



# FINAL REPORT

**Seminar on Youth Policy in South-East Europe**



YouthPartnership

SALTO-YOUTH  
SOUTH EAST EUROPE  
RESOURCE CENTRE



Education and Culture



Youth



The Seminar on Youth Policy in South East Europe, which was held from 12 – 15 September 2007 in Hotel Medena, Trogir, Croatia, was organised by:

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## Notes about the author

Metka Kuhar is assistant professor at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences. During 2007-2008, she has been conducting a postdoctoral research about »Communicative and authority relationships between young people and parents«. She is also involved in an international project called "Up2youth – Youth actor of social change" (2006-2009). Her areas of research expertise are youth transitions to adulthood and family life, body images of youth, and youth participation. Since 2004 she has been the national coordinator from Slovenia of the Council of Europe's "network of experts on youth research and information" and a correspondent of the Council of Europe's »European knowledge database«. She also joined an advisory mission of the Council of Europe to Macedonia in 2004 and a national youth policy review in Latvia in 2007.

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Education and Culture DG

# Context

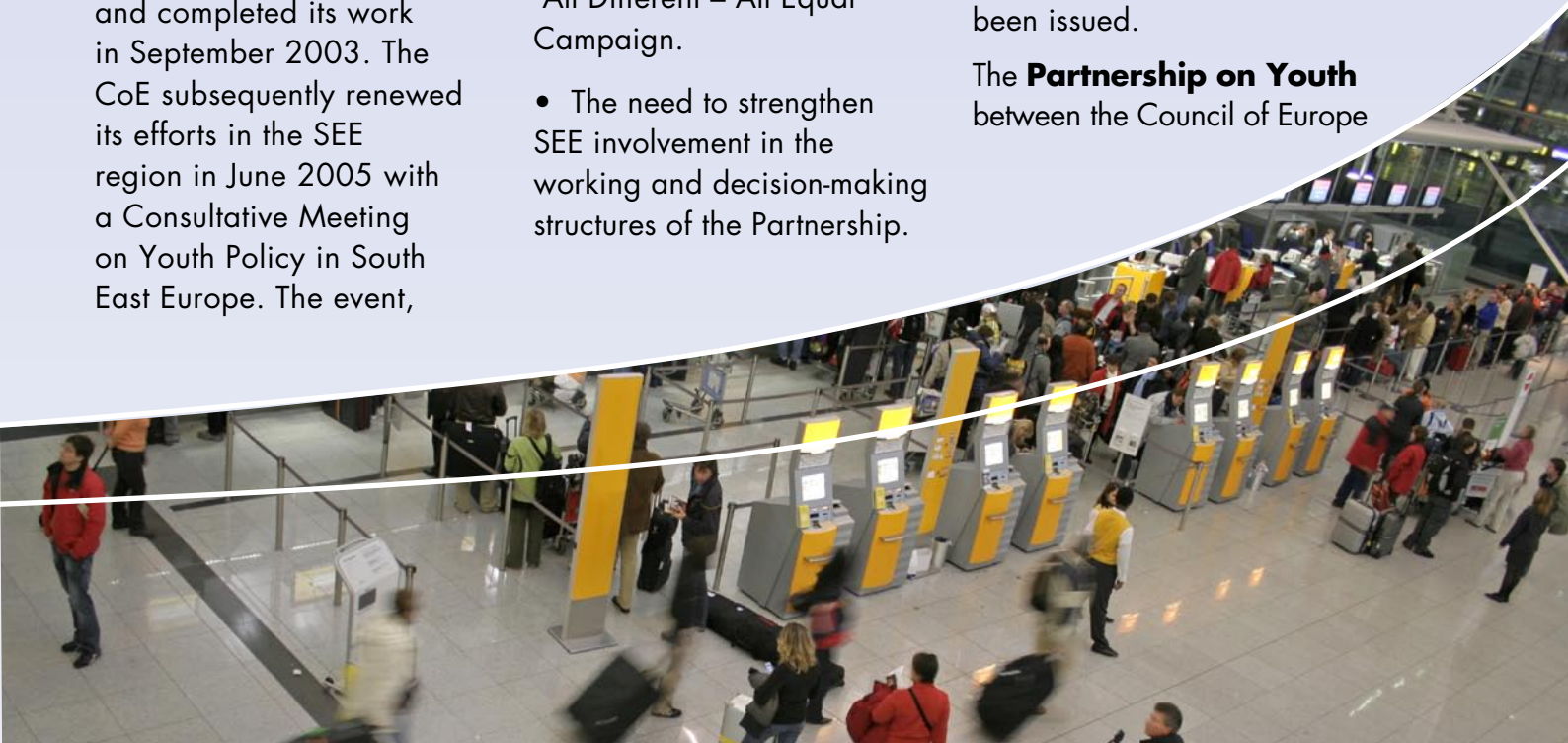
Hans-Joachim Schild from the Partnership Secretariat presented the history of the **Council of Europe's** involvement in the youth field. The CoE started to focus more closely on South East Europe (SEE) with the establishment of the Working Group on Young people within Working Table 1 of the Stability Pact for SEE. The CoE duly chaired the working group on "Education and Youth" under the "Democracy" Task Force. The main objective of this working group was to empower youth structures in the region and to motivate national governments to develop national action plans. The working group was established in 2000 and completed its work in September 2003. The CoE subsequently renewed its efforts in the SEE region in June 2005 with a Consultative Meeting on Youth Policy in South East Europe. The event,

hosted in Sofia, was entitled "Reconstructing Youth in South East Europe – Recognition, Identity, Access and Inclusion". This was followed in June 2006 by a similar event in Athens (Consultative Meeting on "Youth Policy Development in South East Europe"). The recommendations that emerged from the latter meeting included:

- The need for training coalitions in the field of youth.
- The need for the creation of a youth policy development centre.
- Regional actions should be developed in the context of the Council of Europe's 'All Different – All Equal' Campaign.
- The need to strengthen SEE involvement in the working and decision-making structures of the Partnership.

Erik Langbraten, from the Directorate General for Education and Culture at the **European Commission**, affirmed that the Commission has a clear priority in supporting the SEE region in the field of youth. This includes the involvement of SEE countries in the Youth in Action programme. Indeed, negotiations are currently taking place with regard to Croatia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia becoming Programme partners in the Youth in Action Programme in 2009. It is envisaged that this will involve the establishment of national agencies within these two nation-states. An invitation for other SEE countries to become Programme partners has also been issued.

The **Partnership on Youth** between the Council of Europe



and the European Commission has been in place since 1998. The initial focus was on "European Youth Worker and Youth Leader Training", but this was complemented in 2003 by covenants on "Euro-Mediterranean Youth Co-operation" and "Youth Research". Since 2005 both institutional partners have strengthened co-operation and established one single Partnership Agreement with the aim of providing a lasting framework for the joint development of a coherent strategy in the field of youth worker training, youth policy and youth research (for further information see [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)).

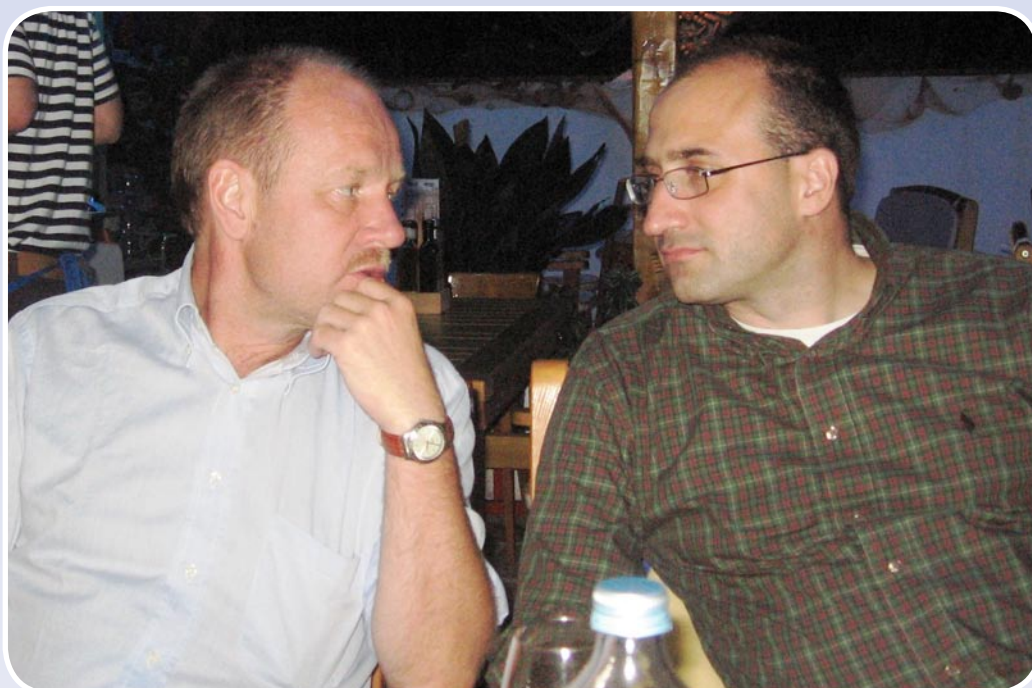
This Seminar addressed the subject of youth policy

development in the SEE Region and issues of relevance to young people. In particular the following priorities of the Partnership were addressed:

- Intercultural dialogue and co-operation.
- Better understanding and knowledge of youth.
- Youth policy development.
- Promoting understanding of, and respect for, cultural diversity.

The other co-organiser of the Seminar on Youth Policies in SEE was the **SALTO-YOUTH SEE Resource Centre**. Since 2002 the Resource Centre has been serving as a support structure for the promotion of co-

operation within the European Commission's YOUTH/Youth in Action programme between the countries of the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNMIK/Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia) and the Programme countries. More information about the Centre's activities (seminars, training courses, etc.) and publications (country profiles, brochures, monthly e-newsletters, SEE YOUTH! magazine etc.) is available on [www.salto-youth.net/see/](http://www.salto-youth.net/see/). Einar Rafn Guðbrandsson, acting Head of the SALTO-YOUTH SEE Resource Centre, indicated that the Centre is interested in further cooperation with the Partnership in the field of youth work and voluntary service.



*Youth research and policy dialogue*

# Objectives of the Seminar

The aims of the Seminar can be summarised in the following terms:

- Sharing, comparing and learning from developments in the individual countries with respect to the fields of youth policy, youth work and youth research.

- Increasing knowledge of the region (i.e., in terms of the different perspectives, current needs and future trends in the respective countries).

- Integrating the region more effectively into European processes on youth, including the relevant processes and programmes of the CoE and EC.

- Creating stronger networks between governmental representatives, youth workers and youth researchers; and organising a structured dialogue between all three parts of the 'magic triangle'.

- Deepening knowledge on youth policy development.

- Supporting and empowering existing youth structures.



# Comparison of the Countries in South East Europe

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Metka Kuhar – a researcher from the University of Ljubljana – emphasised in her brief overview of the condition of youth and youth policy in SEE that, despite young people facing many different sets of circumstances, in most countries of the region it is possible to identify some common factors and trends. These, she argued, will influence future social, economic, cultural and political developments in both the SEE region and the EU at large:

- The main problem concerns the lack of educational, professional and social opportunities. As well as youth unemployment being high, it is also especially difficult for young people in work to access productive and decent jobs.

- Young people are socio-economically dependent on their parents for longer periods than was previously the case. At the same time family and other social support structures struggle to provide an adequate safety net for the current generation of young people.

- The proportion of the youth population engaged in studying is comparatively low. The high level of young people 'dropping out' of school is a particular worry. It was also noted in some countries that enrolment to primary and secondary education is in decline.

- Youth emigration is a concern. The highly educated, in particular, appear to be anxious to leave their native countries.

- It was noted that demographic trends in the region could have a deleterious effect on the fabric of the various societies within SEE.

- There has been an increase in deviant behaviour, delinquency, prostitution, drugs trafficking and substance misuse. The rise in such social phenomena was interpreted as largely being the consequence of unemployment and unstable economic conditions.

- Mobility has been limited by economic constraints and the strict visa regimes that characterise EU countries. Consequently, interaction and co-operation between young people from the Balkan region and the rest of Europe is poor.



- The gap between the development of urban centres and rural areas is large.
- In some parts of the region peace and stability remain fragile and insecure. In the regions that were affected by the war, young people face a variety of daunting challenges on a daily basis.
- The liberalisation of economic, political and social life has generated a state of disorientation amongst many young people. Traditional moral values have been overturned and the void created has yet to be filled by anything resembling a coherent ethical code.

Smiljka Tomanović, a researcher from the University of Belgrade, concurred broadly with the above analysis and cited a large study on Serbian youth in support of her position. When compared with Western European countries, it was argued that Serbia is experiencing a ten-year time-lag in terms of its transition. She also mentioned the absence of valid statistics (e.g., rates of unemployment). This clearly makes empirical research extremely difficult. Nevertheless, it was suggested that the country may be witnessing both the widening of social distance between some groups and the development of ethnocentrism.

With regards to youth policy, despite many difficulties (e.g. lack of funds, lack of human capacity, etc.), there is optimism. Most countries appear committed to improving the position of young people. Finn Yrjar Denstad, currently employed by the Ministry of Children and Equality in Norway (but with a history of advisory roles in the Balkans), has highlighted both general and specific challenges that must be faced in the process of developing youth action plans in the SEE region. These include:

- Lack of wider government ownership in respect of policy processes.
- Rivalry between government ministries and limited inter-ministerial cooperation.
- Non-governmental youth organisations are less

developed than those in Western Europe, and are typically small with low membership.

- Rivalry within the NGO sector, which can lead to a lack of unity and a failure to agree common positions on which the sector can lobby government.
- A weak tradition of involving stakeholders in decision-making.
- A weak tradition of addressing youth as a cross-sectoral strategy area.
- Fear of approaching the media.
- A formalistic approach to policy issues.
- A failure to understand fully the comprehensive nature of youth policy, both in the governmental and NGO sectors.



*An evening visit to Trogir*

- Due to the existence of many action plans in different policy areas, the importance of prioritising youth policy action plans is not fully appreciated.
- Politicians do not enjoy a high degree of trust because they are often not considered to be truly accountable to the wider population.
- The difficulties of involving marginalised groups and national minorities.

Policy makers from individual countries – in addition to youth workers and researchers from across the Region – presented an overview of the state of youth policies in the various nation-states. As the policy representatives from Albania and Slovenia were unable to attend the seminar, both basic information and more in-depth data from these two countries are missing. This needs to be taken into account in the analysis that follows. Nevertheless, relevant information is presented in a systematic format in respect of the following nation-states: Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Croatia, Montenegro,

Serbia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNMIK/Kosovo, Greece and Bulgaria. Details on the individual nation-states can be found in the Tables (see *the Appendices*).

## Youth Policy and Legislation

As regards legislation, the following issues were set out (see *Table 1*):

- Existence of an explicit and coherent Youth Policy document (e.g. Youth strategy, action plan, etc.).
- Other formal measures and programmes concerning young people.
- Definition of youth in the formal documents.
- Budget
- Evaluations of policies and programmes.
- Miscellaneous.

## Actors and Structures

With regard to actors and structures, the following issues were presented by participants (see *Table 2*):

- Responsibility for youth policy within government (is there a Ministry for Youth or is it divided between different Ministries?).
- Other national public bodies that are directly involved in youth policies (e.g., other Ministries).
- Existence of a governmental body for the co-ordination of policies in the youth sector.
- Existence of youth councils.
- Existence of Youth NGOs.
- Youth policy at the regional and local level.

## Key Issues for Youth Policy

The representatives from the nation-states have reported on the following (see *Table 3*):

- General objectives pursued by youth policy.
- The most pressing issues and problems facing youth in the individual countries.
- The extent to which youth policy is making use of youth research results.
- Miscellaneous.



# Key Issues for Youth Policies

## Mobility and Migration

Mobility and migration function at different levels and across a spectrum; from substantial benefits to serious challenges (Williamson, CDEJ, 2006/10). There are many kinds of mobility and migration. For example: internal migration from the countryside to the cities; educational migration for studying within and beyond national borders; mobility for temporary or permanent employment; tourist mobility; access to international mobility programmes; and the trafficking in women. The participants focused on enhancing and facilitating the positive aspects of mobility and migration. The following recommendations emerged from that discussion:

- Facilitating and improving the visa application process for young volunteers and other young people active in civil society.
- Uniting all interested parties (European Youth Forum, organisations of

and for youth, students, researchers, etc.) in order to claim special status for young people within the visa regime.

- Regulating diploma and degree nostrification processes in order to encourage the return of students.
- Facilitating, sharing and enhancing the exchange of practice (including NGO programmes) between local and regional levels.
- Increasing proper recognition of work experience.
- Anticipating future trends and developments in relation to emigration.

## Youth Participation

Participation gives young people a chance to be actively involved in society and day-to-day politics. It means real opportunities for young people to influence their life situation

in all spheres. Meaningful participation requires a safe and supportive environment that enables young people to make choices based upon full information. It should also increase their connections to their social surroundings. Moreover, it means having an active role in family matters, school, health services, community life and government.

The working group agreed the following recommendations for the future:

### At policy level:

- Enhance and forge close co-operation and a structured exchange with all youth policy stakeholders on the subject of strengthening youth participation. In order to further this aim, a Regional (SEE) Resource Centre on Youth Policy should be established. Ms Lena Bratic, from the Twinning Platform, offered to put her institution at the service of such an initiative.

It was suggested that the institution could be the driving force behind the establishment of such a Centre.

- Create a database of experts in the youth field (especially policy-makers) from the SEE region. Additionally, international experts with experience in the region should be included on the database.

- Governments should provide the means (e.g., funding, the framework for a friendly and supportive environment, etc.) for the development of youth NGOs.

- Policy makers should pay attention to involving non-organised youth in the policy making and implementation process.

- Policy makers should pay attention to involving disadvantaged youth in the policy making and implementation process.

- Give greater publicity and higher visibility to the results of youth participation. The provision of feedback to young people should also increase their sense of ownership and empowerment.

### **Proposals for international (or national) institutions:**

- Organise a seminar and publish a guidebook/manual on:

- *The different stages and activities of youth policy development, including planning, consultation, implementation and evaluation.*

- *How to prepare and enable young people to participate actively and effectively in every phase of youth policy development.*

- Develop a programme aimed at:

- *Raising awareness amongst policy makers on the importance of youth participation in policy formation, development, implementation and evaluation.*

- *Train policy makers on participatory methods of working.*

- Organise a seminar on a comparative review of the legal frameworks for youth participation in SEE countries.

- Use meetings and seminars such as these for the development of tools that might be used for the enhancement of youth participation.

- Undertake a review of: (a) best practice in the field of participation by disadvantaged young people (e.g. youth with disabilities) in public life; and (b) the most common obstacles likely to impede progress in this area of participation.

### **At NGO level**

- Propose that NGOs, youth organisations and organisations working for youth in the SEE region involve young people more extensively in all stages of their work – in terms of developing, implementing and evaluating activities – and also in decision-making bodies.

- Train practitioners in the best methods to empower and enable young people to engage in effective participation.

### **In research**

- Closer co-operation between youth policy, youth research and youth work. Youth researchers and trainers should provide methodological and training support for practitioners and policy makers. They should, in particular, provide clear guidance on how practitioners and policy makers can employ participatory methods of social scientific research, assessment and evaluation in their work.

### **Education, Un/employment and Family Life**

These three subjects are, of course, complex and interrelated. The working group emphasised the point that the condition of youth in these three domains are also heavily dependent on macro

socio-economic trends. It is, therefore, difficult to address them in isolation from one another. Nevertheless, the following initiatives were identified as being highly necessary:

### **In the field of education**

- Undertake a thorough analysis of market needs (jobs, qualifications, etc.).
- Establish a balance between higher education and vocational education/training.
- Training in key competences and the recognition of non-formal education are required.
- Establish and / or develop traineeship programmes in the private business sector.
- Analyse rates and patterns of exclusion (including self-exclusion) from the education system; identify the main reasons for young people 'dropping out' of education and training; and develop appropriate measures to counteract the problem.
- Promote a set of complementary educational objectives: not only employability, but also self-fulfilment, personal realisation, active citizenship and social inclusion.

### **In the field of employment**

- Research should be undertaken on economic trends and projected labour market needs.

- The collection and public availability of high quality statistics concerning employment, unemployment and – as far as is practicable – reliable research on the "grey" labour market.

- Establish mechanisms for matching the demands and needs of the labour market.
- Establish resource centres for counselling, careers guidance and information.
- Establish incentives for entrepreneurship (training, business incubators, microcredit schemes, etc.).
- Establish and/or improve employment schemes for disabled and disadvantaged young people.
- Ensure gender equality is established in the domain of employment. Concrete measures are required to reduce gendered pay disparities, tackle discrimination of (young) women in the workplace and support (young) mothers (parents!) in their efforts to re-enter employment following parental leave.

### **In the field of family issues**

- Promote gender equality through the proper enforcement of women-friendly legislation and policies (e.g. family policies).
- More research on domestic violence (including gendered violence and

the role of alcohol misuse) is required. Research on effective measures to tackle such violence is also needed.

- Homosexuality needs to be de-stigmatised.
- It is necessary to promote awareness amongst policy makers of the potential social problems that may arise as a result of demographic trends (e.g., fertility rates in the individual countries are low and / or still declining, the emigration rate of young people is significant in some countries, etc.).

### **International co-operation in the fields of education/employment/family**

- The need to learn from each other (i.e., exchanging strategies, examples of good practice, etc.).
- Improve and enhance the qualifications of youth workers, social workers and other professionals who have contact with young people.
- Promote a positive youth work culture (i.e., recognising the value of youth work, both formal and social; professionalising youth work, etc.). This could be achieved by such measures as publishing a magazine on youth work in the region.
- Promote the spirit of volunteering.

# Conclusions – What can/will researchers, policy makers, practitioners and international organisations do?

The last round of discussions that took place in the working groups comprised a range of participants: (a) policy makers, (b) researchers, (c) practitioners and (d) representatives of institutions.

**Policy makers** have pointed out the following:

- The need for a sustainable structure (e.g. a working group) comprising youth policy makers from across the region. Regular meetings are also required.
- An extremely high priority is the creation of a database that includes information on existing research, youth strategies and examples of good practice from across the SEE region.
- There is a clear need to translate documents on youth policy into local languages.

**Researchers** have come to the following conclusions:

- The need for regional studies on the condition of young people in SEE.
- The need to make available in the English language research on the region that has been conducted by SEE researchers.
- The need to strengthen contacts and cooperation between researchers, policy-makers, practitioners and young people.
- The need to develop an understanding amongst policy decision-makers on the importance, value and practical utility of research.
- The need for the development of a regional peer-reviewed journal on youth issues.

**Practitioners**

emphasised the following:

- The European Youth Forum (EYF) has identified SEE as a focus region. EYF will support youth NGO platforms in the region and will share information on youth policy developments in SEE with youth NGOs. This institution intends to include more organisations from the region that do not yet belong to EYF.
- There is a need for capacity-building amongst policy-makers in order to improve the level of youth participation.
- An initiative with unified demands needs to be formed in order to facilitate the acquisition of visas by young people active in the civil sector.



### **Representatives from Institutions**

stressed and promised some follow-up actions. These included:

- Ensuring that links and information will be shared between the CoE/EU Partnership, the SEE SALTO office and the European Youth Forum.
- Providing information on the region via the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYCYP) ([www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)). The countries from the SEE region will be invited to nominate national correspondents for the EKCYCYP.
- Ensuring higher visibility of activities in the region. This will include use of the World-Wide Web as well as other means.
- Issuing an invitation to Ministries in respect of nominations for researchers to the Partnership's European Youth Research Network.

- Inviting experts from the SEE region active in the youth field to the Partnership's thematic research seminars on youth issues.
- Discussing within the Partnership the development and promotion of a youth policy development manual.
- Recruiting participants from the SEE region for the CoE and Partnership training activities.
- Reporting the results of the Seminar to the relevant institutions. This will include the production of a report that will be made available on the Partnership website.
- SEE will continue to be a high priority for the European Youth Forum.
- The next issue of SEE YOUTH! will be dedicated to the development of youth policy in the Region.
- Organising annual meetings / seminars.

Further information and attachments are available on the Youth Partnership website under [http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/regional\\_cooperation/southeasteuropa.html](http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/regional_cooperation/southeasteuropa.html).

# Appendices

**Table 1: Youth policy and legislation**

	a) Youth Policy document/s	b) Other measures	c) Definition of youth
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<p>No explicit document on the state level and no national legislation on youth.</p> <p>Republika Srpska (RS) has a law on youth organisations.</p> <p>The Federation has no such document but it is in preparation.</p> <p>Brčko district has no such document but it is in preparation.</p> <p>The Council of Ministers of BiH has not yet set in motion the procedures for establishing a framework of State Law on Youth.</p>	<p>There is a law on youth organisations in RS.</p> <p>Several cities and municipalities in BiH have developed, or are in the process of developing, local strategies for youth.</p> <p>In the process of being developed are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft of a federal law on youth.</li> <li>2. Initiative for mandatory health insurance for youth in the Federation.</li> <li>3. Initiative for the recognition of practical work experience in relation to employment.</li> </ol> <p>Financial support for developing national youth policy has been provided primarily by GTZ. It is unclear where this process is at the moment. Generally pessimistic and negative. Few prospects for improvements in the next few years.</p>	<p>According to the resolutions of UN General Assembly, youth are 14 – 25 years old.</p> <p>For some surveys implemented by UN in BiH, a more flexible definition of youth is used: 15 to 30 years old, according to the conditions which influenced youth in BiH.</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<p>2003 – 2007 Strategy for National Youth Policy (SNYP) drafted in 2002</p> <p>A draft Law for Development of Youth has been developed. This Law sets the main principles and priorities. It also covers such subjects as the planning, administration and funding of national policy for the development and protection of youth.</p>	<p>2006-2007 programme for Youth Activities, which is an instrument for implementation of national youth policy/s priorities; sub-programmes: Youth in Action, Everybody has Personality; Capital of Ideas; National Initiatives and Campaigns</p> <p>National Plan for Youth for 5 years adopted by Council of Ministers following proposal of the National Council for Youth and Children at the Prime Minister</p> <p>Annual National Programme for Youth adopted by Council Ministers, proposed by State Agency for Youth and Sport.</p>	<p>In a SNYP: 18 to 35 years and minors from 16 to 18 years;</p> <p>In a draft law: 14 to 29 years</p>

d) Budget	e) Evaluations	f) Miscellaneous
/	<p>CoE Youth Policy Advisory Mission, 2005; a report exists</p> <p>Review of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) Independent evaluation of the national youth policy in BiH by Youth Information Agency Bosnia-Herzegovina (OIA)</p>	<p>Process in BiH is highly specific and particular as it is steered and led by the international community.</p>
N/A	<p>The State Agency for Youth and Sport is responsible for organising and supporting monitoring, assessments and analysis of implementation of the national youth policy at national, regional and municipal level</p>	/

	a) Youth Policy document/s	b) Other measures	c) Definition of youth
<b>Croatia</b>	National Programme of Action for Youth 2003 – 2008 (NPAY) and Action plan for Youth (for the years 2006 and 2007). At the moment they are developing a new action plan.	Law for Youth Councils adopted at the beginning of 2007  At the moment they are developing National Agency for the Youth in Action.	15-29 years
<b>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>	National Youth Strategy, adopted in December 2005, extensive process partly financed by the World Bank; the process was supported also by the European Youth Forum and the EC	Need for an action plan in addition to the strategy but this has not been developed yet because of the elections. At the moment they are receiving support for developing an action plan. Hopefully, an action plan will be ready to be implemented next year.  Law on volunteerism  The government recently adopted the draft law on the Macedonian involvement in the Youth in Action Programme.	In NY Strategy: 15-24 (most vulnerable group), but also involving young people 24-30
<b>Greece</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National legislation on youth covering: youth employment, education, sports, family, military service, deviant behaviour, media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law on the Local Youth Councils</li> <li>Some articles in constitution directly or indirectly refer to youth</li> </ul>	N/A



d) Budget	e) Evaluations	f) Miscellaneous
N/A	CoE Youth Policy Advisory Mission, 2003, a report exists	<p>The national youth conference, where main problems and priorities are discussed, is being organised by the Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity every year. So far 3 national youth conferences have been held.</p> <p>Following the conclusions of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Youth Conference (2005) about the necessity to include local governments in the implementation of the NPAY, 5 regional youth conferences were held.</p>
The budget of the Agency of youth and sport is about 150.000 € annually.	CoE Youth Policy Advisory Mission, Nov. 2004; a report exists	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main National Budget: 10.000.000 €</li> <li>• Public Financing in European Programmes (Youth in Action, Eurodesk): 2.250.000 €</li> <li>• Public Investment Programme: 4.000.000 €</li> </ul>	<p>Through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Questionnaires</li> <li>– Researches</li> <li>– e-dialogue (through our Portal)</li> </ul>	/

	a) Youth Policy document/s	b) Other measures	c) Definition of youth
<b>UNMIK/ Kosovo</b>	<p>The draft law has not been passed in the parliament yet: "Kosovo Youth Policy: Law on Youth Empowerment and Participation" (KYP).</p> <p>The stakeholders are implementing this law even though it has not been passed.</p> <p>International organisations and institutions, and civil society have been involved in the preparation of the law.</p> <p>The law draws from the CoE and the EU experience.</p> <p>UNMIK/Kosovo Youth policy action plan 2007-10 is based on the law.</p>	N/A	<p>Department of Youth took the Youth definition of OMS for the 13-24 years old. In KYP, youth is defined between the ages 15-24.</p>
<b>Montenegro</b>	<p>National Youth Action Plan (NYAP) adopted by the Government on October 12, 2006; 5 year strategy</p>	/	<p>Age group: 16-30 – high school and university students, unemployed youth, young parents and families, etc.</p> <p>Before NYAP – not recognized as a specific and separate group</p>
<b>Serbia</b>	<p>Ministry for Youth and Sport, established in May 2007, first of all intends to develop a National Youth Strategy including a wide consultation process.</p>	/	N/A

d) Budget	e) Evaluations	f) Miscellaneous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government spends 0.15 € per young person per year.</li> <li>• General budget for 2007: 717.000.000 €</li> <li>• Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport for 2007: 7.267.852 €</li> <li>• Budget of Department of Youth for 2007: 331.166 €; donations for this department in 2006: 1.028.250 €</li> </ul> <p>Repartition of Youth policy funds (planned per year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment: 4.504.400 €: 43%</li> <li>• Education: 1.472.000 €: 20%</li> <li>• Participation of Youth: 1.817.000 €: 17%</li> <li>• Culture, Sport and Recreation: 1.737.000 €: 16%</li> <li>• Human Security: 500.000 €: 5%</li> <li>• Health: 510.000 €: 5%</li> </ul>	<p>CoE Youth Policy Advisory Mission, a report exists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNMIK/Kosovo is not a country, it is a protectorate of UN, the representative of the General Secretary is supervising.</li> <li>• Governance: UNMIK, President, Government and Parliament.</li> <li>• International community is really important: all are under UNMIK: EU, OSCE, Police.</li> <li>• Decentralisation has not been achieved, but it is in the process of being organised.</li> <li>• Relationships between youth organizations, local youth representatives and governments are conflictual; there is no sufficient cooperation between Youth NGOs and government of UNMIK/ Kosovo.</li> </ul>
N/A	<p>External evaluation of the process of the NYAP development (more in Developing a NYAP in Montenegro 2004-2006 by Finn Yrjar Denstad)</p>	/
N/A	/	<p>All activities of the Ministry for Youth and Sport will be carried out together with the youth and NGOs.</p>

## Table 2: Actors and structures

	a) Ministry for youth	b) Cross-sector cooperation	c) Governmental body for the co-ordination of policies in the youth sector
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<p>Republika Srpska has a Ministry for Youth and Sport.</p> <p>Ministries for Culture and Sports (in RS and in Federation) have a person in charge for youth and give small grants to youth.</p>	<p>Council of Ministers of BiH that enables the functioning of the Commission for youth</p>	<p>Commission for youth as a permanent body of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia Herzegovina. The Commission is made up of ten (10) representatives of youths from the non-governmental sector and eight (8) representatives from governmental institutions of BiH.</p> <p>Existed for a year and a half without doing anything. Supported by GTZ and CISP, an Italian NGO</p> <p>3-year budget of 300.000 KM (150.000 €).</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<p>The State Agency for Youth and Sports</p>	N/A	<p>The State Agency for Youth and Sports has a coordinating function in relation to the development, realisation and control on the implementation of the Strategy for National Youth Policy</p>
<b>Croatia</b>	<p>The Department for Children and Youth is located within the Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity, which is responsible for co-ordination of youth policy among different governmental bodies.</p>	<p>Many programmes and projects aimed at the benefit of youth are financed by the Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity as well as other governmental bodies, (e.g. Youth Information Centres in big cities).</p>	<p>The Council for Youth exists as a professional and advisory body of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. It consists of representatives from various governmental sectors, youth NGOs, NGOs for youth and relevant experts.</p>
<b>The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>	<p>Agency of Youth and Sport (a governmental body, established as a special sector for youth, intercultural affairs and youth policy in 1999).</p>	<p>Several important ministries were involved in developing NY strategy.</p>	<p>Steering group with 50 – 50 representation with youth NGOs and different ministries.</p>

d) Youth councils	e) Youth NGOs	f) Regional and local level
<p>Youth councils exist in RS. There have been two meetings between the minister and representatives of youth NGOs. Positive outlook.</p>	<p>The non-governmental sector is very weak, with a split sector.</p>	<p>Many municipalities in BiH have developed or are in the phase of developing strategic documents for youth. Many municipalities have local youth councils and budgets for youth.</p> <p>Youth Council in Mostar was established one year ago. Going very slowly. Planning to set up a Youth Commission in Mostar and develop a youth action plan. Supported by GTZ.</p>
<p>National Youth Council, Regional (up to 29), Municipal (up to 266)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional strategies for youth for 5 years adopted by the Councils for Regional Development</li> <li>• Municipal strategy for Development – 10 years adopted by the Municipal Council</li> <li>• Municipal Plans for Youth for 5 years adopted by Municipal Council</li> <li>• Annual Municipal Programme for Youth adopted by the Municipal Council</li> </ul>
<p>The Law for Youth Councils was adopted at the beginning of 2007 and towns and counties are establishing Youth Councils whose role is advisory considering local youth policy.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity encourages local structures to develop their own local programmes of action for youth using National Programme of Action for Youth as a model, bearing in mind the guidelines noted in this Programme, but also to pay attention on specific needs of youth in their region or town.</p>
<p>No national youth council</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	a) Ministry for youth	b) Cross-sector cooperation	c) Governmental body for the co-ordination of policies in the youth sector
<b>Greece</b>	Ministry in charge of youth: Ministry of National Education & Religious Affairs – General Secretariat for Youth (it is attached to the Ministry of Education and is responsible for the implementation of the government's youth policy)	The General Secretariat for Youth works for the mainstreaming of the youth dimension in other governmental policies	The General Secretariat for Youth works for the mainstreaming of the youth dimension in other governmental policies Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational Affairs
<b>UNMIK/ Kosovo</b>	In the Ministry of Culture, Youth, Sport and Non resident affairs, there is a Department of Youth working on Youth policies	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is also involved in Youth policies	/
<b>Montenegro</b>	Sector for Sports and Youth in the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media (No one in the sector for Sports and Youth speaks English)	Cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial dimension of policy does not have a tradition in the country; the small size of the country means that there is considerable reliance on personal contacts	N/A
<b>Serbia</b>	Ministry for Youth and Sport, established in May 2007	Working group of government as an actor in the process of NY Strategy development	A cross-sector working group in charge of planning process has been formed. A seminar has been held, where the development process was outlined.

d) Youth councils

e) Youth NGOs

f) Regional and local level

- The National Youth Council (ESYN)
- Local Youth Councils (Prefectural and Municipal)
- The National Committee of Local Youth Councils

Many

- Second Degree Prefectural Authorities: the second tier of local self-government and are financially and administratively autonomous
- Union of Prefectural Authorities of Greece partially coordinates youth policy at the prefectural level
- First Degree Local Authorities (Municipalities and Communities): entrusted with a wide range of responsibilities concerning children and young people
- Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece: has created a special committee on education and youth affairs

The youth action plan outlines the establishment of a national youth council, but does not yet exist. Kosovar Youth Action Council will be created as representative of youth organisations and will organise an annual conference on youth policies

3500 youth NGOs exist (!), but only 500 are functioning. No NGOs in the rural areas.

There is a representative of youth in each Municipality and one per region. But they are not autonomous. They organise youth month (September) and some meetings, but only a few things.

Youth council is an independent management body:

- 11 members /a six year period
- More than half of the members – civil society representatives
- monitoring, directing, developing and evaluating the implementation of the NYAP
- The Council decides on professional issues of NYAP development and enhancement
- professional and expert support in the preparation of programmes and annual working plan; the analysis and adoption of the same etc.

NGOs has had strong ownership to NYAP development process

4 local youth action plans have been produced. Law on self – management of local authorities – full autonomy

/

An open call has been distributed to youth NGOs to take part in the NY Strategy process. Of all applicants, between 40 and 50 NGO representatives have been elected.

At the end of 2007, there will be 14 new offices at the municipal level.

### Table 3: Key issues for youth policy

	a) General objectives, principles, topics, activities	b) Pressing issues
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	/	Unemployment, emigration
<b>Bulgaria</b>	The main objective of the Strategy for National Youth Policy is the establishment of sustainable mechanisms for protection, development and investment in youth as the social capital of Bulgaria and a United Europe, short-, middle- and long-term goals	Declining birthrate, migration, unemployment (especially of Roma pop.), difficulties at finding first job
<b>Croatia</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>	N/A	Unemployment, migration, ethical relationships
<b>Greece</b>	Quality information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– employment</li> <li>– voluntary activities</li> <li>– interculturalism</li> <li>– culture</li> <li>– active citizenship</li> </ul>	Unemployment risk, Education & Training issues, High competition, Increasing demands in the work sector, Quality of life, Environment



c) Use of research

In the process of being developed are:

- A study on youth employment in BiH
- A study on youth and EU – assessing the development of human resources for EU integration.

The State Agency for Youth and Sport is responsible for organising and supporting research

Municipal, regional and national youth reports

Current National Youth Report. indicators: Social status, Education, Health, Young people on the labour market, Leisure time, Civil activity, Risk and Deviant behaviour

A tradition of youth research from 1986 onwards.

Assistance of the Institute of Sociology at preparation of NY Strategy ('Baseline Study on Youth Trends')

d) Misc.

/



	a) General objectives, principles, topics, activities	b) Pressing issues
<b>UNMIK/ Kosovo</b>	<p>Policy topics: youth participation in decision making, education, employment, health, social, human safety, culture, sports and leisure time activities.</p> <p>Youth Policy of UNMIK/Kosovo and the action plan aim to improve youth situation, institutions and NGOs and to find mechanisms of youth participation in the decision making. These plans promote co-operation between government and Youth. Action Plan for Youth describes strategies on the implementation and budget.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young population: 70% of population under 30 years, 52% under 25 years</li> <li>• Unemployment, formal education, poverty and mobility</li> <li>• Not enough people working in the youth field</li> </ul> <p>Further problems: brain drain, no NGOs in the rural areas, mechanisms of active participation of Youth undeveloped, no recognised qualification system for non formal education...</p>
<b>Montenegro</b>	<p>9 key domains: education, employment, health, participation in social life, human rights, culture, leisure, information &amp; mobility, family</p>	<p>High unemployment, outdated education system, emigration</p>
<b>Serbia</b>	<p>Improvement of youth conditions (in the long term);</p> <p>Activities in the areas of: youth policy, education and non-formal education, leisure time, voluntarism, culture, information and international co-operation</p> <p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmes orientated towards establishing partnerships and capacity building of youth NGOs</li> <li>• Encouraging campaigns for youth activism and voluntarism, as well as for more active participation of young people in all spheres of social life</li> <li>• Non-formal education of youth</li> <li>• Organising and participating in international meetings, seminars, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Unemployment</p>

c) Use of research

Youth research has been undertaken by international organisations such as GTZ, the Department of Youth and the NGO, Kosovo Youth Network.

Statistics exist but they are not published.

d) Misc.

Each year, there is a programme dedicated to marginalised people, including: rural people, women, minorities and disabled people.

No systematic research

Focus groups conducted by NGOs as a basis for NYAP development

Analysis, research, monitoring and evaluation of programmes foreseen by the NY Strategy; NYS based on the study

Establishment of Youth office foreseen: a special sector within the Sector for Youth (place where young people will get information, knowledge and skills; exchange experience, make partnerships, etc)



## Youth-Partnership of the Council of Europe and the European Commission

In the last ten years the Council of Europe and the European Commission have developed a close co-operation in the youth field. Since 1998, this Partnership between the two institutions has focused first on "European Youth Worker and Youth Leader Training" and from 2003 also on "Euro-Mediterranean youth co-operation" and "Youth Research". In 2005 these three separate covenants formed one single Partnership Agreement with the aim to provide a lasting framework for the joint development of a coherent strategy in the field of youth worker training, youth policy and youth research.

The four general objectives of the Partnership which the European Commission shares with the Council of Europe are:

- Citizenship, participation, human rights education and intercultural dialogue
- Social cohesion, inclusion and equal opportunities
- Recognition, quality and visibility of youth work and training
- Better understanding and knowledge of youth and youth policy development

The activities of the Partnership mainly address the needs of young people, resource persons and actors in youth policy in the member states of both partners. Regional focus may also be on countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy or on any other country which is the subject of priority cooperation of both partners.

The main activities are training sessions, thematic research seminars and network meetings involving youth workers and youth leaders, trainers, researchers, policymakers, experts and practitioners on topics mentioned above and leading to a structured dialogue and exchange of good practice.

For more information please consult the Partnership website: [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)

## SALTO-YOUTH South East Europe Resource Centre

The SALTO-YOUTH South East Europe Resource Centre is one of eight SALTO Resource Centres which have been established by the European Commission to support the implementation of the Youth in Action programme in different priority areas. SALTO stands for support, advanced learning and training opportunities.

The SALTO-YOUTH SEE RC aims to facilitate and increase the participation of the Programme's neighbouring partner countries of South East Europe in the Youth in Action programme. The Centre offers support and training for Youth in Action National Agencies and project organisers to promote cooperation and improve the quality of Youth in Action projects between Programme countries and the region of SEE.

The Centre's main activities include contact making and training activities organised in cooperation with National Agencies, training of volunteers in SEE within the European Voluntary Service (EVS) programme, accreditation of EVS project promoters in South East Europe and various support publications. The Centre works with the support of a network of 12 Youth in Action Contact Points in the countries of SEE.

More information is available on the SALTO-YOUTH SEE website: [www.salto-youth.net/see](http://www.salto-youth.net/see)



YouthPartnership

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Education and Culture