media, with the aim of informing the public about youth work practices already implemented in Cyprus. In addition, a youth work section has been created within the Policy Department webpage with useful information and material on the topic. Moreover, ONEK actively participates in the project coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, entitled “The establishment of validation mechanisms of non-formal and informal learning – pilot application” which includes, among others, the formation of the occupational standard for the youth worker. Several consultations were carried out with the youth organisations, youth workers and relevant agencies for the occupational standards of youth worker.
- Youth Festival: After two years of absence, the Youth Festival was organized on 24 of September 2022. The Youth Board of Cyprus with the collaboration of the NGO Support Center and the Cyprus Youth Council managed to bring together around 80 non-governmental organisations and gave also the opportunity for participation to more than 4000 young people in many and different aspects like festival/music/art/creation, discussions, fairs, games etc.
- Reinforcement of the participation of youth organisations that participate in the General Advisory Body: During 2022, the General Advisory Body met twice for its regular meetings. During the plenary meetings of the Body, opinions were expressed and suggestions made on issues concerning general principles of youth policy, giving young people themselves the opportunity to submit issues for discussion. These meetings resulted in policy proposals, which were forwarded to the relevant agencies. In addition, for the 2022 within the framework of the Body, working groups were created in which its interested members were invited to participate. The purpose of these groups is the further discussion and preparation of proposals for the plenary meeting of the General Assembly of the Advisory Body. These groups meet, as a rule, every three months. The topics cover a wide range such as: a) Work and Employment, b) Education and Training, c) Health and Wellbeing, d) Volunteering - Participation, e) Social Inclusion.
- Mobility of the Youth Card and new developments: During 2022, the Youth Board made some important changes regarding the European Youth Card and the Student Card program. Some

	<p>notable changes: a) implementation of the digital card through a special application, b) finding new privileges for young people with the aim of providing better privileges that meet the needs of youth and help to empower the mobility of young people and through the Youth Card.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys and research: surveys are one of the most important tools of the Youth Board in the context of its advisory role to the Government for the formulation of youth policies as the findings of the surveys reflect the real needs and perceptions of young people. The Youth Board of Cyprus proceeded within 2022 with the announcement of the results of the survey on the mental health of young people which was carried out at the end of 2021 with the participation of 500 young people, aged 18-35. The aim of the research was to capture the emotional state of young people, to investigate the degree of knowledge and the evaluation of the existing State support structures/programs and to identify their existing needs, for better support in mental health matters.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, in October 2022, the results of the survey on the level of financial literacy among young people were presented during an event with the participation of state officials, students and representatives of various services and agencies.</p> <p>Additionally, within 2022, a survey was also carried out among young people in rural areas, with the aim of investigating their attitudes in various aspects of their daily life, identifying their needs in terms of the services provided and their level of participation in local activities and the degree of awareness and evaluation of the State's schemes. Moreover, during December 2022, the collection of data for the 4rth Youth- barometer was carried out. The research findings were announced in January 2023.</p>
Czech Republic/ République tchèque	<p><b>Updated in February 2023</b></p> <p><b>A new Youth Department</b> was re-established in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Youth Department has two units: "Unit for supporting Yong People and School Sport" which administrates mainly subsidy programmes in the field of children and youth work, and "Youth Policy Unit" which deals with youth policy, youth work and international dimension in the youth field.</p> <p>Current priorities for 2023 are to start national consultations on developing National Youth Strategy which does not exist since 2020 and to support youth work. Regarding youth work, open calls for implementing three subsidy programmes in 2023 have been launched:</p> <p><b>2023 PROGRAMME FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUT WORK in umbrella organizations and organisations awarded with Quality Label</b></p> <p>The Programme supports NGOs focused mainly on regular and long-term activities intended for the widest possible spectrum of children and youth as well as activities that facilitate the development of children and youth work, in particular: ensuring the development of competencies needed for active civic , professional and personal life of children and youth from 6 to 26 years of age through free-time activities; widening the offer of nonformal education for children and youth; improving conditions for NGOs working with children and youth and their development; development of children and youth work on voluntary basis, supporting professional training and education of children and youth workers; creating conditions for the development of informal education.</p> <p><b>2023 PROGRAMME FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUT WORK of non-governmental non-profit organizations with beyond-region impact</b></p> <p>Specific activities for the year 2023 will be supported: 1. Reducing inequalities in access to nonformal education (activities focused mainly on children and young migrants from Ukraine, on children and youth from socio-economically disadvantaged environments, on children and youth with various forms of handicap, etc.). 2. Green/sustainable Europe (involvement in projects aimed at environmental protection, education in this area, etc.). 3. Development of competencies for leadership and teamwork (education and training of youth workers and youth leaders).</p> <p><b>Adaptation group program for displaced children and young people from Ukraine January - June 2023</b></p> <p>The program is aimed at supporting free-time adaptation groups for children from 3 to 18 years of age migrating from Ukraine and residing in the Czech Republic. The adaptation groups are focused on</p>

	<p>reducing the negative impacts associated with the war conflict. The main goal is to support the adaptation and socialization of Ukrainian children to the Czech environment, to support the development of their language skills, especially speaking in the Czech language, to prepare children for join education system in Czech schools, to support children's mental well-being and mental health.</p> <p>The Youth Department is being currently working on a <b>completely new programme for providing meaningful free-time activities to children from 5 to 18 years of age in socially excluded areas</b>. The programme will enable leisure-time children and youth centres to open specific clubs which will provide a wide range of after-school activities to the target group. This target group will be also provided with crise management services and nonformal educational activities.</p>
Denmark/ Danemark	<p><b>Updated February 2022</b></p> <p><b>The Danish education system</b></p> <p>It is ensured from pre-school to higher education that all young people receive a high-quality education and a solid foundation for engaging in lifelong education. The education system should also contribute to fostering a learning culture that promotes creativity, independence and responsibility. There must be cohesion between the various education pathways and levels such that the individual can obtain qualifications and competences. Provision of high quality education at all levels is essential to ensure competitiveness in today's global society and qualification to take active part in the knowledge society and contribute to its further development. Education is open to all and generally free of charge. The Danish education is mainly regulated and financed by the state, and all public educational institutions are approved and evaluated on an ongoing basis.</p> <p><b>Grant</b></p> <p>All students above 18 years of age are entitled to a student grant in upper secondary education.</p> <p><b>Active participation</b></p> <p><i>Treating pupils and students as independent people with a right to form their own opinion and a duty to participate actively in discussions is a matter of course in Danish education.</i></p> <p><b>Project work</b></p> <p><i>At all levels of the education system, pupils and students attend classes. However, they also carry out project work, either on an individual basis or in small groups. Interdisciplinary activities are also an integrated part of Danish education.</i></p> <p><b>Lifelong learning</b></p> <p><i>Lifelong learning is a key principle in Denmark. The idea dates all the way back to the 19th century Danish clergyman and philosopher N.F.S. Grundtvig, who argued that a prerequisite for active participation in a democratic society is education for all citizens on a lifelong basis.</i></p> <p><b>The Danish Act on Guidance</b></p> <p>The Act on Guidance from 2003 covers guidance in the education system. In 2019 however, it was decided to rename the act to the Danish consolidation act on municipal provision for young people under 25. The new act has a bigger focus on the young people, who are in need of guidance in regards to choosing, starting and completing an education as well as a bigger focus on the municipalities' right to organize guidance in a way, they think is best for their young citizens.</p>

**Pupils and students in need of special pedagogical support**

Danish policies and programmes to support persons with special needs and disabilities are guided by the principle of sectoral responsibility. That means that each societal sector has to provide for persons with special needs and disabilities. Thus, the responsibility in the educational sector is strictly limited to ensuring equal opportunities to and in education.

Persons with supportive needs stemming from social disadvantages or impairments, which in interaction with societal barriers hinder full and effective participation in education on an equal basis with others, are entitled to support.

All upper secondary educational institutions are obliged to apply for support to all students with documented special needs, e.g. assistive devices, learning materials designed to meet the needs of persons who are dyslectics or visually impaired, sign language interpretation and captioning, secretary, personal or practical support. In addition, educational institutions are obliged to adapt to students needs in testing and exams.

**Preparatory Basic Education and Training (FGU)**

In 2017, new ambitious goals were set with regard to educational attainment: at least 90% of 25 year olds must complete a general or vocational upper secondary education and the percentage of youths who are not in education or active on the labour market should be reduced by half by 2030.

In order to reach these admissions, a new Preparatory Basic Education and Training (FGU) has been implemented and the first students started the education in August 2019.

The duration of the education is up to two years and will enable young people below the age of 25 to improve their professional, personal and social skills with the aim to proceed into upper secondary education or the labour market

The Preparatory Basic Education and Training consists of three tracks, a general basic education in basic subjects like Danish, Mathematics, English, Natural Sciences etc., a work-based education with a high level of practical learning and a basic vocational education: Internship-based education.

Preparatory Basic Education and Training corresponds to level 1, 2 and 3 on the European Qualification Framework.

**Tripartite agreements and other cooperation**

The last 5 years The Danish Government and The Social Partners have made tripartite agreements about adult and vocational education because the cooperation is essential to secure a well-functioned education system related to the Danish labour market.

Denmark, together with the other Nordic countries and autonomous territories, has launched a development of a digitally based tool for internal use in the Council of Ministers regarding "Children and young people - rights-based analyzes" and entered into collaboration with Nordic Council of Minister's expert group for sustainable development and cross-sectoral program for sustainable lifestyles, as well as secured funding for the next three years on a communication project by and for young people in sustainable lifestyles.

**COVID-19 pandemic called for new initiatives.**

Denmark has had two periods of full lockdowns of schools and educational institutions. In the spring of 2020, schools were closed for 1-3 months. In December 2020, schools were closed again for 2-5 months.

During the lockdowns pupils with special needs or vulnerable students and children of parents in essential services were taught at school (both children, youth, and adults).

Parents working in essential services have had options for emergency care and education at school.

	<p><i>Reopening</i></p> <p>Compared to other sectors in Denmark, schools have been given a high priority. Younger children seem to benefit less from distance learning and were thus prioritized to go back to school first. This was also done out of consideration for the parents' opportunities to get to work. In March and April 2021 independent boarding school students as well as graduating students in lower secondary and in upper secondary education returned to physical classes. The reopening was based on geographical assessments of the infection rates.</p> <p>In the beginning of the year 2022 all restrictions caused by COVID-19 are abolished.</p>
Estonia/ Estonie	<p><b>Updated in September 2022</b></p> <p>After the war started in Ukraine, a social media literacy week was held online, aiming to raise knowledge on fake news and online safety. During the summer, youth festivals took place across Estonia focused on digitalisation, environment, mental health, and participation.</p> <p>From April through August, a new youth worker occupational standard was drafted by a working group established by the Estonian Qualifications Authority. In September, the draft was provided to stakeholders for feedback.</p> <p>In May, a <a href="#">support measure</a> was launched to facilitate an easier and faster adaptation of Ukrainian young people in Estonia. In return for the support, 141 camps were organised, the purpose of which was to support Ukrainian young people in getting to know Estonian culture and integrating with Estonian peers.</p> <p>In May, coordinated by the Education and Youth Board, the youth information service Teeviit launched a <a href="#">multilingual information platform</a> to support young people with quality and reliable information available in English, Ukrainian, Russian and Estonian, addressing young people with a different linguistic background through a single channel. The platform is divided into ten sections: education and youth work, employment, media literacy, financial literacy, human rights, physical and mental health, sexuality and relationships, environment, and safety.</p> <p>In May, the Estonian Association of Youth Workers established a new thematic working group in order to quickly respond to important topics in society and the media concerning young people and youth work, to write commentaries and articles, and to appear on television.</p> <p>In June, a <a href="#">new website</a> was launched providing quality and innovative models developed by groups of members of the local community of practice and piloted locally to assess how universally applicable these are across municipalities. At the moment, 23 of such new models in youth work are described and shared by the Education and Youth Board, but the website is constantly being updated to include more models. The models aim to improve youth work quality, to tackle challenges faced by young people and youth workers, and to further the integration of non-formal learning approaches into the formal education. Users feedback on the models is also accepted on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>In preparation for the parliamentary elections in March 2023, the Estonian Association of Youth Workers published a platform outlining the necessary courses of action for better involving young people, developing youth work and improving the situation of youth workers so that candidates could be guided by it.</p> <p>In its General Assembly in June, the Estonian Association of Youth Workers decided to start negotiations at both national and local levels to solve the low salary problem youth workers face.</p> <p>In July 2022, an online self-study course was compiled that helps camp counsellors cope with young people with special educational needs. The course is available on the <a href="#">Moodle learning platform</a> of the Education and Youth Board and consists of videos, tests and reading materials.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Opinion Festival</a> held on 12-13 August targeted issues that matter both to young people and the youth work community of practice. Eight discussions on youth-related topics were conducted and live-streamed on the internet.</p> <p>In August, the Estonian National Youth Council published its <a href="#">platform</a> for the parliamentary elections as well. 16 world cafés all over Estonia and a youth conference, which was attended by nearly 700 young</p>

	<p>people, were organised to get input from young people. The platform is divided into four sections: democracy; environment and sustainable economy; education and employment; well-being of young people.</p> <p>The indicators related to the youth sector were updated on a website <a href="#">My Municipality</a> that offers a systematic comparative overview of the state of local governments' services. New criteria were added as well as expectations for local governments were raised across several existing criteria. Methodological changes led to a general decrease in service levels.</p> <p>The Education and Youth Board has launched a series of <a href="#">webinars</a> on data on young people and youth work to highlight, among other things, issues relevant to young people. The target group of the seminars is the community of practice (policy makers, youth workers, youth researchers, etc.). The aim of the seminars is to increase the data literacy among the actors in the youth sector.</p> <p>A comprehensive study on future scenarios in the youth sector has been completed. This study stemmed from the need to understand how both the trends that take place in Estonia and the global megatrends impact on Estonian young people, and how should the Estonian youth sector and other policy areas adapt to these changes in order to best respond to young people's needs and to build young people's developmental assets. The aim of the study was to create four future scenarios for the Estonian youth sector for 2030.</p> <p>In September, the youth information service Teeviit focused on democracy and youth rights. Thematic articles and experience stories were published and shared on the website and its social media channels (<a href="#">Facebook</a>, <a href="#">Instagram</a>, <a href="#">TikTok</a>).</p> <p>In October, the registration of activities for the youth work week that is a flagship event of the Education and Youth Board opened. The week is held every November, with a new theme. This year's week focuses on youth work as a tool for creativity and personal development of young people.</p> <p>Special emphasis is also given on youth rights and quality youth participation in democratic societies. The Education and Youth Board is organising the <a href="#">Youth Participation Forum</a> on 31 October to 4 November to foster, among other things, the <a href="#">Youth Participation Strategy</a> that is in line with the texts adopted by the CoE, and to inspire the youth work community of practice to involve more young people in their decision-making processes.</p>
Finland/ Finlande	<p><b>Updated August 2022</b></p> <p>The Government Programme "Inclusive and competent Finland – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society" (<a href="https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161935">https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161935</a>) 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> <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. 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 (<a href="https://minedu.fi/en/national-youth-centres">https://minedu.fi/en/national-youth-centres</a>). The programme is available in English at the Ministry's web site <a href="https://minedu.fi/en/policies-and-development-youth">https://minedu.fi/en/policies-and-development-youth</a>.</p> <p><i>The Finnish model for leisure activities</i></p> <p>The main objective of the Finnish model for leisure activities is to increase the well-being of children and young people. The aim is to enable every child and young person to have a leisure activity in connection with the school day that they enjoy and that is free of charge. To enable this, the Government has granted 14,5 million euros per year for municipalities to implement the leisure activities locally. Pupils and students in years one to nine of comprehensive school as</p>



well as students in additional education are the target group. The Finnish model for leisure activities combines consultation of children and young people on leisure activities, coordination of existing good procedures and practices, and cooperation between schools and different actors in leisure activities. At the beginning of the model over 200 000 pupils were consulted about their wishes and hopes for leisure activities. The most popular ones were parkour, arts, cinema, cooking and climbing.

#### *Amendments to the Youth Act*

The Government proposes amendments to the Youth Act. The proposal specifies the provisions on the eligibility and the criteria for granting state aid. In addition, the Government proposes that the Finnish model for leisure activities be added to the Act. The act would, i.a. lay down the provisions on the tasks of municipalities in organising leisure activities and the conditions to be taken into account when considering the amount of discretionary government grants for recreational activities. The aim is to establish leisure activities for young people as a permanent operating model in municipalities in accordance with the Finnish model. The proposed amendments are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2023.

#### *Improving the administration of discretionary government grants*

The system of administering discretionary government grants will be improved by creating uniform, digitalised government grant processes. The grant activities involved include the channelling of grants, the application process, and the award, monitoring and assessment of grants. The aim is that the whole of central government will gradually switch to the new system of government grant administration, and, over the next few years, will begin using the supporting shared online services. Introduction of the new system for administering discretionary government grants will improve the effectiveness of the system, increase the transparency and openness of the system, make the grant application and award processes clearer and smoother and ensure that grant administration practices are more uniform. The new shared online services will replace the existing online services either in part or in full. (<https://vm.fi/en/improving-the-administration-of-discretionary-government-grants>)

#### *Implementation of the CM/Recommendation (2017)4 on youth work*

The Ministry of Education and Culture continues its efforts to promote the implementation of the recommendation on youth work, focusing on the formal education of youth workers. The Humak University for Applied Sciences organizes in cooperation with EU-CoE youth partnership and the German National Agency for EU youth programmes an Expert meeting on higher education in youth work in Helsinki (20-23 September 2022). The final report of the meeting will be published in English.

#### *Democracy here. Democracy Now youth campaign 2022*

The Ministry of Education and Culture has appointed the National Youth Council Allianssi as the responsible body for the implementation of the campaign. As part of the communication campaign, Allianssi has conducted an open online survey to collect models for democracy education concepts and events. These have been compiled into a thematic site in Finnish and English. The site will be complemented in autumn. Please see <https://nuorisoala.fi/the-finnish-national-youth-council-allianssi/models-for-democracy-education-and-participation/>.

#### *Digitalisation of municipal youth work in 2021*

The centre of expertise for digital youth work (Verke) has published the fifth report on the digitalisation of municipal youth work and digital youth work. The previous reports were published in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019. The report examines the digitalisation of municipal youth work through five themes: 1) attitudes towards digitalisation, 2) the use of digitalisation, 3) digital competence, 4) the challenges and opportunities of digitalisation, and 5) the strategic development of digitalisation. The report also examines how the digitalization of municipal youth work has evolved between 2019 and 2021, with particular attention paid to the effects of

	<p>the COVID-19 pandemic. The results show that municipalities are making active use of digitalisation in their youth work. However, there seems to have been no increase in the use of digital services when compared to 2019. The study shows a positive development in digital competence. A total of 94% of youth workers and managers rated their digital competence as at least fair. As many as 44% of respondents rated their digital competence as good or excellent, compared to just under a third (30%) in 2019. Media and information literacy was still perceived as the biggest strength and digital content production as the most significant weakness. According to the respondents' own assessments, their skills seem to have improved the most in terms of proficiency in the use of equipment and applications. However, almost three out of four (72%) said that they need training in digital skills.</p> <p><i>Presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council 2021-2023</i></p> <p>Finland holds the Presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) from October 2021 until October 2023. The Barents cooperation has been one of our key cornerstones of regional cooperation in the Arctic since 1993. Finland will focus on the areas of sustainable development and healthy environment, people-to-people contacts and transport and logistics. In the people-to-people contacts, specific focus will be on young people.</p> <p>In October 2021, the Foreign Ministers of the BEAC member states adopted a new funding instrument, the Barents Financial Mechanism (BFM) for small-scale practical cooperation projects cooperation in the region.</p> <p>On 9<sup>th</sup> of March Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the European Union issued a common statement in which they condemned in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprecedented military aggression against Ukraine. It was decided that all activities involving Russia in the Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation will be suspended. In the current situation, the focus of the cooperation is on activities between Norway, Finland and Sweden while securing the possibility for Russia to join activities in the future, if the political situation allows. The mobilization of the Barents Financial Mechanism is postponed.</p>
<p>France</p> <p>Les informations fournies dans ce document relèvent de la responsabilité des représentants nationaux au Comité directeur européen pour la jeunesse (CDEJ) et ne reflètent pas nécessairement la politique officielle du Conseil de l'Europe ou de ses États membres.</p>	<p><b>Updated September 2022</b></p> <p><b>Développement récent des politiques de jeunesse</b></p> <p>La politique en faveur de la jeunesse regroupe l'ensemble des actions favorisant l'accompagnement des jeunes vers l'autonomie et s'articule <b>principalement autour de l'éducation, la formation et l'engagement.</b></p> <p>Les principaux axes d'intervention sont :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education et insertion professionnelle</li> <li>• Une approche interministérielle de l'engagement (Jeunesse, Société civile, Armées)</li> <li>• Le renforcement de l'accès aux droits, notamment en ce qui concerne la santé mentale</li> </ul> <p>La prise en compte des questions environnementales et de développement durable est par ailleurs transversales aux différents axes d'intervention.</p> <p>Par ailleurs, de janvier à juin 2022, la France a assuré la présidence du Conseil de l'Union européenne (PFUE) qui a correspondu avec le lancement de l'Année européenne de la jeunesse.</p> <p><b><u>Education et insertion professionnelle</u></b></p> <p><u>Au lycée</u> Une réforme des choix de spécialité en première et terminale est en cours depuis 2019. Celle-ci a donné lieu à la mise en place de choix de matières multiples, remplaçant un système par filières.</p> <p><u>BAC 2022</u> En raison de la crise sanitaire et suite à une nouvelle réforme, le baccalauréat est à présent composé de 40 % de contrôle continu et 60 % d'épreuves terminales. Les épreuves terminales englobent à présent le français de fin de première, la philosophie, les deux épreuves de spécialités poursuivies en terminale et le grand oral.</p>



### 1 jeune 1 solution

Un ensemble de mesures d'ampleur à destination des jeunes a été mis en œuvre dans le cadre du plan #1jeune1solution pour faire face aux crises sanitaire et économique traversées depuis mars 2020. Ce plan dispose d'un volet de mentorat, [1 jeune 1 mentor](#). Le président de la République a annoncé l'objectif de 200 000 jeunes devant bénéficier d'une action de mentorat d'ici la fin 2022.

### Le Contrat d'Engagement Jeune

Dans la continuité du plan 1 jeune 1 solution, **le Contrat d'Engagement Jeune** a été mis en place en 2020 pour offrir aux 16 à 25 ans qui ne sont ni étudiants, ni en formation, ni en situation d'emploi durable, des opportunités d'accompagnement individuel dans un cadre exigeant. Le programme se déroule pendant 6 à 12 mois (entre 15 et 20 heures par semaine), il vise à aider les jeunes à définir leur projet professionnel et à trouver un emploi. Il peut donner lieu à une allocation mensuelle allant jusqu'à 500 euros.

### Engagement

#### Service civique

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 de volontariat en service civique qui a vu son budget augmenter**.

En **2022**, au moins 200 000 missions doivent permettre de mobiliser les jeunes.

Une convention-cadre pour le programme 2022-2023 « jeunes et nature » du Service civique a été signée le 4 mars 2022 en associant les ministres et secrétaires français de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, de la Biodiversité, et de la Jeunesse, ainsi que l'Agence du Service civique. Le texte prévoit le déploiement de 1 000 missions en faveur de la nature.

#### Service national universel

Le Président de la République est à l'initiative du « [service national universel](#) » qui est un dispositif d'engagement ouvert aux jeunes français de 15 à 17 ans appelé à se généraliser au fil des ans à l'ensemble d'une classe d'âge, soit 800 000 adolescents par an. Cette année une journée « biodiversité » a été initiée en partenariat avec les associations de l'éducation à l'environnement et au développement durable afin de renforcer la thématique dans le séjour de cohésion.

Aujourd'hui, articulé autour de trois temps, le SNU débute par un séjour de cohésion qui donne l'opportunité de découvrir la vie collective au sein d'un centre pendant 2 semaines. En 2022, trois séjours de cohésion ont été proposés : du 13 au 25 février 2022, du 12 au 24 juin 2022, et du 3 au 15 juillet 2022. 40 000 jeunes Français, originaires de l'ensemble des départements de métropole et d'outre-mer, se sont inscrits pour y participer.

Le SNU se poursuit par une mission d'intérêt général d'une durée minimale de 84 heures qui peut s'effectuer en continu (par exemple pendant des vacances scolaires) ou de manière perlée quelques heures par semaine. Ceux qui le souhaitent ont la possibilité de poursuivre par un engagement volontaire d'au moins 3 mois, qui peut être réalisé jusqu'à 25 ans (30 ans pour les jeunes en situation de handicap).

La montée en charge du SNU pour 2023 entrera en résonance avec les enjeux environnementaux et sociétaux actuels. Cette politique publique, qui gravira cette année une nouvelle marche vers sa généralisation, constitue une opportunité majeure de conforter la cohésion nationale et le désir d'engagement des jeunes.

### Appel à projets Jeunes et nature :

Le ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports a lancé en décembre 2021 un appel pour soutenir et accompagner les projets menés par les jeunes intitulé « jeunes & nature ».

Cet appel à projets est destiné aux fédérations ou aux associations agréées Jeunesse et Education populaire au niveau national, qui disposent d'une convention annuelle d'objectifs (CAO) ou d'une convention pluriannuelle d'objectifs (CPO) signée avec la DJEPVA.

L'objectif affiché était de mobiliser des adolescents âgés de 12 à 18 ans dans des actions concrètes à valeur éducative sur le terrain, en milieu urbain et rural, en faveur de la nature.

15 associations ont été lauréates de cet appel à projet. 32 000 jeunes qui sont accompagnés pour des réalisations en faveur de l'environnement.

#### Engagement dans les Armées

Le ministère des Armées a présenté le plan « **Ambition Armées Jeunesse 2022** », comprenant un ensemble de dispositifs adressés aux Français à partir de l'âge de 13 ans.

Le plan a pour objectif de développer l'esprit d'engagement des jeunes et à les sensibiliser à « l'esprit de défense ».

Plusieurs dispositifs sont mis en œuvre :

- Les **classes de défense et de sécurité globale** : elles reposent sur un projet pédagogique pluridisciplinaire mené par une équipe enseignante et une entité militaire ;
- Les centres « **cadets de la défense** » : ils proposent aux collégiens et aux lycéens des activités éducatives, citoyennes et sportives, hors temps scolaire, dans le cadre d'un partenariat entre des établissements scolaires et une unité militaire de proximité.

#### Semaine d'action de la jeunesse

La France a contribué à la campagne « Démocratie ici, démocratie maintenant » lancée par le secteur jeunesse du Conseil de l'Europe pour l'année 2022. Le Ministère en charge de la jeunesse (par le biais d'une contribution financière), ainsi que ville de Strasbourg étaient partenaires de l'événement phare de la campagne, la **Semaine d'action de la jeunesse**, tenue du 27 juin au 2 juillet 2022.

#### Accès aux droits

Dans le cadre de l'**Année européenne de la jeunesse** (2022), la France a réalisé une campagne d'accès à l'information. Des livrets de présentation des dispositifs jeunes ont été partagés en ligne et lors de divers festivals et événements jeunes.

#### Boussole des jeunes

Le dispositif « **Boussole des jeunes** » est un service numérique créé en 2019 à destination des 15-30 ans et qui souhaite recenser explicitement les services mobilisables par les jeunes au niveau des territoires. En 2021, 17 territoires étaient engagés, permettant de disposer de 27 boussoles à échelle départementale.

#### Accès au logement

La garantie Visale, service de cautionnement gratuit porté par Action logement qui se porte garant auprès du bailleur, été étendue à tous les jeunes de 18 à 30 ans.

#### Accès à la culture

Depuis 2019, un « **Pass Culture** » a été expérimenté dans 5 départements pour faciliter l'accès des jeunes à la culture en contribuant ou en donnant un accès gratuit à des sites, expériences ou supports culturels.. Il est crédité d'un montant de 300 euros par jeune. En 2022, le président de la République a annoncé souhaiter étendre le dispositif aux élèves à partir de la 6<sup>ème</sup>.

#### Santé et sports

La France souhaite améliorer la santé des jeunes par la mise en œuvre de la **stratégie nationale de santé (SNS) 2018-2022** et le **plan national de santé publique Priorité Prévention** associé.

Ces textes ont pour objectif de réaliser de la prévention dans les établissements scolaires et de prévenir des risques auditifs, de consommation de substances, et de santé mentale.

La **gratuité de la contraception** pour les femmes de moins de 25 ans a été annoncée en septembre 2021.

La **santé mentale des jeunes** a donné lieu à la création d'un espace dédié pendant la pandémie de COVID-19 sur le site Santé publique France.

Santé publique France et le ministère des solidarités et de la santé ont lancé le 6 avril 2021 une campagne digitale de sensibilisation [#JenParleA](#) à destination du grand public, avec une attention particulière portée aux 18-24 ans.

Le ministère en charge de l'enseignement supérieur a mis en place différents dispositifs d'aides tels que le **dispositif Santé Psy Étudiants**. Il est destiné aux étudiants en situation de mal-être. Il permet à ceux qui en ont besoin, et qui le souhaitent, de suivre un parcours de soins et de pouvoir consulter gratuitement un psychologue (3 séances).

A l'approche des Jeux olympiques et paralympiques de Paris 2024, la France promeut les activités physiques et sportives auprès des publics scolaires et étudiants, en s'appuyant sur le réseau des **jeunes ambassadeurs de santé** et le label « **Génération 2024** » ou encore les « **mercredi du sport** ».

#### Accès aux loisirs

##### *Séjours de vacances*

Les « Colos apprenantes » ont été initiées en 2020, dans le cadre de l'opération Vacances apprenantes, par le ministère de l'éducation nationale et de la jeunesse afin, initialement, de faire face aux conséquences de la crise sanitaire Covid-19 sur les publics jeunes. Elles poursuivent l'objectif de faire partir un maximum de jeunes dans les séjours labellisés par les services de l'Etat, en s'appuyant en priorité sur les collectivités locales en lien avec les opérateurs de loisirs socio-éducatifs.

Les « Colos apprenantes » s'inscrivent dans un projet et un contenu pédagogique précis. Ainsi, en lien avec le socle commun de connaissances, de compétences et de culture, elles se fondent sur des séances de renforcement des apprentissages parmi les domaines suivants :

- Le développement durable et la transition écologique ;
- Les arts et la culture ;
- Les activités physiques et sportives ;
- La science, l'innovation ;
- Le numérique ;
- La découverte ou l'approfondissement de langues étrangères.

Un domaine parmi ces différentes thématiques est choisi comme dominante pédagogique du séjour. Une priorité est donnée au renforcement et à la remobilisation des connaissances et compétences des enfants et des jeunes. Une attention particulière est également apportée aux enjeux de lutte contre les discriminations et de citoyenneté.

Les publics cibles du dispositif sont les mineurs à partir de 3 ans :

- Domiciliés dans les quartiers prioritaires de la politique de la ville ;
- Domiciliés en zones de revitalisation rurale (ZRR) ;
- En situation de handicap ;
- En situation de décrochage scolaire ;
- Relevant de l'aide sociale à l'enfance (ASE) ;
- Dont les revenus ne dépassent pas un certain niveau (en tenant compte du nombre de membres de la famille).

Face au succès de la première édition, les Colos apprenantes ont été reconduites en 2021 et 2022. A ce jour, au cours des éditions 2020, 2021 et 2022, environ 200 000 mineurs sont partis en colos apprenantes gratuitement.

#### **La présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne (PFUE)**

La France a assuré la présidence du Conseil de l'Union européenne entre janvier et juin 2022. A ce titre, elle a pu lancer le 9<sup>ème</sup> cycle du dialogue de l'Union européenne en faveur de la jeunesse, plaçant

	<p>comme priorités « une Europe verte et durable » et « des sociétés inclusives ». La Présidence a été l'occasion de valoriser la contribution des jeunes à la transition durable ainsi que de renforcer leur participation à la construction des politiques publiques. La présidence a également visé à favoriser la mobilité des jeunes volontaires et la valorisation des compétences acquises ; et renforcer la citoyenneté européenne par l'engagement volontaire au niveau local et européen.</p> <p>La présidence a donné lieu à la négociation et l'adoption de <b>deux textes</b> au Conseil sur ces thématiques :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Conclusions sur l'engagement des jeunes en faveur de la protection de l'environnement</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Recommandation du Conseil sur la mobilité des jeunes volontaires à travers l'Union européenne.</a></li> </ul>
Georgia/ Géorgie	<p><b>Updated March 2020</b></p> <p>In August 2019 the new LEPL<sup>1</sup> 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"> <li>• LEPL Children and Youth National Centre;</li> <li>• LEPL Children and Youth Development Fund.</li> </ul> <p>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.)</p> <p>The Youth Agency of Georgia has already developed a three-year fundamental reform strategy and an action plan, which is divided into four phases.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The priorities of three-year reform strategy are based on Georgia's National Youth Policy and it aims at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• creating more opportunities for young people by providing high quality Youth Work services, non-formal education programmes and information;</li> <li>• providing grants and capacity building activities for youth organizations;</li> <li>• enhancing the qualification of youth workers;</li> <li>• promoting a healthy lifestyle, human rights, tolerance and gender equality.</li> </ul> <p>While defining priorities of the reform two important events were organized in Georgia on the topic of youth participation and youth work.</p> <p>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</p>

<sup>1</sup> 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;

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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> <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	

Updated February 2023

### **National action plan for child and youth participation**

In 2019 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 further development and qualification of youth and child participation is part of the "National Action Plan for Child and Youth Participation" (NAP) for the further development of the youth strategy. With the new NAP, particular emphasis is now being placed on strengthening the possibilities of involvement. The NAP is a dialogue process that began in 2022 and will continue until 2025. Various formats are carried out with the participation of representatives of the NGOs active in the youth field, the municipal umbrella organizations and the federal states as well as the young people themselves. At the end of the process, the recommendations for better child and youth participation are presented to the federal cabinet and the youth and family minister conference of the federal states.

The Interministerial Working Group on Youth (IMA Jugend), which has already developed the Youth Strategy, is continuing to coordinate the process. At IMA Jugend, representatives from all Federal Ministries exchange views on current projects and measures relevant to young people. 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.

### **Alliance for the young generation (Bündnis für die junge Generation)**

The climate crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression against the Ukraine all weigh heavily on young people. They often worry and suffer from fears about the future.

At the same time, young people have little scope for political action. Their voices are not heard enough.

Therefore, in Winter 2022/2023, Federal Minister Paus has initiated an "Alliance for the Young Generation" aiming at giving young people a voice and ensuring that their perspectives are taken into account. Together with numerous personalities from society, economy and the political sector, she has signed a joint declaration to widely raise awareness for the special situation of young people.

The partners of the alliance have committed themselves to support the interests, needs and rights of young people. They have also each publicly stated what they themselves will actively contribute to this mission. The alliance will be supported by conferences and events jointly organized by its members and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

### **„Democracy Here | Democracy Now’ campaign**

From 30. November to 02. December 2022, over 60 youth representatives from National Youth Councils met in Berlin to participate on the conference „Democracy and Human Rights in Times of Crisis-the Contribution of Young People“. They represented more than 25 countries and were joint by the Advisory Council on Youth on the Council of Europe.

The conference took place in the framework of the ‚Democracy Here | Democracy Now’ campaign by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. The conference was initiated and hosted by the German Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in close cooperation with the German Federal Youth Council and the Council of Europe.

### **Bonn-Process**

As a follow-up to the European Youth Work Convention, held in December 2020 during the German chairmanship in the Council of Europe, the German Federal Youth Ministry has established a European Service Centre for the Bonn Process to support the Bonn-Process all over Europe.

The aim of the Service Centre is to offer opportunities to further develop youth work in Europe e. g. by providing information and communication, organising networking opportunities and events or by supporting national processes,

More information about the Service Centre: <https://www.bonn-process.net/>

On national level the Federal Youth Ministry established a support structure that helps to facilitate national processes by bringing together different stakeholders from local to national level and from the whole community of practice in Germany.

<p>Greece/ Grèce</p>	<p><b>Updated February 2023</b></p> <p>The 2022-2024 youth policy strategy of the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth (GSVETLL&amp;Y) of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is outlined in the <i>Strategic Plan for Vocational Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth 2022-2024</i>, which includes a specific strategy based on the current needs and interests of young people, international and European data and extends to other fields, developed on a coordinated effort to take a cross-sectoral approach to all major issues affecting young people's lives, highlighting the new challenges of our time, challenges related to digital transformation and policies to help young people to actively participate in the digital era. This year has already begun with our Strategic Plan at its peak of implementation, which embraced and included both our Youth Sector campaigns in its priorities, the European Year of Youth 2022 and the "Democracy Here. Democracy Now" campaign for revitalizing democracy of the Council of Europe, along with the implementation of the Vocational Education and Training reform.</p> <p>The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2023 finds, on the one hand, our General Secretariat still implementing activities in accordance with the national programming for the European Year of Youth 2022 until the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023 and on the other, the activities included in the campaign for revitalizing democracy "Democracy Here. Democracy Now" of the Council of Europe completed. More specifically, a short update on a few of our main actions in both campaigns, aiming at addressing and solving key issues, is the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After our 1<sup>st</sup> online event of the General Secretariat for VETLL&amp;Y on "<i>Youth Work: the road to recognition</i>" on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022 which marked the launch of the actions and procedures aimed at the institutional recognition and certification of the Youth Work profession in the country, an expert group with the participation of the National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications &amp; Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP), the Greek actor mainly involved in the recognition, accreditation, and validation of non-formal learning (RVA), has been set up with the milestone of completing the professional profile of the Youth Work profession within 2023. This is highly anticipated both within the country and at European level.</li> <li>• Our <u>4 national EYY 2022 surveys</u> were selected by the Coordinating Committee of the EYY 2022 as a good practice of our national programme and were presented at the Project Fair of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of EYY 2022 Coordinators and Stakeholders on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in Brussels. This is the first time that our country has received this distinction in any thematic area of Youth and it was announced by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs Ms. Niki Kerameos at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education and Youth on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Brussels.</li> </ul> <p>All 4 surveys have been completed and the results are ready in the Greek language. Two of them ("<i>Good practices of Municipalities implementing European Policies for young people living in their area</i>" by the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (EETAA), and "<i>Mental health in the after COVID-19 era</i>" by UNICEF Greece Country Office, both implemented under the responsibility of the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth) are already translated in the English language and their</p>
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results are available for dissemination. Shortly, the results of our student survey "*Perceptions of democracy in decision-making at school*" and our survey for young people aged 18-29 "*Young people and Europe: How young people perceive Europe and their identity within it - Sustainable development goals and young people*" will be available in English as well.

On this topic, at the end of February, we will deliver to the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs **a policy paper** with the students' input and recommendations on the operation of the Students' Councils, legislation which has not been updated since 1986. It should be noted that these two surveys were the core activities of our national "Democracy Here. Democracy Now" campaign.

More specifically, here is a brief idea of what the research findings were expected to and have shed light on:

- a) the aspects that constitute the cognitive representation of young people about their status as Greeks, but also as European citizens. In particular, issues such as the perception of democracy and its future, the digital and green transition in the European context constitute additional fields of enlightenment for the perceptions of young people and the perspectives they themselves prioritise for the future of European coexistence, and
- b) the process of political socialisation of young people within the school environment, with an emphasis on the factors and conditions that favour the upbringing of participatory and responsible citizens who support democracy and contribute to safeguarding democratic processes.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, our 1<sup>st</sup> Closing Event of the EYY 2022 was held in Thessaloniki, with the participation of key stakeholders not only of the social and political sectors of Northern Greece but also of the Youth Sector, with the National Youth Council, all municipal youth councils of Greece and schools participating in the programme "Ambassadors of the European Council". Additionally, the culmination of EYY 2022 celebrations will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in Athens, where the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth, together with the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece and the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (EETAA) will complete the proceedings of establishing the honorary title of *National Youth Capital* for the Municipalities of Greece by signing the official announcement.

The aim of the joint initiative is for the country's municipalities, in close cooperation with the young people living in them, to design and implement a comprehensive programme of actions and interventions that will empower young people, strengthen their participation as active citizens and bring a new perspective of youth in all aspects of city life. A necessary condition of the initiative is that young people have equal opportunities to shape the social, economic and cultural life of the place where they live.

It is worth mentioning that the legacy of the Year and the evaluation of the significance of the campaign for revitalizing democracy "Democracy Here. Democracy Now" have already started in Greece, as unresolved key issues in the Youth Sector have been prioritised and procedures are underway to settle them, with Youth Work recognition being at the top of the list of priorities.

	<p>Within this context, an Inter-ministerial Working Group, which aims both to record the existing policies of each ministry concerning young people aged 15-29 and the implementation of policies for the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) concerning the Youth sector, has been established by our General Secretariat and started its work already. With the participation of 27 General Secretariats from the Hellenic Ministries that implement policies for the youth of the country, this Inter-ministerial Working Group will render the GSVETLL&amp;Y a continuously up-to-date hub for gathering all relevant information, record horizontal cross-sectoral proposals aimed at improving each sector involving youth policies, as well as contribute to the comprehensive mapping of the country's youth policies in order to provide national and European stakeholders with up-to-date information so that the Greek youth can benefit from every European initiative and support. Our goal is by the 3rd quarter of 2023 to create an online platform to record existing youth policies, equally accessible to the public for their information as well. The procedures, both technical and administrative, of setting up this platform have already started.</p> <p>Finally, the first National Action Plan for Youth of the Hellenic Government is still being processed by the General Secretariat for Government Coordination regarding the implementation and monitoring of all the policies it includes.</p>
Holy See/ Saint Siège	<p><b>Updated in October 2022</b></p> <p>The 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (a permanent body established in 1965 as an advisory body of the pope), commonly referred to as the "Synod on Young People", took place 3–28 October 2018 and had as its theme "Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment". Its aim was to "accompany young people on their way of life towards maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they can discover their life project and realize it with joy, opening the encounter with God and with men, and actively participating in the building up of the Church and society".</p> <p>The theme was chosen by Pope Francis after consulting the members of the Synod Council chosen by the previous Ordinary Assembly, regional and national bishops' conferences, the Union of Superiors Generals, the leaders of the Eastern Catholic Churches, and others. In January 2017, Pope Francis released a letter that invited "Young People" to contribute to the planning of the synod. In June 2017, the General of the Synod of Bishops announced the launch of a website to present the synod's planning document accompanied by a multi-language questionnaire to gather suggestions and feedback on it. In early July, he reported that the questionnaire had received more than 60,000 responses and the website had generated 173,000 "contacts." He said he hoped to reach "all young people, not only active Catholic young people." In September 2017, he hosted a seminar with about 20 teenagers and young adults from different continents to hear their ideas on the planned Synod. The General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops organized then a Pre-Synodal Meeting to take place from 19 to 24 March 2018, to which 300 young people from around the world were invited: young Catholics, young Christians from other denominations or other religions and young non-believer. At the end of the Pre-Synod, a joint document written by these young people was adopted and communicated to the people convoked for the Synod's Assembly. Building upon all these inputs, the Working Document (<i>Instrumentum Laboris</i>) that guided the bishops' discussions during the October's General Assembly, was released in June 2018. The Final Document of the Synod was voted and adopted at the end of its General Assembly, on 27 October 2018. Drawing on all the Synod's documents, after celebrating the World Youth Day in Panama in January 2019, Pope Francis authored an apostolic exhortation, <i>Christus Vivit</i> (Christ is living), which he signed on 25 March 2019.</p> <p>On November 24, 2019, on the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life of the Holy See established the "International Youth Advisory Body" and with a press release, announced the appointment as members for three years of 20 young people – 10 girls and 10 boys – coming from different regions of the world and from some international movements, associations, and communities. <i>"The Final Document of the Synod 2018 (n. 123) called for the activity of the Youth Office of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life to be strengthened also through the establishment of an organization</i></p>

	<p><i>representing young people at the international level.</i> " For this reason, in the post-synod discernment the decision was made to establish the Body formed by "young people who were involved in different phases of the synod process, such as the International Youth Forum that the Dicastery organized last June, to promote the implementation of the apostolic exhortation <i>Christus Vivit.</i> " The Pontifical Dicastery informed that the group <i>would "play an important advisory and proactive role, collaborating with the Dicastery to study issues relating to youth ministry and any other issues of more general interest."</i></p> <p>On 18 May 2021, the Holy See's Dicastery on Laity, Family and Life published the the "Pastoral Guidelines for the Celebration of World Youth Day in the Particular Churches". The document, prepared by the Youth Office within the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life and approved by the Holy Father Pope Francis, is intended "for the Bishops' Conferences, the Synods of the Patriarchal and Major Archbishop's Churches, dioceses/eparchies, ecclesial movements and associations and, last but not least, for young people all over the world, so that the 'diocesan/eparchial WYD' may be lived fully as a moment of celebration 'for young people' and 'with young people'." World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with the Pope. It is also a pilgrimage, a celebration of youth, an expression of the universal Church and an intense moment of evangelization for the youth world. Although its Catholic identity is clearly evident, WYD opens its doors to everyone, no matter how close to or distant from the Church they are. It is celebrated at the diocesan level on the Solemnity of Christ the King (late November), and every two, three or four years as an international gathering in a city chosen by the Pope, with the presence of the Holy Father. It brings together millions of young people to celebrate their faith and sense of belonging to the Church.</p> <p>Young people from all over Europe gathered from the 3rd to the 7th of August 2022 in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) for the European Youth Pilgrimage (PEJ22). The city welcomed some 12,000 young pilgrims from different European countries, who arrived along the 11 routes of the Camino de Santiago.</p> <p>This initiative also serves as a preparation for the World Youth Day 2023, which will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, from the 1st to the 6th of August 2023. WYD aims to provide all participants with a universal Church experience, fostering a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. It is a new stimulus to the faith, hope and charity of the entire host country community. With young people as its protagonists, World Youth Day also seeks to promote peace, unity and fraternity among peoples and nations around the world.</p> <p>Finally, from 20 to 23 October 2022, the European symposium on the proclamation of faith will be held in Krakow at the Sanctuary of St. John Paul II, organised by the Youth Commission and the Catechesis Section of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) and by the Archdiocese of Krakow.</p>
Hungary/ Hongrie	<p><b>Updated March 2022</b></p> <p><b>Hungarian Youth 2020</b></p> <p>Since 2000 (the year of the first youth report) every four year the research has done in order to get a full review on Hungarian youth. The report conducts by asking 8,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 29. The 2016 report was the first survey that also included the Hungarian youth living in the neighbouring countries. The 2020 survey published at the summer of 2021.</p> <p>Hungarian young people are much more satisfied in 2016-2020 than they were in 2008-2012. Satisfaction in the different areas (friendship / partner relationship, learning opportunity, future perspective, possible opportunity, standard of living) changed positive direction. Looking at the 2020 results, mainly the material characteristics show a significant positive shift. The coronavirus pandemic and information dumping on young people were likely to have been effected. 44% of Hungarian young people have experienced many changes in their lives as a result of the pandemic. In most cases, the change had negative consequences for example job loss; deterioration of financial situation, chnaging of the eating and sports habits. Positive changes included the transformation of family relationships more positively, the attitude for spirituality has also became stronger.</p>

### **Children and Youth Fund**

The aim of the Children and Youth Fund is to support series of programs implemented at national or international level with the inclusion and active participation of the youth groups, which form an integral part of the professional activities of youth communities and organizations, contribute to the implementation of youth initiatives, the creation and strengthening of communities, support the social participation of young people, promote the love of home and country, and ensure usefully spent leisure time. In 2021, the program was given the title of "Replanning". The coronavirus pandemic affected the entire world, and as a result of the situation economic, social, cultural processes and civic initiatives have slowed down and transformed since 2020. Within the framework of the application, financial support was given to present the activities, results and plans of the applicant organisation to organise online events and training courses promoting the overall community presence, personal development and community responsibility of young people. Financial support also can be given to these civic association in order to establish contacts with another Hungarian youth organisation in Hungary or abroad that is related to the applicant's activities. 665 youth organisations applied, of which 84 were supported by grants. This year's application has not published yet.

### **Complete personal income tax (PIT) exemption under 25**

In 2021 the Hungarian Parliament approved the bill draft of the complete personal income tax (PIT) exemption under 25 at April, 2021. From the 1st of January 2022, those under the age of 25 receive a complete personal income tax (PIT) exemption. With the introduction of the bill, the government aims to:

- support young labour market entrants by improving salary conditions.
- assist young people in the progress of reaching financial independence and creating/re-creating their self-identity.
- further improve the financial conditions of family formation.

The Government set the income limit for a personal income tax exemption for Hungarians under 25 at the gross average Hungarian wage: 1 163 EUR (HUF 403.600). This amount is expected to rise in the following years.

### **Financial moratorium**

The Hungarian Government imposed a moratorium on corporate, household and student loan instalments, effective until the pandemic is over. The Government will extend the possibility of using the Student Loan Plus, until June 30, 2022. According to the decision, a free-use, interest-free loan of HUF 500,000 (EUR 1400) is available again to students studying in higher education from October 1, 2021.

### **ReStart ReNew ReIntegrate- Opportunities for young people after coronavirus conference**

Under the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Hungary was given the opportunity to organise a conference. The participants discussed the possible ways of restarting youth communities after the pandemic, and the conference gave place to a seminar involving the European Youth Card Association and the Partial Agreement as well. The event was held between 27-29 October 2021 in Budapest, in the presence of representatives of ministries responsible for youth affairs from the member states of the Council of Europe, and representatives of several civil youth organisations.

### **The European Year of Youth - Cooperation with the National Youth Council**

National Youth Council shared their plans with Deputy State Secretariat for Youth for the European Year of Youth 2022. One of the aims supporting young people to actively promote the various opportunities available to the youth, be it from the EU, national, regional or local level. For example organizing conferences, events at national level and also support the participation of the young

	<p>people at theme related conference at abroad. In order to promote youth participation we will create tools, channels, programmes. The first opening event of the European Year of Youth was held at the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Future of Europe conference team at 25th, February. The Deputy State Secretariat supports these initiatives.</p>
Iceland/ Islande	<p><b>Updated February 2023</b></p> <p>In the beginning of the year 2022 the name of the Ministry changed from Ministry of Education, Science and Culture to Ministry of Education and Children. With this change the main focus is put on children and youth. The Ministry has stated working on the implementation of the Youth Work policy. The Recommendation CM/Rec (2017)4 is one of the key documents in the policy as well as the Convention of the Rights of the Child. This is a major step forward for the policy and a clear vision to 2030. Among actions in the policy is revision of current Youth law and development of quality criterion on youth work that has already started</p> <p>Policy on Child friendly Iceland was approved as parliamentary resolution in the Parliament in June 2021. This is a policy in implementation on the Convention of the Rights of the Child. One of the actions is policymaking on youth.</p> <p>The Ombudsman for Children in Iceland will organise the Children's Congress in November but this congress is held every other year. About 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.</p> <p>The Ombudsman of Children is also working action plan on how to increase influence children and youth on policy making.</p> <p><b>No Hate Speech</b></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) (<a href="http://saft.is/english/">http://saft.is/english/</a>)</p>
Ireland/ Irlande	<p><b>Updated February 2023</b></p> <p><b><u>Irish Youth Legislation</u></b></p> <p>Youth work is 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><b><u>Irish Children and Youth Strategy</u></b></p> <p>Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020, and its constituent National Youth Strategy 2015-2020 concluded at the end of 2020. The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth is currently developing a new policy framework for children and young people to cover the period from 2023 to 2028.</p> <p>The new policy framework is intended to inform cross-government work for children and young people over the period 2023-2028. The framework strives to place children and young people at the centre of policy, while also addressing the most pressing issues for children and young people, both now and over the lifetime of the framework. Furthermore, the framework will:</p>

- Provide a platform to fully realise the rights of children and young people in Ireland, so that all partners can work effectively together to ensure all children and young people can be happy and thrive.
- Create an enabling environment where the needs of children and young people are a central part of everyone's agenda
- Spotlight areas requiring coordinated focus in order to address the challenges being faced by children and young people in Ireland, and generate momentum for change
- Identify the five national outcomes to be achieved for all children and young people, and recognise that improving the outcomes for certain cohorts needs ongoing concerted effort.

### **Recent developments on national implementation of youth policies**

#### Youth Climate Justice Fund

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, UBU Your Place Your Space, and mechanisms to ensure quality youth service provision are embedded within the new scheme, which was launched in 2020. It replaces previous funding schemes and consolidates the learning from the scheme development process prior to its launch. For more information, see: <https://ubu.gov.ie/>.

UBU Your Place Your Space is a youth service funding scheme designed to target young people aged 10 – 24 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 improve the personal and social development outcomes 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 design of the scheme is based on an area profiling and needs analysis process to ensure the effective targeting of supports. In 2022, under this scheme, the Department of Children, Equality, Integration and Youth provides €43 million in funding to over 260 youth services to support young people that are identified as Target Groups.

#### Skills Summary

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth 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 are 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 DCEDIY. 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.

#### Youth Participation



	<p><i>National Youth Assemblies</i></p> <p>The establishment of Youth Assemblies in 2021 on a range of topics is a key commitment in the Programme for Government, 2020. Recommendations from Youth Assemblies inform Government policy on areas such as climate, digitalisation, rural development and other issues of importance to young people. The main function of the National Youth Assembly is to provide a systematic means of capturing the voices of young people in Ireland and feeding this directly into Government policy. By hearing from young people, the National Youth Assembly of Ireland provides insight into some of the concerns facing young people, and assists Government in acting on the potential solutions that young people propose. In October 2022 the National Youth Assembly of Ireland convened to consider the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the lives of citizens, in light of the evolving policy direction of AI and its impact across a number of areas of Government. Recommendations from the Assembly are being considered by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.</p> <p><i>National Strategy on the Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making</i></p> <p>A final update report of the implementation of Ireland's first National Strategy on the Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making was published in January 2023, highlighting successes, good practice, gaps and challenges. A public consultation process was launched to inform the next action framework on child and youth participation and closed at the end of January.</p> <p><i>National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making</i></p> <p>In 2021, DCEDIY launched the National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision Making. The Framework supports departments, agencies and organisations to improve their practice in listening to children and young people and giving them a voice in decision-making. It is based on the child-rights model of participation developed by Professor Laura Lundy, Queens University. It contains a series of checklists to guide decision-makers in the use of the Lundy model and good practice principles in planning and implementing the involvement of children and young people in decision-making.</p> <p><i>Comhairle na nÓg (Local Youth Councils)</i></p> <p>Implementation of a 5 year development plan to support and develop the nationwide youth council structure (Comhairle na nÓg) is ongoing. The plan was published in 2020 with the purpose of ensuring that youth voice is given due recognition by increasing awareness and understanding of the Comhairle youth councils, and what they do to give young people a voice at local and national level.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation CM/Rec (2017)4 on Youth Work</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Universal Youth Funding Reform</u></b></p> <p>The Youth Services Grant Scheme makes funding available on an annual basis to 30 national and major regional voluntary organisations, with over €12 million provided in 2022. 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.</p>
Italy/Italie	<p><b>Updated October 2021</b></p> <p>1) Youth is one of the three overarching priorities of the Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). Investments in favour of young people amount to over 15.5 billion Euros, equal to 8.1% of NRRP resources.</p> <p>An online consultation with young people was held before the approval of the Plan.</p> <p>The main NRRP measures targeting young people are aimed at supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the creation of new jobs and youth entrepreneurship;</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- formal and informal education and training;</li> <li>- the development of digital and technological skills;</li> <li>- mobility opportunities;</li> <li>- generational turnover in the public sector.</li> </ul> <p>2) In 2021, the Fund for Youth Policies, which finances projects mainly implemented by youth organizations at local level, was more than doubled as compared to 2020 (from 30 to 65 M Euros).</p> <p>3) An inter-ministerial working group aimed at coordinating activities for the post COVID recovery of the youth sector was set up. The working group includes the following sectors: health, education, employment, and communication.</p> <p>4) A Committee for the Evaluation of the Generational Impact of Public Policies (COVIGE) was set up. The Committee will provide indicators aimed at measuring the impact of policy measures on young generations (youth checks).</p> <p>5) Italy will hold the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to 15 May 2022. The Italian Presidency's priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender equality/combating violence against women;</li> <li>- Children's rights/<b>youth policies</b>;</li> <li>- Protection of cultural heritage;</li> <li>- Artificial intelligence and human rights/democracy/rule of law.</li> </ul> <p>Italy will host the <b>Forum on Human Rights Education and Democratic Citizenship</b> (hereafter "Forum") in Turin on 10-14 April 2022. The Forum should focus on the five-year review of state of implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (CM/Rec(2010)7) in member states and by youth organisations. It should result in a final statement and conclusions with priorities for EDC/HRE with young people in the next five years. The conclusions will be examined by the Joint Council on Youth and ultimately by the Committee of Ministers.</p> <p>On 20-21 September 2021, the Preparatory Group of the Forum held its first meeting in Turin.</p> <p>6) Italy holds the co-presidency of COP26, and hosted the Pre-COP26 in Milan (30 September- 2 October 2021). In this framework, the Italian Ministry for the Ecological Transition organized the meeting "<b>Youth4climate: driving Ambition</b>", in Milan from 28 to 30 September 2021. The meeting gathered 400 young people (age group 18 and 29) from the 197 Countries that ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Youth4climate meeting elaborated proposals that were presented at the pre-COP26 and the Cop-26 that will be held in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021.</p> <p>7) In the framework of the Italian Presidency of the G20 (1 December 2020 - 30 November 2021), the Department is promoting youth participation at the <b>Y20 Summit</b> 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>
Kazakhstan/ Kazakhstan	
Latvia/ Lettonie	<p><b>Updated February 2023</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Science, in cooperation with the Ministry of Welfare and the Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre, has developed the "Guidelines for the Development of Children, Youth and Family 2022-2027".</p> <p>The main aim of the guidelines is children, youth and families supportive society, which promotes the well-being of families, modern and accessible early support and intervention services that promote</p>

	<p>the healthy development of children and young people and equal opportunities, reduce the risks of poverty and social exclusion for children, young people and families, ensuring the common growth of the nation.</p> <p>The main goals of the guidelines are:</p> <p>Goal 1: Promotion of the safety, development, psychological and emotional well-being of children and young people</p> <p>Goal 2: Equal opportunities for children and young people with fewer opportunities.</p> <p>Goal 3: Youth development, improvement of quality of life and fostering the youth participation.</p> <p>Goal 4: Regeneration of the Latvian nation.</p> <p>In order to strengthen the recognition of non-formal education, the Ministry of Education and Science has made amendments to the Law on Education, thus lifting off the previous restrictions that made it difficult to recognize the learning outcomes of non-formal education carried out as youth work activities.</p> <p>A separate legislative act on the right of youth organizations to implement non-formal education activities and validate its outcomes is being developed.</p> <p>This Year the new Law on municipalities has been approved and entered in to the force. The new Law defines Youth work as an autonomous function of local municipalities, thereby strengthening the obligation of municipalities to implement and develop the system of youth work within their area of responsibility</p> <p>Ministry of Education and Science is working on a new concept for monitoring system on youth policy and youth work. It is planed that a new monitoring system will be developed by mid of Year 2023.</p> <p>Latvia is considering a possibility to join EYCA and Partial agreement on Youth Mobility.</p> <p>In order to promote the recognition of youth work, the award ceremony of the annual competition "The best in youth work " has been implemented in the end of the Year 2022.</p> <p>To keep quality of youth work on appropriately high level, in 2023 Ministry of Education and Science renewed an update process for professional 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. The new professional standards shall be developed by June of 2023.</p>
Liechtenstein	
Lithuania/ Lituanie	<p>Updated October 2018</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Youth work <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Supporting of open youth centers (OYC) and open youth spaces (OYS) programmes;</li> <li>b. Trainings for OYC/OYS specialists, working with young people also trainings about open youth work;</li> <li>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</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Intergovernmental and cross-sectorial work <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Adoption of new Youth law;</li> <li>b. Recognition of youth worker as an separate, different specialist;</li> <li>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);</li> <li>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</li> <li>e. Work with Police Department in order to train policeman and community workers empowering them with the methods of open youth work;</li> <li>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).</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Creation of national system of Youth volunteering;</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Legal basis in a national level;</li> <li>b. Reglamentation of volunteering and creation of local network and coordinator at the municipal level;</li> <li>c. Supporting of regional networks and national network – trainings for mentors, coordinators of voluntary activities at the municipal level</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Studies and researches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Evaluation of National youth policy development 2011 – 2019 years programme results;</li> <li>b. Evaluation of quality of youth policy in the municipalities;</li> <li>c. Research: youth and internet, digital competences, social networks</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Promoting of active youth participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Institutional grants for national youth organizations;</li> <li>b. Institutional grants for regional youth councils</li> <li>c. Institutional grant to National youth council (LiJOT)</li> <li>d. Trainings for regional youth councils</li> <li>e. Trainings for the leaders of non-formal youth groups and youth initiatives.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Luxembourg	<p><b>Updated March 2023</b></p> <p>In May 2022, the Ministry published the new national action plan. It's main objective is to promote the well-being of young people and it includes 3 axes:</p> <p>Axis 1 - Promote the well-being at school -&gt; 7 actions</p> <p>Axis 2 - Promote the well-being within the structures of Youth and youth work activities -&gt; 9 actions</p> <p>Axis 3 - Giving a voice to young people and networking partners -&gt; 5 actions</p> <p>Currently, the implementation of the action plan is one of the priorities.</p> <p>Another priority is the promotion of autonomous housing for young people, intending to provide them with affordable housing and ensure youth work support to promote their autonomy.</p> <p>In parallel, the first preparations for the new National Youth Report have already begun, even if it will not be published until 2025. The topic this time will be "Young people and digitalization".</p>
Malta/Malte	<p><b>Updated March 2022</b></p> <p>Youth Policy</p> <p>Malta's new national young policy <i>Towards 2030 - Reaching out to, working with, and supporting young people</i>, will cover the period 2021 to 2030 and focuses on all young people aged 13 to 30. It is a policy that is based on building on the success of the past five years while focusing on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. <i>Towards 2030</i>, seeks to reach out to, work with and support young in meeting the changing circumstances, present challenges and new opportunities that face them in the years ahead. The policy is embedded in and complements European youth policy, such as the new EU Youth Strategy, (2019 to 2027) and the Council of Europe's Youth Sector Strategy 2030, and seeks to build on the success of the previous national youth strategy, <i>Towards 2020 - A shared vision for the future of young people</i>.</p> <p>The policy's vision is of young people who are respected, valued and listened to and supported and encouraged in building fulfilling personal and social relationships and in developing their innate abilities and talents for the benefit of themselves, their communities and society. The values of the policy are respect, recognition, sustained support and solidarity, and these are underpinned by principles of responsiveness, access, participation, inclusion, integration, diversity, empowerment and equality.</p> <p>The overarching aims of the national youth policy are:</p>

- to effectively support and encourage young individuals in fulfilling their potential and aspirations while addressing their needs and concerns, and
- to effectively support young people as responsible citizens who participate in and contribute to the social, economic, political and cultural life of the nation and Europe and in addressing global issues.

Achieving these aims will be pursued by:

Reaching out to, connecting with, and listening to the voices of young people

- in the community
- in the schools and other education/training institutions
- in the workplace
- through social media.

Empowering young people through the effective practice of youth work in

- regional and locally-based centres
- national programmes, projects and initiatives
- youth-led organisations
- cross-sectoral initiatives with voluntary, public and private entities, and
- European programmes.

*Towards 2030* sets out the following eight Strategic Goals and accompanying actions that will be implemented over the period 2021-2030,

- To listen to and support the voices of young people and raise awareness among young people of issues that impact on their everyday lives and provide youth information.
- Conduct research on the lives of young people to ensure a knowledge-based policy approach.
- To further facilitate young people's transition to adulthood.
- To provide proactive and responsive regional, local and schools-based supports and services that enable young people to learn, work in and contribute to their communities and the wider society and create an environment that fosters equality, inclusion, educational and economic opportunity, and democratic participation and accountability.
- To support a wide range of national programmes, projects and cross-sectoral initiatives for young people that promote and foster their well-being, creativity, cultural and artistic expression and innovation and engagement in addressing global issues for sustainable development.
- To promote and facilitate cross-sectoral initiatives with the voluntary, state and private sectors that adopt an integrated and cohesive approach to meeting young people's needs and fulfilling their aspirations.
- To further enhance and develop effective youth work practice.
- To ensure effective coordinate and cohesion in implementation of the national youth policy and maximise its potential for supporting young people.

The implementation of the national youth policy over the period 2021-2030, will be monitored on an ongoing basis and a mid-term review of its implementation will take place in 2025/26 to ensure that it continues to be relevant and responsive to the needs and aspirations of young people. *Towards 2030*

will be implemented in tandem with and in support of European youth policy and will also be supportive of international youth policies.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ and Kunsill Nazzjonali Zghazagh commissioned a research study **Analysing youth perceptions on housing arrangements** among young people aged between 18 and 35 years. The key objectives of the study was to gain an insight into the challenges faced by young people in order to meet their housing needs and understand the current housing arrangements and potential challenges perceived

A study '**Insights on modern youth activism**' was conducted by researchers within the Faculty for Social Well-being, and commissioned by Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ to highlight a shift from traditional to a more contemporary approach to youth activism. Young people are withdrawing from formal institutions towards less structured means of activism; with social media being mostly used as a medium through which students are active. The aim of the study was to provide an insight on the prevalence of youth activism, as well as understanding factors that act as motivators or barriers for such involvement.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ published a report called **Good Practices in Youth Organisations**. The purpose of this report is twofold. First, it gives an overview and examples of how voluntary youth organisations have used the support funding they were allocated over the period of 10 years by Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ. Second, the projects selected are practical examples of good organisational practices. As is evident from the report, these good practices can vary in terms of aim, content and context from addressing issues of safety and maintenance to promoting tolerance, dialogue, active citizenship and health lifestyles.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ launched a service called Youth worker online. The aim of this service is to provide young people a safe space where they can discuss issues that they are currently concerned with. During these sessions young people are provided with valuable information to cater for their requests. Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ also serves as a bridge between the young people and a professional service which may be needed to help the young people address his/her issues.

A cross-sectoral cooperation between the Ministry for Education, Olympic Committee and Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ resulted in the development of the programme **Swish** which embraces this ideal of inclusion through sport and promotes the values of acceptance, non-discrimination and human rights by challenging different ability stereotypes. The programme provides a space where students can explore, and experience the different realities as lived by persons with different abilities through experiential and reflective sessions. **Swish** is a wheelchair sport practice session intended to promote inclusion in sport and life. Students will have the opportunity to experience inclusion through a hands-on fun and sporting activity. They will also have the opportunity to process the sporting activity through a lifeskills session focusing on inclusion. Qualified coaches from the Malta Olympic Committee will run the practice session and professional youth workers from Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ will facilitate the processing session.

**The Jumpstart Film Festival** project is a collaboration between the Ministry for Education and Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ to encourage young people in secondary schools to develop their creative and technical skills in film-making. The aim of the project is to motivate young people attending secondary schools to produce their own short films while providing a platform to showcase their work with young people coming from different schools.

**‘Take action through photos’** is a program that aims to engage young people in advocating for issues close to their hearts through visual media. Youth workers from Agenzija Zghazagh started delivering these ongoing sessions to the young people attending Sharing Lives, a youth group facilitated by Agenzija Sapport. Participants are given insight on activism by sending messages through photography and posters in particular using tools such as mobile phones. Through these interactive sessions young people gained technical photography skills as well as other life-skills such as creativity, attention to detail and more.

**Safer** is a programme specifically designed to assist young people in providing them the necessary skills to make use of different social media platforms; a tool which has become part of youth hood. The programme was delivered in collaboration between Agenzija Žghažagħ and Agenzija Sapport. The programme highlights ideas which one needs to keep in mind and utilise to shield themselves from any digital harm which unfortunately might affect one’s well-being.

**My Next School Adventure** is a program by Agenzija Žghažagħ designed to assist young people undergo a smooth transition from year 6 to year 7. Real life topics are tackled during such programs such one’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and fears with the intention to have a fulfilling experience in their new school. The message is clear, transitions are healthy once the student is positive and well-prepared for what’s next.

**Demokrazija I.S.S.A. ‘Insañhu I-iSkola bi Studenti Attivi’** is a programme by Agenzija Žghažagħ that conveys to students the importance of democracy as a right, a responsibility, and a commitment. During the sessions, students will interactively experience the process of what happens before and during the election of the student council. They will experience active citizenship in school through the student council and understand how in a democracy everyone should be include everyone.

**It’s My Choice** is a programme for young people in secondary schools that focuses on the relationship between weighing options, and making choices on issues that are relevant to young people- stressful situations, different career paths and first-time voting.

**‘Team Worth’** is a team building session, delivered by Youth Workers from Agenzija Zghazagh in Middle schools. This session aims to increase students’ self-worth both as individuals and as part of a team. During the session, students will focus on core teamwork skills and explore how these can be applied in real-life scenarios, such as in school, in the family and with friends during leisure activities.

**Stand Up Speak Out** is an online life skills programme designed to enable young people to deal with hate speech and equip them with skills to counter intimidating behavior in schools, outside of schools, and online. Through interactive sessions, young people will discuss and express themselves on different scenarios while outlining other solutions to minimize and stop hate speech.

**Sound On** is a hands-on radio project designed for young people who want to explore and venture in radio broadcasting.

**In Tune** is an Agenzija Zghazagh Life Skills programme that focuses on identifying and expanding young people’s emotional vocabulary and dealing with stressful situations effectively. Furthermore, the programme promotes empathy, an attitude that fosters understanding and cooperation.

**IdeAzzjonisti** is a programme for young people aged 14-18 who would like to participate in a community-based active citizenship programme. Throughout its course, this programme offers young people the opportunity to undergo training, carry out research and as IdeAzzjonisti, to present their communities with their ideas and work related to the chosen theme.

Agenzija Žghažagħ recently published a revision of the reflective supervision policy. Apart from the one to one supervision, youth works now can benefit from group supervision. Reflexive supervision aims to nurture a resilient and reflexive community and seek to upskill employees to work around their

	limitations through a continuous self-reflecting journey of their daily challenges. The aim of this policy is to provide an effective youth work practice.
Republic of Moldova/ République de Moldova	<p><b>Updated September 2020</b></p> <p><b>Youth policy</b> Public authority responsible for youth - Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MoECR)</p> <p><b><u>Legal framework</u></b></p> <p>A new <b>Law on Youth</b> 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> <p><b>National Strategy for Youth Sector Development 2020 (adopted in 2014).</b> There were established 4 main priorities within the document: youth participation; services for youth; economic opportunities for youth; strengthening the youth sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Report on the implementation of the Strategy for 2018 was submitted to the Government at the end of March</li> <li>✓ In partnership with UNICEF Moldova, we performed a Mid-term review of the implementation of the National Strategy for Youth Sector Development 2020</li> <li>✓ Government Decision Draft regarding the review of the Action Plan of the Strategy</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p><b>National Agency for Programs Development and Youth Work</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Youth Programs</b></p> <p>Moreover, the youth policy in Moldova is built based on the <b>Participation</b> principle (as a priority is the involvement of young people in the decision-making process).</p> <p>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 <b>Committee of Ministers Recommendations on Youth</b> 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In this regard, it was designed and annually launched the <b>National support program for strengthening and development of Regional Youth Councils</b>, 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.</li> </ul> <p>Program Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I Component – Consulting and empowering Regional Youth Councils</li> <li>II Component – Co-financing activity programs of Regional Youth Councils</li> </ul> <p>Currently, 24 Regional Youth Councils are active, being part of the National Network of Youth Councils</p> <p>In 2020 there were 612 young people - members of the National Network of Youth Councils.</p>



- ✓ 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 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).

In 2020 we have elaborated and adopted a new Regulation for the program. Taking into consideration that this years Youth Capital (Sipotenii) had very limited possibility to implement their action plan, the program was prolonged to 2021.

- ✓ 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.
- **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.

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)**.

#### **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)

- 22 districts have signed already Partnership Agreements with the Ministry on the implementation of the Program

#### **Youth Sector Priorities**

- Amending the Law on Youth;
- Evaluate the current Youth Strategy and elaborate a new one;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth infrastructure development;</li> <li>▪ Implementation of the Youth Centers Development Program 2022;</li> <li>▪ Development and recognition of youth work and youth worker;</li> <li>▪ Implementation of the National Youth Capital Project</li> <li>▪ Ensuring attainment of the Annual Grant Program for youth organizations;</li> <li>▪ 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.).</li> </ul>
Monaco	
Montenegro/ Monténégro	<p><b>Updated February 2021</b></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> <p><b>1. The Parliament of Montenegro adopted the new <u>Law on Youth</u> 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.</b></p> <p>The Government of Montenegro has already adopted all three bylaws recognized within the Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Rulebook on criteria and conditions for choosing a space for youth service ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 074/19 of 30.12.2019)</li> <li>- 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)</li> <li>- 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)</li> </ul> <p><b>2. <u>The National Youth Strategy 2017-2021</u> and its annual action plans are also being implemented.</b> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Young people achieve economic and social security through improved access to the labor market and employment</li> <li>B. Young people have access to quality education</li> <li>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</li> <li>D. Young people are healthy, they are safe, have access to an adequate support system for transition to adulthood and self-realization</li> <li>E. Young people have access to quality cultural contents as creators and consumers</li> <li>F. Normative and institutional framework for the implementation of youth policy has been established.</li> </ul> <p>(more at <a href="http://www.strategijazamlade.me">www.strategijazamlade.me</a> )</p> <p><u>Action Plan</u> 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</p>

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**

	<p><b>(RYCO).</b> 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.</p> <p>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> <p><b>8. No Hate Speech Campaign</b></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 <a href="http://www.mladime.me">www.mladime.me</a> 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 <a href="https://zajednoproktivestremizma.me/prirucnik-za-prepoznavanje-prevenciju-i-suzbijanje-radikalizacije-i-nasilnog-ekstremizma-kod-ucenika/">https://zajednoproktivestremizma.me/prirucnik-za-prepoznavanje-prevenciju-i-suzbijanje-radikalizacije-i-nasilnog-ekstremizma-kod-ucenika/</a> )</p>
Netherlands/ Pays-Bas	
North Macedonia/ Macédoine du Nord	<p><b>Updated February 2023</b></p> <p>The youth in the Republic of North Macedonia are present, future and are involved in all decision-making processes. We as the Government are committed to the vision of the youth and support them in every aspect. Their ambitions to share new ideas are added value on the road to a European perspective and regional cooperation. We include the youth in decision-making processes, they sit at the same table together with the decision-makers and all together create policies, activities and initiatives in order to jointly improve their status and become important part of our societies.</p> <p>• <b><u>The Agency for youth and sport have started the preparation of the new National Youth Strategy 2023-2027 with support of UNDP, UNFPA and OSCE Mission to Skopje.</u></b> Thematic groups</p>

were organized in each of the topics covered by the National Youth Strategy: youth participation, education, youth information, youth work, security, culture, health, and employment. Initiated on the basis on the Law for youth participation and an assessment of youth trends in North Macedonia, this new National Youth Strategy is created following a tailor-made Methodology for inclusion and participation of all stakeholders in the field of youth. The draft version of the Strategy will be publicly available for consultation in January/February 2023. The Strategy is expected to be discussed on Governmental level from March 2023. The new National Youth Strategy comes as a response to the changing environment for young people in the post-COVID and world crisis period. This new context brings additional challenges for the young people in all spheres of life such as education, health, employment etc. Creating sustainable youth policies will put the focus on the young people in the society and create better conditions for their development.

**1. The Parliament of Republic of North Macedonia adopted the new [Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies on](#) on January 16, 2020 for greater youth involvement in decision-making processes. The law aims to strengthen youth participation in policy-making processes, encourage volunteering, youth activism and youth work, as well as personal, professional and social development among young people. With this law, the Government and the municipalities are obliged to adopt strategies for youth with special action plans, and the municipalities are obliged to establish offices for youth and youth centers and to appoint a youth officer**

**2. Agency for youth and sports establish a [register of youth organizations, organizations for youth and youth umbrella organizations](#) to distinguish it from other forms of associations**

**3. The Government established a [National Advisory Body for Youth Policies](#), as a body for cooperation between youth representatives and representatives of state administration bodies that has an advisory and supervisory role in implementing youth policies and activities for youth.**

**4. In order to exercise the right to free organization, as well as easier access to information that is of interest to young people, the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies provides establishment of a youth officer in all state administration bodies, as well as in municipalities and municipalities in The City of Skopje and the City of Skopje. This means that in every state and local institution, young people will be welcomed by a "youth officer" who will answer questions in the domain of his institution, such as self-employment, programs in the ministries and everything that interests them, and so far there has been no detailed to explain it to them. Full list can be found on the following [link](#).**

**5. Youth centers are places where programs are prepared and implemented that improve the well-being of young people, the development of personal, social and professional life of young people, information of important interest to young people and other aspects of young people's lives. Youth centers were opened in 5 municipalities and according to the Law, in the next 5 years each municipality should have at least one youth center. For easier operation and standardization in cooperation with the Union for Youth Work and its members, a [Rulebook on quality standards of youth centers](#) was adopted, as well as a [portfolio of youth workers](#) and a code of ethics for youth workers. Youth centers were opened in Kumanovo, Ohrid, Veles, Kavadarci, Centar, Tetovo, Gostivar, Probishtip, and in the process of opening are Strumica, Gevgelija, Bitola, Sveti Nikole, Radovich.**

**6. Local Youth Councils. According to the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, the municipalities, the municipalities in the City of Skopje and the City of Skopje are obliged to form local youth councils. In cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Skopje, a [Manual for Local Youth Councils](#) was prepared which will serve the municipal authorities and mayors, as well as the youth regarding their engagement in the local youth councils. In more than 45% of the municipalities the**

process of establishing local youth councils has started, and in 15 of them we have functional youth councils

**7. The Youth Guarantee is a program of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia which increases the coverage and inclusion of young unemployed people in the labor market.**

The Youth Guarantee is open to all young people up to the age of 29 who are unemployed, have already completed their education and are not registered with the Employment agency. Applicants receive a quality offer for employment, further education, internship or internship. All of these are key to the successful integration of young people into the labor market and reducing the outflow of educated staff from the country. **The Republic of North Macedonia is the only country that is not a member of the EU, and implements the Youth Guarantee.** In 2022, 18.578 young people are included in the guarantee, 6596 are employed within the first 4 months and the success rate is 41% which is higher than the European average (30%). Since its introduction to date, over 80,000 young people have joined the "Youth Guarantee". Almost 40 percent of project participants received an offer of employment, continuing education and training, and were involved in internships, which is considered a positive outcome.

**8. The Youth Council of the Agency for Youth and Sports** was established in accordance with the National Strategy for Youth towards the thematic area for Youth Participation, in order to provide a more significant institutional focus on youth through the Agency for Youth and Sports, and to increase youth involvement in creating youth policies within the AYS. The council is composed of 6 representatives from youth organizations and 3 from the ranks of administrative officials.

**9. Law on internship. The law on internships helps to bridge the period from education to employment.** Young people have the opportunity to gain practical work in companies for a period of six months and to be paid for it, and employers to recognize qualities of staff who will be permanently employed. In the first three months they are entitled to compensation of around 100 euro, and in the second in the amount of the minimum wage (around 250 euro). For 2021 it is planned to cover 1413 unemployed persons (up to 34 years) and 650.000 Euros are provided in the budget

**10. A youth allowance was introduced to encourage the employment of young people in the production activities after graduation.** The youth allowance is in the amount of 50 euro per month and is paid to young people up to 23 years of age with at least completed secondary education. The coverage through this measure is 3000 users annually and 1,6 million Euros are provided.

**11. Subsidized student meal, a systemic solution that is part of the work program of the Government and the Ministry of Education and Science, which significantly improves the student standard by providing financial support in the monthly amount of 40 euro for 9 months of the year.** All full-time undergraduate students at state and private higher education institutions, who are citizens of the Republic of Northern Macedonia, can apply for a subsidized student meal.

**12. The European Youth Card (EYC) reduces the costs of transport, sports, education and recreation and the card is valid in hundreds of bars across the country. North Macedonia is a member of European Youth Card Association (EYCA).** Apart from bringing savings and lower costs, the card will improve the social life, but also the personal development of the youth. It is important to note that peers from Europe can use the card here, but also ours when going to European countries. The youth card has over 5000 users and is constantly growing. In the next period, work will be done on the digitalization of the European Youth Card and Joining the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card.

**13. Young farmers receive 20,000 Euros to motivate themselves to engage in agriculture and produce a final product that is attractive to the European market.** Young farmers are exempt from paying concession for agricultural land in the first 3 years. For this year there are 265 applicants and the entire support is in the amount of 3 million Euros

14. **National Strategy for promoting and developing volunteering (2021-2026)**. The main objective of the Strategy is to ensure the constant development, promotion and strengthening of volunteering and volunteering culture in the Republic of North Macedonia. This strategy achieves the following specific strategic objectives:

- Promoting volunteering to the general public
- Fostering a culture of volunteering within the education system
- Increasing the level of volunteering in the civil sector and social companies
- Establishing a system of institutional support for volunteering

15. **National employment strategy 2021-2027** includes policies for the development of the economy and the creation of decent jobs, inclusiveness of labour market policies, and improving the quality of educational results for all levels

16. **The National Development Strategy** is a long-term strategic document that with an inclusive, analytical and participatory approach will "produce" an analytical, inclusive, long-term, development document with identified priorities in the interest of society and the state. Through **modern and innovative development models**, adapted to the domestic context and based on broad and meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, this strategic document will provide a **clear vision for a planned and secure future** to reflect intergenerational, gender, interethnic, inter-party and long-term consensus. for the priorities of the state, in order to ensure inclusive, green and sustainable development for all, and especially for the vulnerable categories of people. **The National Development Strategy will be a guide and vision for the Republic of Northern Macedonia in the period 2022 - 2042**, and in the process of development several categories of stakeholders have been identified that will participate in the creation of this strategic document.

17. **RYCO. North Macedonia**, as a signatory to the agreement establishing the Regional Office for Youth Cooperation (RYCO), will continue to actively support the programs of the Tirana-based regional office and Local Branch Office, as an extremely important point for connecting young people from the Western Balkans region. Through RICO, as one of the most recognizable and active networks in the region, we are providing maximum mobility and connection of young people as a necessary condition for reconciliation, cooperation and their common future.

18. **The National Strategy for development of the "One Society for All" Concept and Interculturalism** is a document, first of its kind in the Republic of North Macedonia, significant if one considers the divisions within the society on various grounds. This document is envisioned to initiate activities and strengthen the processes of communication and cooperation between communities, with the aim of developing a society where every person shall feel as a member of "one society". **The main objective is to depart from a divided society and arrive at a society which is fair and just and which makes citizens more equal and equitable.** Due to situation of apparent ethnic, social differences and divided society, we need a wide and specialized action from all relevant institutions, civil society organizations, as well as individuals from several areas with a view to overcoming the differences among young people and bringing them together, and for reconciliation in terms of ethnic, social, religious, party, gender and sexual backing. Education, culture, sports and other societal segments available to young people perceived from multiple segments are the ideal modus for encouraging, approximation and familiarizing young people with the values of fair play, respect, diversity, tolerance and unity

• **Campaign: "Block the Hatred. Share the Love" campaign in Skopje: Sharing flowers and raising awareness to combat Hate Speech "**

**2022 has been designated the European Year of Youth.** This means increasing efforts to include youth priorities and concerns in relevant EU policy areas and at every level of EU decision making with the aim of re-establishing a positive outlook for young people, who have been hard hit by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities were organised as part of 2022 include conferences, initiatives promoting youth participation in policymaking, awareness-raising campaigns on a more inclusive, green and digital EU, and studies and research on the situation in which young people find themselves.



Norway/  
Norvège

**Updated February 2023**

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 particularly emphasised.

The Government has initiated a process at ministerial level to contribute to better interaction and coordination between the sectors in policy development for vulnerable children, young people and their families. This involves developing new ways of working to solve cross-sectoral collaboration challenges, and work more systematically with development and innovation in public administration. The goal is that vulnerable children, young people and their families receive necessary support, regardless of sector or level of administration.

### **Youth participation**

From 2019, every municipality and county must have a local youth council, that advises local decision makers. The Norwegian Directorate of Children Youth and Family Affairs has commissioned research aimed at mapping youth participation in Norwegian municipalities. So far, this has resulted in a systematic review of research on youth participation in the Nordic countries (Bygdås & Hagen 2022) and a study of youth participation in six selected municipalities (forthcoming). This work is a part of a five year project with the goal of strengthening youth participation in Norwegian municipalities.

The Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs also organizes a biannual youth conference to strengthen the cooperation between municipalities, youth councils, youth workers and practitioners in the youth field. At the conference a NOK 250 000 prize is awarded to the "youth municipality of the year" for outstanding work for youth, including youth participation, youth friendly welfare services and youth work. This is an opportunity to showcase and incentivise concerted efforts for youth at the municipal level. In 2021 the prize was awarded to Vefsn municipality in the county of Nordland, for work on youth participation. The next youth conference will be held Vefsn municipality on 27.-29. August 2023 and is organized in collaboration with the local youth council.

### **Youth work, education and recreation**

The Directorate of Children, Youth and Family Affairs administers several grant schemes aimed at promoting equal access to "open meeting places" for youth, participation in holiday and leisure activities and completion of education. From 2022 these grant schemes have been merged into one scheme. The aim is to include and provide equal access to such services for all children and young people up to 24 years. Grants can be awarded to public local bodies, voluntary organizations, and private actors. In 2023 NOK 664,43 mill was earmarked in the national budget for this purpose.

The 'Recreation Declaration' [Fritidserklæringen] is a collaborative effort between municipalities, the voluntary sector and national authorities to ensure that all children and youth (up to 18 years) have the opportunity to participate regularly in at least one organized leisure/recreational activity with other children and youth. Local 'Recreation Declarations' between municipalities and the voluntary sector are encouraged to develop concrete measures to achieve this goal. Participation of children and youth in the development of organized leisure/recreational activities is an important aspect of this work.

The Ministry of Children and Families has recently commissioned a review of the role of "open meeting places" and youth centres, including an assessment of quality, distribution, and financing models. The review is expected to be completed in the spring of 2023.

### **Public health and youth friendly information**

The Directorate of Health oversees a national programme for public health [Folkehelsetilstandet] that aims to strengthen the municipalities' public health work, as well as raising the municipalities' capacity in developing, implementing, and evaluating knowledge-based measures. The programme

	<p>specifically emphasises the role of youth work and participation. The programme has funded the development of a training programme for municipalities on youth participation.</p> <p>The Directorate of Children, Youth and Family affairs runs ung.no, an online information and communications channel directed at young people between 13 and 20 years of age. The website offers quality assured information on a wide variety of topics as well as information about rights and services available to young people. It also offers a question-and-answer service where young people can submit questions anonymously and get answers from experts. The government has decided that ung.no will be the primary channel for digital information, dialogue and digital services for young people across sectors and service levels through the implementation of the DigiUng programme. This means that services across sectors will be made available at ung.no.</p>
Poland/ Pologne	<p><b>Updated September 2021</b></p> <p><b>Information on activities in the field of youth policy at national level in Poland (March – October 2021)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>act on reinforcing the role of youth councils operating at local government units</i></li> </ul> <p>On June 23, 2021, an act on reinforcing the role of youth councils operating at local government units (youth commune council, youth municipal council, youth regional council) entered into force. The act allows the appointment of youth advisory bodies at all levels of local government. The tasks of the advisory bodies include, in particular: pronouncing opinions on draft resolutions concerning youth, taking action for youth and participation in the development of the municipality's strategic actions for youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>regional consultations of the national strategy for the young generation</i></li> </ul> <p>The regional consultations of the national strategy for the young generation continues. On September 23, the 8th consultation meeting will be held. Consultations are organised by the Government Plenipotentiary for Youth Policy, Piotr Mazurek, in cooperation with the Council for Dialogue with the Young Generation. 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>consultations of the new Prime Minister's scholarship</i></li> </ul> <p>In June, consultations of the new Prime Minister's scholarship was held, organized by the by the Government Plenipotentiary for Youth Policy, Piotr Mazurek, in cooperation with the Plenipotentiary of the Prime Minister for GovTech, Justyna Orłowska. Currently, in Poland, the scholarship is awarded to students with the highest academic performance. The purpose of the consultation is to gather information on the expectations of young people so that the scholarship can best support their development.</p>
Portugal	<p><b>Updated March,</b></p> <p><b>1 – European Year of Youth 2022</b></p> <p>A <b>final event</b> was organised on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February to present the <b>results of the European Year of Youth</b>, set the vision to keep its legacy, and award the winners from the different awards.</p> <p>During 2022, the European Year of Youth in Portugal registered more than 380 activities, a number that is expected to turn out as much higher since not all organisations registered all its activities within the activities map.</p> <p><b>2 – Youth Sport Labs</b></p> <p>Inspired by the European Commission's initiative "HealthyLifestyle4All Youth Ideas Labs" and within the framework of the European Year of Youth and the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Week of Sport, the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth organised its very first "Youth Sport Labs". This initiative took</p>

place throughout the whole country, in each one of the 5 mainland regions, as well as in the 2 Autonomous Regions, namely the Islands of Azores and Madeira. The Youth Sport Labs intended to bring together groups of young people from different social backgrounds to discuss relevant topics for the sport and youth sectors by identifying and developing youth proposals for each topic.

This first edition of the Youth Sport Labs took place during the “III National Forum of Sports for All”, where several specialists and policymakers debated the following topics together with young representatives from each region of Portugal:

1)"Sports in Nature and Environmental Sustainability" - particularly the role of sport with regards nature conservation through youth volunteering actions.

2)"Youth and Sport - School, University and Fitness" - while highlighting the practice of sport in different contexts.

The Conclusions of this initiative were officially presented during the national closing event of the European Year of Youth 2022.

### 3 - Volunteering

In 2022, two projects were implemented under the program *Agora Nós – Now Us*, one of them connected with ***Young people deprived of liberty***, with the participation of 6 volunteers.

This project intended to train these young people deprived of their liberty for the development of socio-emotional skills by getting acquainted with strategic areas of the IPDJ I.P., and the Lisbon Youth Center, namely through programs that can be useful for the moment when young people regain their full liberty. At the same, IPDJ was willing to demonstrate the role of volunteering as a contribution to a more sustainable, fair and solidary society and simultaneously as a means for acquiring personal and social skills and, finally, making basic principles of volunteering in Portugal known.

The goals relate to carry out tasks that aim to provide social, informed and educated answers, guaranteeing fundamental rights with their peers.

***The YOUTH TALKS Youth Volunteering project*** aims to create content that aims to provide social, informed and educated responses, guaranteeing the fundamental rights of young people. This was made possible through the transmission of information in video format, structured in themes and sequences, in roundtable/debate and storytelling, with interviews with young people who have excelled in different areas of interest or simply sharing their experiences. The PodCasts were, and still are, carried out by young volunteers and directed to their peers. They are broadcasted on LYC's social networks (Facebook and Youtube channel). 16 young volunteer were involved in this project.

***Project Connect Yourself*** - A project developed in Lisbon district to raise youth awareness on the YOUTH GOALS, listen and motivate them for active participation, promoting competencies development and bringing young people and policy makers closer. Using a Design Thinking Methodology and Non-Formal Education approach, young students can design innovative proposals based on the YOUTH GOALS, in order to solve existing problems.

***Bootcamps #RIGHTTOHAVERIGHTS*** – Under the motto, *right to have rights*, created by the Lisbon Youth Centre, these bootcamps aim to be privileged moments of information, training and meeting of young people, association leaders and youth officials, addressing subjects associated with the revitalization of democracy and youth participation, in a year in which the Council of Europe marks the 50th anniversary of the institutionalization of youth policies and in which 2022 celebrates the European Year of Youth. Three Bootcamps were made in 2022, with 85 participants.

**Study visits and job shadowing** (India, Angola, Germany and Finland – Marttinen, with a youth worker that visited the LYC in autumn for Job Shadowing).

**Hosting International volunteers**, from Italy, Italian civic service.

	<b>Training for youth workers</b> from Guiné Bissau.
Romania/ Roumanie	<p><b>Updated September 2021</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This year, the Ministry of Youth and Sports partnered with the youth organizations to carry out the process “YOUTH AFTER PANDEMIA” which comprised of two main stages: an online survey and facilitated online meetings, which ran in parallel. Over 1300 young people from all counties of the country participated in the consultation process in May.</li> </ol> <p>Assessing young people's responses to the online survey, as well as the ideas noted during the facilitated meetings, 3 main themes of interest strongly emerged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH;</li> <li>• HOUSING;</li> <li>• FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DECISIONS.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, concerns such as global warming and environment protection, inequality of opportunities highlighted by the pandemic context especially for vulnerable groups, the need for more development contexts (at a general level) were also mentioned.</p> <p>The results have been taken on board with the aim of creating new youth policies which emerge straight from young people's needs and concerns.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. After one year gap, the call for national projects has been resumed. A special methodology has been created in order to respond to the hygienic-sanitary rules and to the need of online and/or hybrid activities.</li> <li>3. On the occasion of the International Youth Day (12<sup>th</sup> of August), the National Youth Convention represented the perfect opportunity for the meeting of the representatives of relevant public structures with a role in the development, adoption and implementation of policies and programmes for youth with the representatives of the youth non-governmental organizations and other youth structures, aiming to join the efforts to develop the youth sector in Romania. For 3 days, the youth community shared their specific resources and challenges, identified channels of cooperation and points of common interest, and decided on the targets they should move towards together: e.g. a new national youth strategy, the adoption of the legislative youth package and the better absorption of the structural funds for the 2021-2027 period.</li> </ol> <p><b>Updated March 2021</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. The new Youth Strategy (2021 – 2027) will focus on education, employment and entrepreneurship and inclusion.</li> </ol> <p>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.</p>
San Marino/ Saint Marin	

Serbia/ Serbie	<p><b>Updated September 2022</b></p> <p>The process of Amending the Law on Youth and revising the National Youth Strategy is still ongoing. As regards the youth strategy, the public debate on the Youth Strategy 2022-2030 Proposal, was held in August 2022 in Novi Pazar, Užice, Novi Sad, Belgrade, Niš and Kosovska Mitrovica. The public debate was preceded by a one-year broad and transparent consultation process with all interested parties, which took place both online and face-to-face meetings, so broad consultative process with young people and all interested parties was achieved. In this way, we enabled young people and those who work with young people, and for young people, to be equal participants in the processes of making and implementing decisions in all areas that concern them, especially when it comes to such an important strategic document. Based on the received comments and suggestions, the Working Group is currently preparing an updated Strategic Document. The Ministry of Youth and Sports plans to start the process of developing the first Action plan for the implementation of the Youth Strategy.</p> <p>In the reporting period, the 19th session of the Youth Council was held on June 7, 2022.</p> <p>The Ministry of Youth and Sports continues to work on providing support to all subjects of youth policy. For the implementation of the National Youth Strategy in 2022, 108 projects of youth organizations/organizations for youth, alliances, and local governments in the amount of over 279 million dinars (EUR 2.3 million) were supported (more than 218 million dinars/EUR 1.8 million were allocated for 82 youth organization projects and more than 61 million dinars/EUR 517.910 for 26 projects of local self-government units). Through these projects, almost 70,000 young people were directly involved in programs aimed at promoting healthy and safe lifestyles, quality leisure time, implementation of volunteer activities and camps, as well as employment and self-employment programs. Conditions for active participation in society, implementation of cultural content, non-formal education, and information tailored to the needs of all categories of young people, have been created. Based on the public calls for stimulating various forms of employment, self-employment, and youth entrepreneurship, almost than 12.000 young people were included, direct beneficiaries, whose position in the labour market has been improved.</p> <p>This year through the program, "Youth are the Law", with the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports 30 international and national volunteer work camps, 2 large actions with at least 100 young people, 135 youth volunteer projects and 15 trainings for at least 300 young people will be realized, with over 2,000 individually engaged volunteers recruited through 40+ volunteer services, which will leave over 42,000 volunteer hours in over 150 local communities across the country.</p> <p>Youth offices and youth clubs, where non-formal education programs are implemented, are certainly a priority in youth policy. Currently, 140 local self-government units in Serbia have established youth office. Through the construction, equipping, and operation of 68 youth clubs, 81 outdoor gyms, and small sports fields, conditions for quality leisure time, development of healthy lifestyles, active participation of young people in society, creation of cultural content, non-formal education and information tailored to the needs of young people have been created.</p> <p>The Fund for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, has been confirmed as a cornerstone of caring for the best students and high school pupils in Serbia. The amount of scholarships has increased since 2013 and there is a trend of increased number of young people who received scholarships and awards. This year in June, the best students in the Republic of Serbia were awarded the most scholarships to date - 1,550. And for the first time, the scholarship amounted to 320.000 dinars/EUR 2,900 per student.</p> <p>Activities aimed at strengthening and supporting young people were continued when the Competition for High School Students' Awards was announced on June 6, 2022. The process of consideration of candidates' applications is still ongoing. The Call is intended to high school students for achieving success in the competitions in the country and abroad, without restraints on the number of awards. The awards are in the range of over 170 to over 1.700 EUR.</p> <p>The cycle of public invitations for scholarships and awards was completed on September 15, 2022, with the announcement of the Competition for Scholarships for Students from Serbia Studying Postgraduate Studies Abroad. This year, near to 500 applicants studying in the EU or EFTA, as well as applicants studying at leading world universities, are expected. The amount of scholarship is close to 10.600 EUR per student.</p>
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	<p>Since 2008, the Fund has granted 36.864 scholarships and awards to high school and university students, and approximately EUR 85 million have been invested in these purposes.</p> <p>The Ministry of Youth and Sports continues to participate in the Ilegend II cycle of the Council of Europe program as a member of the North-South Centre network and strengthen its position as national coordinator for global education at the national level by connecting with other actors. During the third week of November 2021, a campaign was held to mark the Week of Global Education in cooperation with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, and local actions were organized throughout Serbia to promote the principle of gender equality. In the period from May 30 to June 3, 2022, the North-South Center of the Council of Europe organized the Pan-European Congress on Global Education and a meeting of national coordinators for global education. In continuation of the advocacy process for the promotion of global education, launched in 2002 in Maastricht, the North-South Center of the Council of Europe organized the Pan-European Congress on Global Education 2022 and brought together various actors to strengthen global education and policy plans emphasizing its importance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the results and effects achieved in the previous period, the plan for further development and drafting of the new Declaration on Global Education 2050, as well as the importance of global education programs to mitigate post-pandemic challenges.</p> <p>The delegation of the Republic of Serbia (the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Youth Council of Serbia, the National Association of Youth Work Practitioners, the National Association of Youth Offices, OPENS and the Scout Association of Serbia) participated in the youth event "Youth Action Week", which was held in Strasbourg from June 27 to July 2, 2022.</p> <p>Cooperation related to youth issues has been continued with international partners – UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, OSCE. Additionally, the cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Youth and Sports and German organization for international cooperation GIZ was signed in February 2022, focused on the implementation of the new four-year project "Perspectives for youth in rural areas in the Republic of Serbia". In cooperation with the UNFPA the Ministry of Youth and Sports is preparing an activity related to Youth Score Index.</p> <p>Serbia chairs the Governing Board of RYCO (Regional Youth Cooperation Office) in 2022. The Governing Board Meeting was held in July in hybrid format. RYCO is implementing the project „Superschools - Western Balkans School Exchange Scheme“. Superschools is a program for school exchanges in the Western Balkans with the objectives to support the peacebuilding and reconciliation processes and intercultural learning and dialogue.</p> <p>The collaboration at the regional level has been gone on. The Ministry of Youth and Sports participates in all activities of the project “WB Youth Lab”, which is implemented by the Regional Cooperation Council.</p> <p>As from August 2022, Serbia has two new UN Youth delegates, who will take part in relevant UN Youth activities.</p>
Slovak Republic/ République slovaque	<p><b>Updated March 2021</b></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>

Slovenia/ Slovenie	<p><b>Updated February 2023</b></p> <p>1. In the year 2023 the Office of Youth became deeply involved in preparing new National Programme for Youth, which is based on the study Youth 2020 (Mladina 2020 - <a href="https://www.mlad.si/e-katalogi/Youth_2020/toc/">https://www.mlad.si/e-katalogi/Youth_2020/toc/</a>) on the position of young people in Slovenia which was carried out in 2020-2021 and published in 2022. It identifies young people as part of the society undergoing extensive changes in the last decade, which affect the quality of their life. This applies both to the social environment such as family, education, and employment, as well as the situation of young people in the labour market. The National Programme for Youth attempts to ensure a better situation for young people in education, which would then be reflected in a more favourable situation for young people in the labour market, resulting in better living conditions of the youth, which may also lead to more favourable demographic trends.</p> <p>The main principles of the National Programme for Youth are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide better opportunities for young people in education and training, both formal and informal;</li> <li>- To develop employment policy which will ensure the economic and social security as well as autonomy of young people;</li> <li>- To ensure the participation of young people and influence on decision-making concerning policies affecting them;</li> <li>- To ensure equal opportunities between men and women and the prevention of discrimination;</li> <li>- To prevent risk factors that cause poverty and social exclusion of young people;</li> <li>- To follow the principles of sustainable development;</li> <li>- To follow the principle of intergenerational cooperation and ensure greater solidarity among generations;</li> <li>- To pay special attention to the health and welfare of young people and health inequalities;</li> <li>- To provide young people with a safe start of their careers.</li> </ul> <p>The National Programme for Youth defines the scope, objectives and priorities in six key areas: Education, Employment &amp; Entrepreneurship; Housing; Health and Well-being; Youth and Society; Culture and Creativity. Moreover, it contains the demographics and key policies as well as methods for monitoring.</p> <p>2. 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solidarity projects</li> <li>• Volunteering activities (volunteering projects, volunteering partnerships)</li> <li>• Traineeships and jobs</li> </ul> <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. 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><b>Updated March 2023</b></p> <p>Spain is actually developing various youth policies, mainly along the following four axes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National Youth Strategy</li> </ol> <p>Spain is currently following the National Youth Strategy 2022-2030 (hereafter referred to as EY2030), a document that encompasses and brings together all the sectoral youth policies</p>



developed by the different ministries. The EJ2030 is integrated into the Global Youth Agenda to ensure an integral approach to all issues affecting young people: economic, social and cultural rights, sexual and reproductive rights, rights of LGBTIQ young people, women's rights and gender-based violence, climate change...

The EJ2030 strategy is structured around the twelve following themes ,being themes from 1 to 10 strategic ones, and 11 and 12 cross-cutting subjects.

Inclusive, equitable and quality education, training and lifelong learning.

Autonomy, decent employment and youth entrepreneurship.

Emancipation, housing, fertility and life project.

Integral health and quality of life.

Economy of care and inclusion policies: young groups at serious risk of social exclusion or subject to double discrimination.

Youth and global change: participation and volunteering.

Youth mobility: emigration and return.

Youth and the rural world.

Knowledge management on youth realities and youth services.

Youth governance and institutional cooperation.

Young women and gender equality.

Environment and sustainability.

The EJ2030 strategy will be implemented through three three-year action plans: 2022-2023-2024, 2025-2026-2027 and 2028-2029-2030.

#### Year of Youth

Spain has developed 707 activities related to the Year of Youth.

Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU

On behalf of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Spain will organize the European Youth Meetings. This meetings are biannual events organized by each of the Member States of the EU holding the Presidency Trio in cooperation with the responsible administration in terms of Youth and the Youth Council. Among the participants there are two ministry representatives and three young delegates from each of the Member States of the EU and other countries of the European neighbourhood, Erasmus + participants...

The work themes are framed by the Youth Goal that has been chosen for the 10th EU Youth Dialogue. In this case the chosen Youth Goal is "Inclusive Societies".

Also in relation to the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU, Spain will focus on the theme "Youth with rights and free from violence", and will also draw up different conclusions and recommendations related to youth issues.

#### Inclusion Strategy

In the Spanish National Institute for Youth we have been working since 2021 on a National Strategy to promote inclusion and diversity in the management and implementation of the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ programmes accordingly with the guidelines provided by the Commission in order to implement the Inclusion Strategy in all NA's.

In spring 2022 the definition and drafting of the strategy has been finished. To do this, the National Agency hired an external company that accompanied the ANE in this task, helping to systematize a reliable diagnosis regarding the inclusion levels in the previous 2014-2020 programme (2018-2020 for the ESC) and preparing a future Action Plan for the Programmes in the 2021-2027 period. To do this, indicators have been measured as the number of participants with fewer opportunities who participate in the Programs and types of topics that the projects address with respect to inclusion. In turn, new indicators will be defined to better understand the reality of inclusion in future Programs and also, a set of good practices (inspirational projects) of both programs will be drawn up to allow entities to know the possibilities of carrying out projects with this approached.

On October 28tht the strategy was published and presented in an event that gave voice to young participants and beneficiaries in the programs. There was also a panel in which the importance of inclusion and diversity in non-formal education youth programs was addressed. We also launched a press release with quite high impact in the media and the final document of the strategy was sent to our beneficiaries database and published in the National Agency Website.

In November and December the implementation of the strategy has started. We've started to build a directory of inclusion organizations.

The results in connection of the indicator set up in the 2022 Work Plan and the strategy were different in Erasmus+ and in ESC. The objective was to reach the percentage of 30% share of participation of people with fewer opportunities. In Erasmus+ KA1 is slightly slower 15,40 %) but in the ESC we've increased the share from 30 to 41,04% surpassing already the final goal of 40% set up for 2027.

	<p>As a result of this determined commitment, the National Agency on addition to the inclusion officer that we have in 2021 it has appointed another member of the staff (Eurodesk officer) to be devoted part time to the development of the strategy. We've also created a working group on inclusion including regional representatives that in 2022 had 2 meetings.</p>
Sweden/ Suède	<p><b>Updated September 2022</b></p> <p><b>National Youth Policy</b></p> <p>In March 2021, the Swedish government published a Youth Policy Communication which includes an updated national action plan. The policy is multidisciplinary and deals with issues in areas such as education, employment, private economy, housing, health, participation, culture and leisure/youth work. The aim of the policy is to report on the development in relation to the Governments youth policy goal: "All young people should have access to good living conditions, power to shape their own lives and influence over the development of the society".</p> <p>In summary, the Youth Policy Communication shows that young people in Sweden in many respects have good living conditions, but that there is still work to be done to achieve the youth policy goal. A large proportion of young people has the power to shape their own lives, but there are groups that have significantly worse living conditions than others. Young people in areas with socioeconomic challenges generally have worse conditions in life generally than other young people. Young people with disabilities and young LBTQ+ people are less able to achieve the power to shape their lives.</p> <p>In conjunction with the Youth Policy Communication, four new priorities were presented for the Governments' Youth Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people's mental health,</li> <li>• Young people's leisure time,</li> <li>• Young people's participation in the development of society,</li> <li>• Young people's social inclusion and transition to the labour market</li> </ul> <p>The updated national action plan presents around 100 actions for 2021-2024. It contains e.g. actions aimed at strengthening mental health, psychiatry, and suicide prevention; strengthening school equality; a grant of SEK 200 million for jobs for young people in 2021; strengthening of the investment support for rental housing and housing for students.</p> <p><b>The Covid-19 pandemic</b></p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has had several impacts on young people's lives. There are serious indications of increased number of unemployed young people and NEETs. 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. At the same time, there is still a lack of statistics regarding the consequences of the pandemic, but the Government is following the developments for young people closely.</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> <p>On June 31<sup>st</sup> the Swedish Government appointed an inquiry Chair to analyse local youth work (öppen fritidsverksamhet för ungdomar), such as youth centres and youth clubs. The aim of the inquiry is to identify how local youth work can be developed to become more accessible, equal, and of high quality. In addition, the inquiry Chair is to specifically analyse whether local youth work can be included in the overall crime and violence prevention work. The final report is to be submitted on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.</p>
Switzerland/ Suisse	<p><b>Updated October 2022 :</b></p>

	<p>Campagne « Démocratie ici et maintenant ». Suite à la « Action Week » de juillet dernier, nos services de l'administration fédérale ont transmis une circulaire d'appel à l'action aux différents ONG qui sont concernées potentiellement par cette thématique démocratie ou citoyenneté.</p> <p>Le 15 septembre est la journée internationale de la démocratie. Ce jour-là, plusieurs communes, écoles, associations, bureaux privés et institutions culturelles ont organisé des actions privées et publiques invitant à apprendre, réfléchir et s'essayer à l'exercice de la démocratie. <a href="http://www.journeedelademocratie.ch">www.journeedelademocratie.ch</a>.</p> <p>La participation est un thème clé de la Commission fédérale pour l'enfance et la jeunesse (CFEJ). De 2020 à 2023, la commission met l'accent sur la participation politique et l'éducation à la citoyenneté. La CFEJ va questionner les jeunes sur les motifs et les modalités de leur engagement. Elle souhaite également mieux comprendre pourquoi certains jeunes ne s'engagent pas ou ne participent pas à la vie politique.</p> <p><b>La CFEJ s'intéresse aussi à la perspective de genre dans la politique de l'enfance et de la jeunesse.</b> La CFEJ s'interroge sur la manière dont les politiques tiennent compte du genre et souhaite mieux connaître – et faire connaître – les projets ou programmes visant à lutter contre la reproduction des stéréotypes de genre. Elle <b>focalisera ses travaux sur les jeunes enfants de 0 à 4 ans</b>, dans le contexte des crèches, et <b>les adolescents de 12 à 18 ans</b>, dans les contextes des activités de jeunesse extrascolaires et de l'espace public.</p> <p>Le 30 septembre 2022, le Parlement suisse a adopté une nouvelle Loi fédérale sur la protection des mineurs dans les secteurs du film et du jeu vidéo. <a href="#">OFAS - Nouvelle Loi fédérale sur la protection des mineurs dans les secteurs du film et du jeu vidéo</a></p> <p>Cette loi vise à protéger les mineurs notamment des scènes à caractère violent, sexuel ou effrayant. Dans toute la Suisse, les cinémas, les détaillants, les entreprises de vente en ligne et les services à la demande seront tenus d'indiquer l'âge minimal et d'effectuer des contrôles de l'âge. Cette obligation concerne également les fournisseurs de plateformes d'hébergement de vidéos ou de jeux vidéo (par ex. YouTube, Twitch, etc.).</p> <p>Après les cantons de Neuchâtel et Zurich, le canton de Berne a clairement rejeté en septembre 2022 une baisse de l'âge du droit de vote à 16 ans. Un vote qui pourrait avoir des conséquences sur les débats au Parlement suisse.</p> <p>En effet, ce dernier va débattre, après plusieurs consultations, d'un projet de loi visant à abaisser l'âge du droit de vote à 16 ans. L'âge du droit de vote à 16 ans a ainsi franchi le premier obstacle. Si le parlement l'accépte, il devra encore être soumis au vote du peuple.</p> <p>Afin de combattre le discours de haine, à la fois sur Internet et au-delà, notamment en employant des moyens juridiques, il importe de mentionner le « contre-discours » ou « counter speech ». Le <a href="#">Counter Speech Lab</a> investigate les stratégies de contre-discours fonctionnant le mieux pour les différents types de discours haineux. Il s'agit d'une initiative commune de <a href="#">Stop Hate Speech</a>, du <a href="#">Digital Democracy Lab</a> (Université de Zurich) et de l'<a href="#">Immigration Policy Lab</a> (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Zurich). Stop Hate Speech est désormais actif en Suisse romande avec son « Bot Dog », un algorithme permettant de lutter contre le discours de haine (<a href="#">cliquer ici pour toutes les informations</a>).</p> <p>La nouvelle plate-forme virtuelle <a href="http://www.contre-la-radicalisation.ch">www.contre-la-radicalisation.ch</a> se destine en priorité aux assistants sociaux des services sociaux et aux professionnels travaillant avec des adolescents et des jeunes adultes. On y trouve pour chaque canton ainsi que pour certaines villes un organe de contact ainsi qu'une description de la procédure à suivre en cas de soupçon de radicalisation et d'extrémisme violent. Des projets cantonaux de prévention dans ce domaine y sont également répertoriés. Le site Internet contient de nombreuses informations thématiques et présente également des exemples de situations dont certains s'inspirent de situations connues en Suisse. Il traite de toutes les formes de radicalisation et d'extrémisme violent. Ce nouveau site Internet a bénéficié d'une aide financière allouée par le Plan d'action national de lutte contre la radicalisation et l'extrémisme violent.</p>
Türkiye	<p><b>Updated March 2023</b></p> <p><b>Youth Centers:</b> Our Ministry provides services to all young people in our country free of charge through its 451 youth centers located in 81 provinces of Türkiye with the aim of helping young people make good use of their leisure time and to allow them to socialize in the right way. Services offered in youth centers includes opportunities such as cultural, artistic and sports activities, programs to raise awareness of young people against harmful habits, opportunities enabling young people to gain social</p>

skills and share them. Youth centers continues their activities in accordance with protective measures during the pandemic. 1723 youth leaders (youth workers) working in youth centers carried on their activities under pandemic conditions, especially through volunteering projects and activities to support disadvantaged social groups. During this period, the number of the members of youth centers increased and reached 3.193.026.

**Youth Offices:** Youth Offices are established in order to increase the accessibility of services offered by youth centers to young people. Youth offices are the facilities established in schools, universities, dormitories, neighborhoods, gyms and organized industrial zones. Youth offices are for the young people who cannot participate in the activities of the Youth Centers for any reason. In this regard, 360 youth offices have been established and have been functioning by February, 2023.

**Youth Camps:** Youth camps are organized with the aim of providing an environment which enables our young people to develop the feelings of unity, solidarity and fraternity, raising historical awareness among our young people by bringing them together with our historical and civilizational heritage, and enabling them to make use of their leisure time with various social, cultural and sportive activities. Youth camps are planned as sea, nature, thematic (ecological agriculture and livestock, Entrepreneurship, Cyber security, Science, Mathematics, Health, Career etc.), academics, civilization, history and culture camps. All our young people between the ages of 12-25 can benefit from the Youth Camps free of charge. Information regarding the Camp application is provided and announced through the institutional and social media accounts of our Ministry. Additionally, a special quota is reserved every year for the young people between the ages of 12-25 who are disabled or a part of a disadvantaged groups of the society. Activities such as badminton, aqua park, boat trip, street games, social and cultural trips and activities, theatre, music, volleyball, basketball, football, book reading, folk games, handicrafts, climbing wall, high rope track, flyfox, adventure track, paintball, canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering, archery, horse riding, mini golf, rafting etc. are carried out by taking account of the venue youth camps located in and physical facilities. Youngsters who have successfully completed the training program provided by our Ministry in the youth camps and have turned out to be qualified for being the role models for the young people are assigned as camp leaders on a voluntary basis. 1100 leaders participated in the Basic Camp Leadership Training program, which was organized in August, 2022. Currently, young people are offered the opportunity of developing themselves and socializing with each other through 43 camp facilities. Since September 2022, number of young people who benefited from the youth camps in the last six months accounts for 68.160.

**Thematic Winter Camps:** 7<sup>th</sup> Thematic Winter camps were organized in 15 different provinces and themes on 30 January – 3 February 2023 with the participation of 1680 young people (80 young people in Archaeology Camp, 80 young people in Gastronomy Camp, 120 young people in Civilization Camp, 80 young people in Winter Sports Camp, 120 young people in Philosophy Camp, 120 young people in Smart Agriculture and Environment Camp, 120 young people in Digital Communication Camp, 120 young people in Diplomatic Academics Camp, 120 young people in Economics Camp, 120 young people in Geography of Amity Camp, 120 young people in Volunteerism Camp, 120 young people in Fine Arts Camp, 120 young people in Engineering Camp, 120 young people in Psychology Camp and 120 young people in Literature Camp) with the aim of bringing together the young people staying in the dormitories of our Ministry and receiving education in different provinces and strengthening their feelings of unity and solidarity, enabling them to access to the academic and intellectual information on the designated themes, bringing them together with the prestigious scientists, scholars, artists and sportsmen and enabling them to benefit from their experience and broaden their horizon.

**Youth and Expert Exchange:** Youth and expert exchange is carried out and coordinated by our Ministry in order to develop good relations between the countries and societies and strengthen current relations, develop the fraternity, mutual respect and sympathy among youth, contribute to the individual and social development of youth and to enable the youth workers to observe the youth work on-site.

Within this context 21 youth and expert exchanges were carried out in 2022 (8 by the Ministry and 13 by the youth centers) and 233 young people and 79 managers/experts participated in these exchanges.

**Volunteerism:** A total of 36 “Cooperation Protocols in the Field of Volunteerism” were signed between our Ministry and different institutions and organizations (Ministry, University, Municipality, Non-Governmental Organization, Sports Federation etc.) for developing cooperation between institutions within the context of volunteerism work. Within the scope of the protocol signed with Council of Higher Education “Volunteerism Work” class started to be given as an elective course in our universities with 2020-2021 academic year. Volunteerism class is included in the programs of 107 universities since the 2021-2022 academic year and 64,813 students registered for the volunteerism class in the fall semester of the 2021-2022 academic year.

5 December World Volunteerism Day were celebrated through various volunteerism activities carried out simultaneously in 81 provinces, as it is celebrated every year, in order to popularize volunteerism in the country and raise awareness among the every segment of the society, youth in particular.

**“WE are Volunteers” Platform:** WE are Volunteers Platform (GönüllüyüzBİZ Platform), which has been providing services for more than seven years under our Ministry, brings volunteers and the organizations seeking volunteers together. The Platform, offering language support in English, German, Russian and Arabic, provides services in six different categories (sports, culture and tourism, environment, disaster and emergency, education, health and social services) on [www.gonulluyuzbiz.gov.tr](http://www.gonulluyuzbiz.gov.tr) website.

By February 2023, the Platform has reached 324.775 volunteers and 3.167 volunteer organizations. A total of 30.849 volunteering announcements were made on the website of the Platform. Additionally, volunteering document is issued for the volunteerism activities carried out by young volunteers and this certificate provides a positive reference for their job and scholarship applications in the future thanks to this Platform. Thus, young people develop their individual and social skills and gain valuable references for their career planning.

An announcement made on WE are Volunteers Platform with the cooperation of the Volunteerism Directorate in order to reach the needed sports volunteers for the Konya 2021 5<sup>th</sup> Islamic Solidarity Games and 1450 volunteers applying to the announcement through the System took active duty. Additionally, IV. World Nomad Games were organized by World Ethnosport Confederation in Bursa on 29 September – 2 October with the contributions of 150 volunteers who had made application through WE are Volunteers Platform. 26 volunteers, chosen among the applicants to the announcement made on WE are Volunteers Platform for the Council of Europe 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sports held in Antalya and hosted by our Ministry on 25-27 October 2022, took active duty and contributed to the activities carried out within the scope of the Conference.

**Youth Projects Support Program:** Through the Youth Projects Support Program, our Ministry provides grant support to the culture, art, education and social integration projects of many non-governmental organizations in order to support the individual and social development of young people and to increase their participation in all areas of life. 1.7 million Euros were subsidized to youth groups and clubs with 1.001 projects in 2019 and 9 million Euros were subsidized to non-governmental organizations with 772 projects in 2020.

**National Youth Council:** The main objectives of the National Youth Council are to ensure the personal development of young people in social, economic and political areas and their active participation in society, to contribute to the policies developed in the field of youth, to implement national and international work and projects, to ensure coordination between national and youth organizations, and to carry out international studies and projects to increase the participation of young people in decision-making and implementation processes. Legal procedures to establish the National Youth Council are at the latest stage.

**Youth Wiki:** Our Ministry ensures that international developments are followed in the field of youth policy, regarding the alignment of youth policy with the international standards, As the primary public authority responsible for youth, our Ministry has been in the Youth Wiki program organized by the European Commission and organizes various activities to ensure the wide use of Youth Wiki among youth workers and young people in our country.

In 2023, information on the situation of youth in our country is being updated under 10 titles in Youth Wiki platform.

**E-Guidance System:** E-Guidance system is an online guidance system designed to support the career and professional development processes of youth by taking account of their personal traits, interests, values, talents and skills.

Persons entering the system, which can be used on desktop and mobile devices, are able to answer the assessment and evaluation tools and receive personal report.

A project team consisting of the experts of our Ministry and the academics of Hacettepe University maintains the test development studies. As a result of the studies launched in May, 2022, personal test study has been developed as of February, 2023 and work on other inventories is still underway.

With the second phase studies on the inventories developed within the scope of the project, Arabic and English adaptations of the system will also be completed in addition to the Turkish dialects used in **Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan** and thus the E-Guidance system will provide guidance services to the youth of the whole world free of charge.

According to the evaluation results, the E-Guidance system can issue a report to the youth which introduces their characteristics, interests, values, dominant skills and talents and provides the suitable profession options in these fields. Additionally, the Life Skills Program of our Ministry steers the youth towards the face-to-face trainings such as BTK Academy, provided online or in the Youth Centers and Dormitories of our Ministry.

The system also provides the opportunity of monitoring the developmental state of the life skills of youth such as Critical Thinking, Cooperation, Tolerance, Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Problem Solving and Team Work.

Additionally, competence of the experts working at our Ministry will be increased through the trainings to be provided within the scope of the project. As a result of this, personal guidance will be provided to youth requesting guidance in accordance with the E-Guidance report.

In addition to the guidance services, E-Guidance system will also serve as a Life Skills Monitoring Program aiming to demonstrate at what extent the whole education system and process prepare youth for life.

It will be assessed at what extent the youth acquire the life skills of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century such as Critical Thinking, Cooperation, Tolerance, Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Problem Solving and Team Work when they through the systematic analysis of the data acquired by the E-Guidance system.

**Publications:** Our Ministry carries out various publication activities in accordance with its mandate. Work published by our Ministry is conveyed to youth, which are our target group, through the youth centers, youth offices, book shops of our Ministry and the NGOs. In this regard 2.401.793 books have been conveyed to the youth.

**Credit and Dormitory Services:** Our Ministry performs its work to support the trainings of the higher education students and their personal development with the understanding of social state and people oriented approaches. By 25.02.2022, 850.000 university students (including foreign students) reside in 800 dormitories of Ministry of Youth and Sports located all over the country are provided service. Dormitory and education credit applications are made online and young people having financial

	<p>difficulties and the successful students are given priority. 1.5 million University students, including the ones receiving education abroad, are provided with education credit and state scholarship.</p> <p>Successful students and students in need are provided with scholarship and education credit through the normal education period of the higher education institutions they enrolled in with the aim of facilitating the social and cultural development of the young people, who are the citizens of the Republic of Türkiye and receive higher education in Türkiye or abroad.</p> <p>Between 6-10 February 2023, 1288,98 TL per student has been given to 569.704 students as scholarship and 1327,8 TL per student has been given to 867.407 students as education credit. In total, 1.886.009.651,00 TL has been given to 1.437.111 during this period.</p> <p>Scholarship and education credit payments will continue to be made to the higher education students receiving education in Türkiye and abroad for 12 months in 2023.</p> <p>Students staying in the dormitories of our Ministry are given breakfast and dinner to enable them to keep a healthy and balanced diet.</p> <p><b>Credit and Dormitories Academic Activities:</b> “educational, social, sportive and volunteerism activities” are carried out with the aim of ensuring that the students staying in the dormitories of our Ministry spend their extracurricular times efficiently, supporting their national, social, cultural, physical, mental, intellectual and academic developments, strengthening their feelings of unity and solidarity and bonds of amity and fraternity and protecting them against addictions, bad habits and behaviours.</p> <p>In this regard, 18.281 activities have been carried out in the last 6 months and 949.850 students have participated in these activities.</p> <p><b>Adaptation Programs:</b> “adaptation programs” are carried out for foreign students and the students staying in the dormitories of our Ministry in order to introduce the dormitory environment to them and to ease their adaptation to the dormitory life. Activities are carried out to introduce the dormitories to the students at the first time they arrive and after they settle in the dormitory, social workers and psychologists perform work on the topics such as the anxiety of living away from the family, homesickness and feeling alone etc.</p> <p><b>MY NEIGHBOUR Project:</b> Yurt-Time Sports Project (Dormitory-Time Sports Project) is carried out with the aim of enabling youth to gain daily sporting habits, academic and personal developments, active citizenship awareness, allocate time to social activities, contribute to the dormitory operations, gain additional economic income, familiarize the public in real service environment and gain internship experience to adapt with the business life. A five-minute warm-up exercise, which the students have to make at their place of duty before they start working, can be made with the videos which are prepared by Bayburt University and the difficulty level of these exercises are updated and increased according to the students. These exercises are included in the working time. The quota are determined as the %2 of the students staying in the dormitory. Applications are made online through the e-government system and students are selected through the software.</p> <p>Student applying to the Yurt-Time project are assigned to contribute to the some units of the dormitory management without causing any delay to the work of that unit with the aim of accelerating the work and operations and make them more effective. They take part in the work which does not require expertise according to the quota determined by the dormitory management. Project 01 was put into practice in November, 2022. As of 20 February 2023, the number of students given assignment in the project is 4.706, 2897 of whom are female and 1809 are male.</p>
Ukraine	<p><b>Updated March 2023</b></p> <p>The aggression of Russia against Ukraine has affected Ministry's work, but it has in no way changed our plans, and in some ways even strengthened the activities aimed at supporting</p>



youth and their contribution to bringing Ukraine closer to victory. The Council of Europe Project "Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: Phase II" is a reliable partner of the Ministry in the supporting of the youth in particularly difficult times for Ukraine.

The youth participation remains one of the priorities in the Ministry's work. The resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Procedure for the Establishment and Activities of the National Youth Council" was adopted to establish a system of co-management, that 50/50 consists of representatives of governmental institutions, youth NGOs, youth councils, student's self-government.

Another Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine was adopted amending the Typical Provisions on Youth Consultative and Advisory Bodies to improve the procedure for their formation, as well as expanding the tasks and functions of these bodies.

In February 2023 the Government adopted the Resolution "On the Establishment of the Ukrainian Youth Foundation" - state institution responsible for supporting youth initiatives through different grant programs - and defined the procedure for providing grants for projects supported by the UYF. The UYF was established under difficult conditions of limited possibilities of the state budget during the period of martial law, which is why its activities will be based on the principles of partnership between the state and international organizations (the state will finance the maintenance of the UYF, and international organizations will provide grants for youth).

Until the establishment of the Fund, the Ministry continues to administer project competition for NGOs. In the conditions of war, the Ministry does not stop holding competitions of grants for youth NGOs, namely:

- a competition has been announced to identify projects developed by youth and children's public organizations, for the implementation of which financial support will be provided in 2023;
- an open call for Ukrainian-Polish youth exchange projects has been announced;
- it is planned to announce an open call for the projects within the Ukrainian-Lithuanian youth exchanges.

The profession standard of the "Youth Worker" was developed by the working group established by the Ministry, public consultations were carried out and following these consultations the approved Profession Standard was send to the National Agency of Qualifications for the approval. The next step will be to develop the educational standard and work closely with educational institutions.

Taking into account the challenges of the war, a new implementation mechanism of the National program "Youth Worker" has been developed, which will allow strengthening the youth centers in terms of training youth workers. The specialized training for youth workers in the framework of the "Youth worker" program, based on the methodology developed by the project "Trauma informed youth work" training, is developed with the project "Youth for Democracy in Ukraine". Before the full-scale military invasion of the Russian Federation, there were over 300 youth centers in Ukraine. As of now, the work of more than 150 youth centers have been restored. Strengthening the work of youth centers and returning them to work, supporting teams of relocated youth centers, rebuilding destroyed youth centers - all these important topics are one of the main priorities of the Ministry's work now.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is taking measures to find donor assistance and raise funds for the restoration of youth centers damaged as a result of the hostilities, in particular for ongoing and major repairs, reconstruction, technical support, and the purchase of equipment and inventory.

As of March, 2023, as a result of the military aggression of the Russian Federation 35 youth infrastructure objects worth about UAH 100 mln (approximately USD 3.4 mln) were affected, 9 of which were destroyed and 26 more were damaged; other 60 objects are under occupation, and there is currently no information about their condition.

After the beginning of the Russian military full-scale invasion, the work of the Ministry was specially focused on supporting civil society organizations and joint projects with them. The following initiatives developed into a network and cover the whole of Ukraine with their work:

- SpivDiia Initiative (<https://spivdiia.org.ua/>)
  - 24 SpivDiia hubs in 21 regions of Ukraine were organized, among them 12 youth centers became SpivDiia hubs;
  - main services of SpivDiia: humanitarian aid, psychological support, legal consultations, work with children, career counseling, support of young entrepreneurs, support of SpivDiia shelters.
- National Volunteer Platform (<https://platforma.volunteer.country/>)
  - the largest base of volunteer initiatives for young people,
  - more than 600 registered volunteer organizations,
  - about 70 thousand young people registered as volunteers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Program "VidNOVA:UA"</li> <li>- youth involvement in the restoration of Ukraine;</li> <li>- implemented in cooperation with NGO "City of Active Citizens", UNDP in Ukraine;</li> <li>- aimed to facilitate the reconstruction and normalizing the lives of communities affected by the war on the territory of Ukraine by involving youth in volunteer activities during national youth exchanges;</li> <li>- 24 youth exchange visits are planned in 2023 to organize the restoration of objects that can be used as youth spaces and youth centers in local communities.</li> </ul>
United Kingdom/ Royaume Uni	<p><b>Updated February 2022</b> <b>England</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2021, the government carried out a review into out-of-school youth programmes, which engaged around 6,000 young people across England. The review told us what young people want from youth programmes and that's access to regular clubs and activities, adventures away from home and opportunities to volunteer. We are investing £560 million over the next three years to aim to meet that ask.</li> <li>• £368 million of our investment is dedicated to the Youth Investment Fund. The Youth Investment Fund will level up access to youth provision by targeting investment in left-behind areas, where young people have the greatest need and lowest provision. 45 local authorities and around 670 district wards in deprived parts of England are eligible to apply for the fund which will enable up to 300 youth facilities to be built or refurbished in these areas over the next three years.</li> <li>• £171 million has been committed to run the National Citizen Service (NCS) over the next three years. NCS is a voluntary and social development programme open to 15-17 year olds across England and provides hundreds of thousands of young people from all backgrounds with opportunities to become 'work-ready and world-ready'. During the pandemic, NCS participants gave over 500,000 hours of social action and/ or volunteering in support of local communities. NCS will continue to support young people and their communities through the COVID recovery and will develop a year-round offer of regular activities, adventures away from home, opportunities for volunteering and social action, and digital content. The NCS portfolio of services includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Residential experiences that involve a trip away from home.</li> <li>◦ Accessible, regular community action groups in every Local Authority.</li> <li>◦ Non-academic support for schools/colleges and other education settings through material resources and in-person delivery.</li> <li>◦ A digital hub created for young people, by young people.</li> <li>◦ Offering 6 month work placements to young people to give them a 'stepping stone' into full time employment.</li> <li>◦ 9-12 month pilot programme of paid civic service that supports building active citizenship into a habit and potentially a career.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We are supporting youth volunteering through the #iwill Fund which creates social action opportunities for young people aged 10-20. In August 2021, we added £2 million to the #iwill Fund, fully matched by the National Lottery Community Fund, to bring the total combined investment to £54 million. Following on from the 2021 Spending Review, a further £4 million has been announced for the #iwill Fund, which will create thousands of new social action opportunities for young people across England.</li> <li>• We are also committed to enabling young people to share their views to inform decision making including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Contributing funding to the UK Youth Parliament which enables youth participation in the democratic process and decision making at all levels.</li> <li>◦ Funding the Youth Policy Development Group which oversees the development and implementation of policies affecting young people. This ensures young people are directly involved in policy development and the commissioning, monitoring and evaluation of national programmes affecting young people.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

who are looking for work. The Youth Offer has been extended until 2025 and expanded to include 16 and 17-year olds. 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 for young people focused on finding work and accessing support. This may include sector-based work academy programmes, traineeships, work experience, Mentoring Circles, Kickstart placements or apprenticeships. 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 to support young people with skills gaps and bring them closer to labour market opportunities. There is at least one Youth Hub in every district across England, Scotland, and Wales. Youth Hubs are bringing together over 600 partners from employment and skills sectors, training providers, youth charities, government and others within local communities to support the transition of young people into work.
  - Youth Employability Coaches flexibly support young people with significant complex needs and barriers to help them move into employment. We offer these young people 6 weeks of in-work support once they have found a job. Over 150 Youth Employability Coaches are in place and engaging with young claimants.
- The Kickstart Scheme provides 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.
  - As of the 31st January 2022, over 305,000 jobs have been approved for funding through the scheme, over 235,000 jobs have been made available for young people to apply to, and over 130,000 Kickstart jobs have been started by young people.

#### **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.

#### **Scotland**

- 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. The strategy is due for publication in 2022 and we are currently consulting with various equalities groups to ensure it meets the needs of all young people in Scotland, including those from protected characteristic groups.

#### **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 September 2021. Once the report is published, the Welsh Government will consider their recommendations by December 2021 and will refresh the Implementation document that underpins the Youth Work Strategy to ensure it addresses any actions resulting from that report.