







Participation of young people in the process of the youth policy development

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INTRODUCTION

The idea of the seminar appeared within a group of members of SALTO Network of multipliers of Youth in Action Programme in Eastern Europe and Caucasus region. We came to a conclusion that opportunities for young people to participate in decision making process and influence policy making is very limited and youth policies in EECA countries are not meeting today's' needs and requirements of young people. Striking but the fact the share of young people in the EECA countries makes up nearly one third of population. Therefore we believe it is important to promote youth participation in the process of youth policy development and empower young people for participation. This is why we decided to organise a seminar where we can discuss the actual state of youth policies in EECA countries, to exchange experiences and best practices in participation of young people in the policy making process and to get acquainted with the experience of young people from the so-called new EU member states.

The aim of the seminar was to raise the level of youth participation in the process of youth policies development and implementation in the countries of Eastern Europe and Caucasus and adaptation of youth policies in the participating countries to the standards of Council of Europe and European Union using the experience of post socialist countries of the EU.

Objectives:

- To examine youth policy realities on national levels in the countries involved into the project;
- To provide comparative analysis of youth policies in the participating countries;
- To analyze compliance of the national youth policies with the CoE standards and recommendations:
- To develop recommendations for the governments of the participating countries for the development of national youth policies according CoE standards.
- To disseminate the results of the seminar among public officials and other stakeholders
 responsible for development and implementation of youth policies, youth NGOs and young
 people interested in youth policy.

Countries participated: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

Group composition/resource: 30 participants represented youth NGOs, NGOs working with youth, public authorities and umbrella organizations (incl. National Youth Councils), international networks. Participants were experienced in youth policy making on European level (Jan Husak from Be International and Czech Council of Children and Youth), elaborating and lobbying Law on volunteering (Anna Yegoyan from "Youth Initiative Centre" NGO of Gyumri, Armenia), working on recognition of youth work (Nerius Mignis from Free Learning Centre, Lithuania), participating in working on local strategy on youth (Michal Slachta from Regional youth Centre Kosice, Slovakia), involving youth in National Plan development (Michail Shalvir from The Youth Forum "New Moldova"), participating in developing national youth strategy (Ekaterina Sherer from Association of Young Leaders /Agency for Non-Formal Learning, Russian Federation).

COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF YOUTH POLICY

Participants of the seminar understand youth policy as:

Organizing and elaboration a whole set of actions, documents, strategies (local, national, international) that concerns youth, by involving and developing them

A strategy based on needs and interests of young people developed together with young people: setting the framework (legal, financial), implemented by young people and other relevant stakeholders, evaluated together with young people.

A mechanism, which has certain values, priorities and concrete actions implemented in cooperation and involvement of different actors (state, NGO, youth) and youth oriented.

Integral part of all well-been policies developed by young people (responsibility), for young people (based on their needs or realities), with young people (consulting and getting feedback).

The frame which defines or combines strategically fields of actions for young people and with young people through building and using living structures for fulfilling roles, objectives and aims codified into strategy which is based on aggregation of interests and needs of young people. It should insure control over capacities (financial, human, educational...) for its realization, which is supported by legal frame.

The institutional understanding of youth policy

Council of Europe

The objectives of youth policy are:

- a) to invest purposefully in young people in a coherent and mutually reinforcing way, wherever possible, through an opportunity-focused rather than in a problem-oriented approach;
- b) to involve young people both in the strategic formulation of youth policies and in eliciting their views about the operational effectiveness of policy implementation;
- c) to create the conditions for learning, opportunity and experience which ensure and enable young people to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part both in the labour market and in civil society;
- d) to establish systems for robust data collections, both to demonstrate the effectiveness of youth policies and to reveal the extent to which "policy gaps" exist in relation to effective service delivery to young people from certain social groups, in certain areas or in certain conditions:
- e) to display a commitment to reducing such policy gaps where they demonstrably exist.

REF: Experts on Youth Policy Indicators, Third and Concluding Meeting. Final report (2003) http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Source/Resources/Documents/2003_YP_indicators_en.pdf

European Union

The renewed EU strategy for youth - Investing and Empowering outlines the priorities for the EU youth policies. "The strategy would create favourable conditions for youth to develop their skills, fulfil their potential, work, actively participate in society, and engage more in the building of the EU project. Young people are not a burdensome responsibility but a critical resource to society which can be mobilised to achieve higher social goals". A new strategy is proposed with three overarching and interconnected goals:

- Creating more Opportunities for Youth in education and employment
- Improving Access and full participation of all young people in society
- Fostering mutual Solidarity between society and young people

REF: Commission Communication "An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering. A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities" (COMM 2009) 200 final 27.4.2009

The Youth Partnership

The purpose of youth policy is to create conditions for learning, opportunity and experience which ensure and enable young people to develop the knowledge, skills and competences to be actors of democracy and to integrate into society, in particular playing active part in both civil society and the labour market. The key measures of youth policies are to promote citizenship learning and the integrated policy approach.

REF: Siurala, Lasse (2005): European framework of youth policy (http://youth-partnership.coe.int)

National youth policies:

National youth policies were considered as:

- Context of the youth policies who are young people, how many of them, what are the
 main structures and actors of the youth policy, do young people have an opportunity to
 participate in the policy development
- Structures and actors of youth policy
- Opportunities for participations of young people for development of youth policy
- Leaislation on youth
- Any other thongs to add.

YOUTH POLICY REALITES IN THE COUNTRIES

Armenia – small country with a lot of youth NGOs

Youth in Armenia is defined as people aged 16 to 30 (840 000, 25% of population). The legislative frames development started by adopting State Youth Policy Concept Paper (1998), followed by Armenian Law on State Youth Policy (2004) and National Youth Report (2006).

The main state body responsible for youth is Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs, Youth Policy department (since 2002, 1998-2002: Department on Youth Affairs). There this Deputy Minister coordinating youth affairs. Centre of organizing youth activities as non-profit state organization has branches in all 10 regions (founded 2002). Since 2004 there are government officials responsible for youth in each regional administration. On legislative level there is Standing Committee of Education, Science, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports in National Assembly of Armenia. There is also Ministry of Diaspora, which involves young people from all Armenia and Diaspora by organizing festivals, youth activities and volunteering. Ministry is very active in youth affairs and sometimes Diaspora youth have more possibility as.

There is National Youth Council in Armenia. The process how it is formed and operated is unknown and only Members organization have opportunities to participate in youth policy development. Young people can participate in policy development, if they are involved in state bodies or youth branches of political parties. There are also some big organizations, trying to make research and to base their activity on needs of target group. There is no definition of youth organizations; all are under Law on NGOs. Youth NGOs can be recognize if they define youth as their target group. About 50% registered NGOs are dealing with young people (about 1 500 organizations).

Youth organizations can be supported by Pan-Armenian International Youth Centre Foundation. Some municipalities are supported so called social initiatives – it is available for all NGOs. Those working for youth can apply for small grants directly by Ministry (up to 3 000 EUR), but often there is a big political influence by division of these costs.

Azerbaijan – rigid procedures for registering a NGO

You should be in age of 14-29 to be young person in Azerbaijan; it makes 36% of 9 millions of populations. The Law on Youth Policy defines the objective youth policy as to make opportunity and positive environment for youth and to solve their social problems and protect their rights. Youth policy priorities include youth employment, state support for talented youth, youth participation in cultural life, youth health care, and state support for youth NGOs, and state support for young families. The main state body responsible for youth policy is Ministry of Youth and Sport; additionally there is Governmental Committee for NGO support. Representative body of youth is National Assembly of Youth Organizations (NAYOR), which unites 26 Members Organizations. There are 180 registered youth NGOs in the country, more than 200 not registered.

It is not so easy to register an organization in Azerbaijan, however, you don't need to be registered to work, but in that case there is no way to get governmental support. Ministry of Youth and Sports supports projects. There is no definition for Youth NGO, but some procedures should be fulfilled to be registered (7 founders of age 14-29).

Belarus – maybe we can use possibilities to participate, but motivation is already killed

Young people are 30% young people (defined age as 14-31) of 10,5 Mio population of Belarus. Main actor on national level is Department of youth affairs under the Ministry of Education (5 persons staff, recently it was Committee on Youth with ministerial status). There are local departments of youth affairs in each of the six administrative parts of Belarus. State Youth Policy is

defined as system of social, economical, political, organizational, legislative and other measures, aimed to support young citizens and promote development and realization of their capacity in the society. Law frames include Law about bases of state youth policy, Republican program Youth of Belarus and Law About public unions. State youth policy covers areas of promotion of patriotic behaviour among young people, promotion of healthy lifestyle among young people, state support to young families, assistance to young people for realization of their rights in labour market, state assistance in receiving education, state support of talented youth, assistance in realization of the right for union of young people, Assistance in development and realization of youth initiatives.

First NYC named RADA was created in 1997. In February 2006 Rada was closed by decision of court and nowadays juridical it does not exist. Official NYC is Belarusian Committee of Youth Organizations (BKMO), created in 2003. For the moment 38 NGOs are members. BKMO is recognized by state but exists mainly as decoration. BKMO is passive in youth policy development, RADA calls themselves as alternative youth policy project, is not registered, has no open information, does not interact with other actors of youth policy in Belarus nut still is the Member of EYF. BKMO is trying to become the Member of EYF. There are formal possibilities to participate in youth policy development, but the motivation is already killed.

There are 2225 NGOs are registered in Belarus. Among them only 195 are youth NGOs, which could be divided in 3 groups: pro-governmental (politically and financially supported), neutral (not presenting any political position), oppositional (hidden or clearly presented oppositional political position, in many cases not-registered). Communication and cooperation between these 3 groups mainly does not exist. There is no financial support to NGOs from the State institutions (only 2-3 organizations get support, 90% of fund go to one organization). Any other grants have to be registered in Department of Humanitarian Affair of administration of the President. Practically there is no foundation supporting actual youth participation and development of youth organizations.

Czech Republic – existence of stable structures and actors

Youth and children in Czech Republic are defined as children under 18 and youth under 26. Children and youth make 30% (13,5/10,5% - 1,6/1,4 millions) of population. Main body responsible for youth policy is Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Youth Department). The National Institute of Children and Youth (NIDM) is a specialist institute set up by the Ministry to facilitate state policy for the support and protection of young people. It focuses on issues in special-interest education, school activity in the special-interest field, the provision of training and organisational support for work with children and young people, and other pedagogical training.

Czech youth policy has a long tradition from 18th century, interrupted in time of communism. 1990-2005 is considered as period of consolidation and nowadays we can speak about existence of stable structures and actors. Conception on the state youth policy is based in UN Convention on the Rights of Child and EU White Paper on Youth. Law on volunteering was adopted in order to introduce European Volunteering Service and Law on Youth work is discussed for 20 years. Youth policy follows the principles of apolitical, educational, active citizenship and volunteering approach.

The Czech Council of Children and Youth is a national youth council established in June 1998. The Council integrates currently 98 children and youth associations with more than 200,000 individual members, which is 7-9% of young population. There is Youth Chamber as consulting body trying to use cross-sectoral approach. Participation in youth policy development is possible through structural dialog and through councils. Youth policy is working on local level, national and has connection to European level.

Georgia - law on youth under construction

Youth is Georgia is not defined by law; there is discussion on age limits 30 or 37. Main body responsible for youth is Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Monuments, which has Department of

Youth and Sports, Department has 2 units – for youth and for sports. Youth unit has good finances (up to 10 Mio a year), which are spent for one big project – patriotic summer camps. The camps give possibility fro young people to meet and have some common activities. Financial recourses are not allowed to spend for other matters, beside that Committee on Youth and Sport in parliament give possibility to discuss youth related matters for organized youth united in Youth Council. There is lack of funds on national level to support youth NGOs, however the Fund as structure exist. Main priorities for youth related issues are combating unemployment, drug abuse, giving possibilities for study and scholarships in Georgia and abroad.

There is National Council of Youth Organizations (NYC, Member of EYF) and a new umbrella structure called Youth Organization Forum of Georgia. National Council has to work on youth policy development and elaborating Law on Youth; Council also is involved in providing research on youth (together with municipality of Tbilisi), anyway only few from 24 member organizations are really active. Forum gathers 70 youth NGOs, is open for membership for any youth organization and is trying to involve young people in youth policy development.

There are 8 regional Youth Centres. 4 from 8 Georgian municipalities got youth departments, they have own financed and posses freedom in distributing them. E.g. the biggest department of Tbilisi (1|3 of population live in municipality of Tbilisi) has 100 000 EUR. Municipality of Tbilisi also funded Youth information centre.

Lithuania – strong connections between local, national and European level

Young people in Lithuania are aged from 14-29. Youth work and Youth NGOS are good developed; it starts from round table of youth organizations on municipal level. Round tables are participated in developing youth policy, from local level they can introduce their interest on national and then to European level. Every municipality has municipal coordination system on youth affairs. This system is proved and about 50% of municipalities use it successfully. Main document on youth is Law of Fundamentals of Youth Policy, it introduces direction and principles, defines youth organizations and associations working with youth. There is Youth Policy Strategy for 2010-2018 and National Program for the Training and Inducement of Youth Entrepreneurship adopted for the years 2008-2012.

The main actor on national level is Department on Youth Affairs under Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. Department prepares and implements state youth policy programmes and measures, analyses the condition of the youth and youth organisations in Lithuania, co-ordinates the activities of state and municipal institutions as well as agencies in the field of youth policy, carry out other activities related to youth and youth organisations. Financial support for youth goes through Ministry, yearly about 2 Million EUR for youth. Municipalities ($2000 - 350\ 000$) have own funds of $2\ 000 - 350\ 000$ EUR (depending on number of population).

National Youth Council is good in lobbying youth interests on national level; it unites municipal umbrellas (round tables) and big organizations (10% of young people are represented). NYC has direct funding from Ministry. If youth is not organized, there are low possibilities for participation in youth policy. Non-participation related 85% of young people.

Moldova – local youth councils more active as National Youth Council

Young people in Moldova are considered as in age of 16-30, it is 1/3 of population. The main state actors are Ministry for Youth and Sports and Ministry for Education, which are sometimes challenged by sharing competences. There are 2 relevant committees in Parliament for Social Protection of Youth and Families Science, Committees for Education and Youth Policies. There is Youth Centre in Chisinau. In every local unit should be a person responsible for youth. Moldova adopted Law on Youth based on Revised Charter on Participation of Youth People on Local and

National level. There are several other documents targeting youth affairs, but they are not synchronized.

Till 2008 there were not so much possibilities for young people to participate in youth policy development. In 2008 young people are involved in elaboration of new national strategy for 2008-2013, which gives input for increasing of level of participation. National strategy set priorities for youth as to facilitate free access to education, training and information; to develop health and social service for youth; to provide young people with entertainment skills and opportunities; to enhance the participation of youth in public life and promotion of active citizenship; to foster the institutional capacities in youth field.

National Youth Council has 30 members organization, however local youth councils are more active (there are about 100 and a half is very active). Local councils are not connected with National Youth Council. They work on local issues and have been supported with small grants by World Banc and UNICEF. There are about 8 000 registered NGOs working in youth sector, a small part of them is really active. Unfortunately the process of youth policy occurs only in capital.

Poland - youth policy doesn't looks too good, but not so bad as it looks

Poland - youth policy doesn't looks too good, but not as bad as it looks. People in age of 15-25 are young people, but the definition of youth organization gives different frames (15-30).

The main governmental actors involved in youth policy in Poland are: Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, local governments (local and regional youth councils), Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE). FRSE works under the supervision of Ministry of National Education.

There is not one document which defines the state policy for young people in Poland. The ministries in charge with youth and responsible for the implementation of youth policy objectives are considered to be main actors in this field. In order to clarify the issue, those departments which are directly assigned with the tasks involving young people, are chosen.

The most recent Law adopted in 2003 called Polish Youth Strategy for the Years 2003 - 2012 is out of dates now and a new legislation relevant to EU Membership, such as A renewed framework for EU cooperation in the youth field 2010-2018 is now required. Nowadays Ministry of National Education leads public consultation to establish National Youth Council.

A pull of 100 000 EUR per year creates possibility to give finances for youth projects mainly directed to NGO's working in Youth and education sphere, but the amount is way too small to fulfil needs. There is a NGO called "Polish Youth Council" which unites 14 different organizations. There are also 2 student councils, which are more effectively involved in youth policy development.

Activities related to the identification and organization of knowledge available for youth are implemented by the Polish National Agency of "Youth in Action" program, which serves as an active institution by supporting the development of non-formal education in Poland, in particular through support for people and organizations involved in youth work, as well as creating space for dialogue between youth communities and the structures of decision-makers in the youth, at the national, regional and local levels. One of the priorities of the National Agency is also identifying, organizing, supplementing and updating of knowledge on issues important to young people.

Russia – in some regions financial support for youth are bigger as those on national level

Young people in Russia are aged from 14-30, it makes 27% of population (39,6 Mio). There are federal, regional and local levels in Russian Federation. As in federation the regions have more freedom to develop their own policies and programmes. The main state actor on federal level

responsible for youth is Ministry of Sport, Tourism and Youth Policy and Federal Agency on Youth Affairs. The National Youth Council consist on regional round tables, the members also are Russian and interregional organizations. The councils have influence on state policy. There is a Commission on Youth Affairs in State Duma (parliament), consist on celebrities but not policy makers, so it gives not so much opportunities for participation, There are same Committees in regional level, departments or one person responsible for youth in department of education. On municipal level there are people responsible for youth, but not every time as separate staff.

Youth NGOs were involved in elaboration of Youth Policy Strategy and in new law (Youth Policy Strategy is defined till 2013, law is not adopted). Youth organizations are involved in elaborating the Law, there is a lot discussion on what about is should be. Beside the fact, that the law on youth isn't adopted, some regions developed their own law based on Strategy.

It is difficult to register youth NGOs: procedures are too complicated for young people, but still it is possible. There is no mechanism for funds for youth, but youth NGOs can participate in state tenders and apply for presidential grants as every other NGO.

In general young people have more opportunities to participate on local level, but it is different in regions. In some regions financial support for youth are bigger as those on national level, other are not so reach.

Slovakia - Youth policy does not depend on weather

Young people in Slovakia are defined as for age 13-30. The main state actor is Department on Children and Youth under Ministry of Education, which coordinates youth policy on national level. Government Council on Children and Youth is the advisory, coordinating and initiating body of the Government working on inter-departmental level. Slovak Youth Institute is directly funded by Ministry. Its area of work concerns work with youth outside school and family and youth policy in Slovakia and outsides as well. Main Law is Youth Act, which defines young people, NGOs, youth work, volunteering, non-formal education etc. All relevant documents from Council of Europe and the EU were introduced in Concept of Youth Policy 2008-2010. Law on life long education is prepared. The main theme areas of the Slovak Youth Institute's activities emanate from priority themes of youth policy: youth participation in the life of the village, school, region; youth volunteering development; human rights education; non-formal education in the field of youth work; inclusion of young people with lack of opportunities into society.

3 regional Youth Centres are responsible for implementation of youth policy on regional level. They are new element in the structure of the regional youth policies (from 2006). They are public bodies founded by regional self-governments (only in 3 regions from 8) and their main area of responsibility includes the coordination of the all institutions participating in the implementation of youth policy in the region (schools, educational and social institutions, civic associations, counselling services, municipalities etc.), but they also initiate and promote the process of implementation of youth policy and provide educational opportunities for youth workers.

The Youth Council of Slovakia (RMS) is an umbrella organization of children and youth organizations. It unites organizations with various targets regardless of political, religious, national and ethnic status. There are also Regional Councils with main task is to associate children and youth organizations working in the individual areas and to help to create suitable conditions for full development of children and youth. 8 Regional Councils are created only 3 are really working. Youth organizations have special financial support (ADAM) mechanism. National and regional youth councils as well as other NGOs are supported through ADAM and local mechanism. Every year there is special budget line for youth.

Ukraine – no set structures for stabile participation

It is hardly possible to get any statistic on youth related issues. The web-site of the Ministry on youth and sport issues does not provide this data. The data provided below was found on Wikipedia and dated 2006. Thus the encyclopaedia says that the number of young people in Ukraine decreased from 1991 till the end of 2006 on 766 thousand persons - from 16173,5 to 15407,5 thousands persons. Nevertheless the share of youth in the general number of permanent population of increased from 31,3% to 33%. Ukraine. The majority of young people lives in urban areas -10 927,0 thousands and 4 480,5 thousands persons in rural areas (2006). At the same time the Law of Ukraine "On the national programme for support young people for 2004-2008" dated 2003 with the amendments of 2005 gives the number of young people of 22 million persons which is 22,6 percents of the total number of population of Ukraine.

The age limits for young people was changed for several times. The Declaration "On basic principles of youth policy in Ukraine" dated 1992 the age limits were set as 15-28. In 1993 the Declaration was amended and the age limits were set 14-28. At present the age limits is 14-35 years old.

The characteristic features of young people in Ukraine are (2006):

- Young people aged between 14 and 35 made up 15 407 522 persons approximately 1/3 of population;
- 70 % of young people live in urban areas, 30 % in rural;
- There are approximately 2 million of young families and approximately 600 thousands live in rural areas:
- 100 thousands of young people are officially registered as unemployed;
- There are 2 709 161 students of 340 higher educational establishments;
- Approximately 5 % of young people participate in civil movement;

Main state actor is Ministry on Family, Youth and Sports, which has a special Department on Social Development of Family, Children and Youth. Relevant substructures are developed on regional/local level:

Public authorities

National public authorities

Ministry of Ukraine on family, youth and sport issues is responsible for implementation of the National youth policy. State Social Service for family, children and youth – Implementation of the State youth policy

Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field.

Regional departments on Youth and family issues and Regional Social Service for family, children and youth are the state vertical agencies. Implementation of the State youth policy

• Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field.

Municipal Departments on youth issues (may be united with other competences). In general implement state youth policy, but also have competences to extend/improve their activities and pass amendments through local councils. The activities of local authorities are very diverse depending from the region.

Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)

Social services are probably the main priorities of the work of the Ministry. The most disputable issues and the most expected by young people are Youth employment services and Youth loans for housing.

The network of the State Social Service for family, children and youth issues is developed and a Centre for social services for family and youth issues exists in each town and settlement. The regional centres for social services do not work directly with children and young people and have only administrative functions. Operation of the centres on local level is again very different but mostly the centres do week informational activities and provide psychological consultations.

There are also state employment centres for youth and the state guarantee provision of the first working place for the period of 2 years after finishing school, graduation from higher educational establishments and/or finishing military service.

There are several youth councils in Ukraine, one of them (National Youth Council) is associate member in EYF. There are no local youth councils, but 114 youth NGOs registered in Ministry, the number of not registered is up to 2000. Up to 5% of young people participate in NGOs.

There is a long list of legislation acts (of them 20 are laws) regulating youth field. The main of them at the moment are: Declaration "On general principles of youth policy in Ukraine" dated 1992, Law of Ukraine "On the national programme for support young people for 2004-2008", The law "About youth and children's NGOs" - required 2/3 of Members should be young people on age 14-20. Over 20 legislative documents mention young people in the text, The law "On social work with children and youth", The law "About contribution to social formation and development of youth". Each 5-7 years a Programme for young people is developed. To date the national doctrine of youth policy is developed and presented. Besides Ukraine ratified a number of International conventions and charters related to the youth field.

Some Youth NGOs can introduce their interest on local level – it strongly depends on situation in region/municipality. There are no examples of systematic participation on national level and no set structures for stabile participation. National youth NGOs can apply for funds by ministry, but it is only exclusive club of NGOs. Municipal level is various – in different municipalities it is possible to get support in amount from 500 to 5000 EUR.

YOUTH POLICY REALIES IN THE COUNTRIES: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Legal frames Special features	Armenian Law on State No definition for youth Youth Policy NGO, about 50% of registered (1 500) are dealing with youth issues.	Law on the Youth Policy Rigid procedures for NGO registration	Law about the Bases of Youth NGOs divided as Youth Policy neutral and oppositional	Conception on the State Youth policy is working Youth Policy on local level, national and has connection to Law on Volunteering European level.
National Youth Councils – local youth councils	National Youth Council – Arm non-transparent, unknown You for young people. No local youth councils	National Assembly of Youth Law Organizations (NAYOR) No local councils	Belarusian Committee of Law Youth organizations (BKMO) You recognized by state, RADA as illegal but member of EYF	Czech Council of Children Con and Youth Your Regional Councils Law
Local structures	Centres of organizing youth activities, branches in all regions. Officials responsible for worth in each	region No	Youth Departments in every districts	Departments of Youth and Sports on regional level
Main state structures responsible for youth	Youth Policy Department under Ministry on Youth and Sport. Pan-Armenian international Youth Centre Foundation	Ministry of Youth and Sports Governmental Committee for NGO support.	Department on Youth Affairs under Ministry of Education, in every district there are small departments. Recently there was Committee (as Ministry), it was better, but now it is cancelled.	Youth Department under Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Youth Chamber National Institute on Children and Youth
Age of young people defined by law	16-30	14-29	14-31	Children under 18, youth 19- 26
country	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Czech Republic

100	country	Age of young people defined by law	Main state structures responsible for youth	Local structures	National Youth Councils – local youth councils	Legal frames	Special features
Ge	Georgia	Not defined	Department on Youth and Sports (youth unit) under Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Monuments	Youth Departments in 4 municipalities 8 regional Youth Centres	National Council of Youth Organizations (member of EYF) Youth Organizations' Forum of Georgia	Law on Youth still considered	Municipalities have more freedom as Ministry
<u>될</u>	Lithuania	14-29 Youth work and Youth NGOS are develope d.	Youth Department under Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour	Local municipal coordination on youth affairs.	National Youth Council (LIJOT) Round Table of Youth Associations on local level	Youth Policy Strategy Law of Fundamentals of Youth Policy	Good connection between local, national and European level
No.	m.	16-30	Ministry for Youth and Sports Ministry for Education Youth Centre in Chisinau	Person responsible for youth in every local unit	National Youth Council (30 Members) Youth local councils (not connected to the NYC) are more active, 100, 40-50 are active.	Law on Youth	Youth policy occurs mainly in capital
Pol	Poland	15-25	Department of Youth and Sports under Ministry of Education Foundation for Foundation for the Development of the Education System	ON	ON	Polish Youth Strategy, Law on Youth is under construction	Establishing National Youth Council in the process

country	Age of young people defined by law	Main state structures responsible for youth	Local structures	National Youth Councils – local youth councils	Legal frames	Special features
Russian Federation	14-30	Ministry of Sport, Tourism and Youth Policy	Committees, Departments or	National Youth Council	Strategy on Youth Policy	Some regions are more successful in youth
		Federal Agency on Youth Affairs	one person in Department of	Regional Round Tables	Law on Youth is not adopted.	policy as institutions on federal level
			Education on regional level.		On regions are local laws based on Strategy.	
			Person responsible for youth policy on municipal level		i	
Slovakia	13-30	Department on Children and Youth under Ministry of Education.	3 regional Youth Centres	National Youth Council (umbrella organization)	Youth act	NFE is recognized by
				(Concept of Youth Policy	
		Institute of Youth		Local youth councils		
					Law about LrE is prepared.	
Ukraine	14-35	Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport, Department of Social Development of	Regional departments of	National Youth Council	Declaration "On general principles of youth policy in	No stable mechanism for youth policy
		Family, Children and Youth	youth,	Fragmental on local level	Ukraine"	development and participation
			Independent municipal department of		The law "About youth and children's NGOs",	
			youth.		The law "On social work with children and youth";	
					The law "About contribution to social development of youth".	

STATEMENT DEBATES ON YOUTH POLICY ISSUES

DDO	NEUTON	CONTRA
PRO The main die	NEUTRAL	CONTRA
 The main dir Officially it is supposed to be defined by the state, so official statement should go from government. Youth policy is not autonomous, it should be a part of state policy, and state policy is integral part of global policy. There is a framework on policy in general, and state should have a form and to follow it. that is responsibility of government to take care even when the young people don't want to be active 	- The state should be active involved, because they set priorities for country development, it should be going together with consultations with young people.	- Youth should take part in decision making, should have a floor It is not only the state – it should be like ideal model of CoE,
L.	is a need to have a separate policy for	young people
 Youth has special interest and needs and separate policy can fulfil this. It is important to invest in young people and they can become valuable resource, they are in age of to be invested. 	Youth policy can take resource from other policies, but as youngster I can take privilege from youth policy.	 There is no need to separate youth policy from education or sport. And the ministries are constructed such way. All the policies have to be together, we cannot separate youth policy from other policies.
Youth pol	licy is necessary to control your	ng people
 If there are no rules, there is easy to break something, like anarchistic movement, who will destroy. If you have no control, it should be like in Greece. Control is understood as negative. Lack of control means anarchy. Now we have no anarchy in our 12 countries. It means we have control. We don't like control, but the other reality is – that this control exist. 	 to have control in meaning that something is happening with young people, e.g. combating racism. This statement gives floor to discuss. I thing youth policy is a set of opportunities, maybe small tools of controlling too. 	 Youth policy is a tool to facilitate the development of a country, but not to control, maybe to give directions. Control is to laud. The meaning of control is to see, how they spend free time, how they develop. Youth policy is a tool to empower and to develop critical thinking. Youth policy should to show different alternatives, but not to make the people to fulfil this. Youth policy should encourage young people to do different things. You can control without policy. Frames could be created without policy. Control someone its close for me to manipulations, If we

- suppose that policy can control something, we know from history, that good policy could be abused, beside of good aims
- Nice dimension is that the young people have possibility to control the government

Provision of reinforced social financial benefits is a sort of control

- There are priorities, and you are controlled by making conditions to work in certain priorities.
- People who are at the "no" site, they believe in values. If I were lived in other country, I would believe.
- Who is paying is ordering the music.
- Some organization has ideology (as my), that we will not apply for state money, because we don't want to play this music.
- It is a sort of control, but sometimes we miss this control, because they have no capacity even to guide this. Especially the EU doesn't care from quality of projects, but on quantity. It is like Soviet Union let's show that we are doing a lot.
- Money is a tool for my activity and my decision. When money will become more as tool, so then I will be controlled.

- if government offers, it's up to us if to use it it is no control
- if something is proposed in some directions, it doesn't mean that I have to use this.
 Control means, that I have to do in this direction. In reality I'm pending on state founding, but it is my decision. It is not controlling, but guiding.

Youth activities should be fully financed by government.

- I know how government is formed and what it is doing and I don't want to use this money, but we are using the money of American tax payers. I'm just thinking, why not to use own money, when I will not use this, maybe some other will and make other things.
- if we are talking about control is one-site control. We don't trust to the government, but ideal situation will be, that I as citizen can control government, why not to finance youth organizations from our taxes?
- It would be nice when government will provide money for all the projects.
 States and EU are using our money.
- Ideal situation is, when private money and companies are giving money for young people. And maybe ideally we will not need budget money but have something like solidarity in distributing money for young people.
- Ideally it should go from government, businesses and also from your beneficiaries – the people should be also ready to pay.

Participation of youth organization in division of budget funds makes them corrupt and they take care on money not on youth policy contexts.

- Each person dealing with the money sometimes will be corrupted and take more care on money.
- very often NGO's become very good business for some people. Money is the tools for use lobbying their interest and they are corrupted, they don't care about output of the projects.
- I participated on base of rotation, but some bodies are all the time there. If the people are constantly, they really care about money
- if you want to take governmental money... it is very complicated process, it takes more time to submit application and to make report, you have no time to do the projects, I have the feeling that the people are working for money, not for realizing projects
- If we will not participate, we have no right to claim, because in fact we prepare chairs for corrupted people.
- Youth NGOs should fight for money, not for project. We

 It is important to have division of the power; it is only the way to have division of people, who circulate the power. It is only way to share responsibilities.

	have to stay for transparent process. Now it is very complicated.	
It is impossible to be	youth policy maker if you don't work d	lirectly with young people
- You have to be connected to young people somehow; you have to deal with young people.	 You should at least have background of working with youth. To be youth policy maker you don't need to be youth working at the moment. 	 Policy is not the effect of work of one person. It could be people who are not involved, that could be some economists or from administration, but in this group should be some people working with youth. Youth policy should be developed also by researches, which only analyse the reality. Not to be subjective. Youth policy should be reflected by other people too.

Full agreement on statement that Non-formal youth groups influence the youth life more then policy makers

NEEDS, PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Problems and needs of young people in well-being:

no place to live / housing, social security, financial support for young families, social care, protection of rights, safety and security, equal opportunities, gender equality, social security

Problems and needs of young people in finances, stability, employment:

Lack of money, no work, no money, migration, job, financial independence, employment, financial challenges

Expectations from society:

to gave career, not to stay young fro e long time, to be independent, to make good budgeting, to help family, to work, to earn a lot of money legally, to solve global crisis, to be able to solve problems, taxes, business achievements,

Problems and needs of young people in self-confidence

closed, no clear future, purpose of life, no advice, lost, no direction, self-orientation, independence.

Expectations from society:

to care about the future, no show up.

Problems and needs of young people in emotional comfort

space for expression, freedom of expression, self-realization, space for self development, support, no support, emotional support, psychological support.

Expectations from society:

to be nice, to hide personal troubles, to create heterosexual family.

Problems and needs of young people in environmental issues

safe environment, safety and health environment, clean environment.

Expectations from society:

to care about environment.

Problems and needs of young people in information

lack of access, lack of information (were to find it), lack of opportunities, no alternatives, not informed, internet, communication, information opportunities;

Expectations from society:

up-to-date with new things.

Problems and needs of young people in free time

meaningful and not meaningful leisure, sports, free time opportunities, expensive entertainment.

Problems and needs of young people in participation

taking responsibilities, political representation, participation in decision making, be useful, to be heard, to be taking into account.

Expectations from society:

to show initiative, to be responsible, to be active, to be a good citizen, to be responsible for what you do, to be active in social life, to be initiative, to contribute to society, responsibility.

Problems and needs of young people in intergenerational relations

to high expectations from adults, conflict of generations, norms, social rules, traditions. *Expectations from society:*

to create a family with own children, to have sex after marriage, to take care of parents later, to support parents, to obey, to create family, keep traditions, to respect, to be able to listen, to be thankful, to follow the rules, not to be disturbed, don't speak up, young people will safe the world, to listen to adults and to respect adults, to accept community rules, to practice religion, to be proud about the country.

Problems and needs of young people in **mobility** mobility, travelling, exploring the world Expectations from society: to be flexible

Problems and needs of young people in health care

health care, healthy way of life, specific individual support, HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, alcoholism. *Expectations from society:*

demographic rise, healthy generation, to live healthy, no drugs, family and reproduction, to live normal way of life.

Problems and needs of young people in education

job skills, limited in foreign languages, social skills, free education, expensive education, socialization and education, no experience, lack of competences / gaining competences, language, sex education, education.

Expectations from society:

education, to be educated.

Problems and needs of young people in socialization

sense of belonging, relationship, expels to follow / role models, peer pressure, friends, community of friends around, to be recognized, appreciation, lack of recognition from adults, need to belong to the group, respect, trust.

Expectations from society:

no crimes, obey the rules, to respect and follow law, patriotism, to behave, to be polite, to be tolerant, to respect the community.

How these issues are reflected in national youth policies:

All these matters are fully reflected in <u>Slovakian</u> youth policy, and there is also space for *culture*. Culture as well as **youth in the world** is also included in <u>Czech</u> youth policy, but psychological and intergenerational staff is missed. There is nothing about *mobility, well-being, self-confidence* and emotional comfort in <u>Belarus</u>. In new <u>Polish</u> strategy access to *information* should be improved – in fact there are a lot of possibilities but young people are not aware. *Environment, self-confidence and intergenerational relations* should be more important for <u>Lithuanian</u> youth policy. Some of these issue are also reflected in <u>Russian</u> youth policy, like *self-confidence* (talented youth), *health care* (other body responsible), *free time* (at local level), but *patriotism* is also important. <u>Azerbaijani</u> youth policy is mainly focused *on well-being* and finances. Similar situation is in <u>Ukraine</u>: *emotional* and *self-confidence* issues are missing, *mobility* not mentioned. <u>Armenia</u> has big space for *Diaspora* issues; *participation* is not separate topic, rather as a tool; nothing on *intergenerational* issues. Some of most important issues are present in <u>Moldova</u>, a lot is not mentioned, some are poor mentioned and don't work, e.g. *free time* is not integrated, *mobility*, *self-confidence*, *emotional comfort* not mentioned, *education* (*NFE*) pure developed, any *environmental*, *intergenerational*, *well-being* issues.

REASONS FOR LOW INFLUENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON YOUTH POLICY

Problem:

Why influence of youth is low?

Reasons:

- 1. no mechanism how to influence
- 2. no interaction experience between young people and policy makers
- 3. no research
- 4. lack of professionals in youth policy
- 5. no political will
- 6. youth field is not a priority
- 7. young people don't believe they can influence
- 8. lack of information on opportunities to participate

Problem:

Young people don't believe they can influence

Root causes:

- 1. no information:
- 2. they don't have relatives, family support;
- 3. wrong education system (education do not teach how to take decisions, don't provide field for experience);
- 4. no self-confidence;
- 5. they have never tried;
- 6. other preferences (work, money);
- 7. no goal;
- 8. not successful attempts (bad experience from the past; too big changes at once; too high goals);

Problem:

No experience on interaction between young people and policy makers

Root causes:

- 1. new concept;
- 2. no will, motivation to get experience;
- 3. there is no competent leading body (e.g. recognised national youth council);
- 4. no equal relationships for all NGOs;
- 5. there is no mechanism to involve young people to develop common position;
- 6. rotation of young people and policy makers;
- 7. no role models / best practices;
- 8. lack of education / information;

Problem:

No research

Root causes:

- 1. no experience, research leads to new challenges;
- 2. politically not profitable;
- 3. no complex research;
- 4. no interest communication gaps between researches, no interest from state / youth organizations;
- 5. different understanding of research / applicability of research;
- 6. no understanding of the importance of the research;
- 7. youth organizations do not see such need (consider themselves to be the most clever);
- 8. lack of finances;

Problem:

Lack of information on opportunities to participate

Root causes:

- 1. there are only few specific mechanisms how to inform (specific media for youth sector: internet sites, magazines);
- 2. no opportunities to all;
- 3. no preparation of informed and active youth workers as a channel of information;
- 4. the schools do not informed about opportunities;
- 5. no general public debate on youth policy;
- 6. parents are not aware of opportunities for participation of youngsters;
- 7. lack of promotion on youth participation issues and examples of good practices by the relevant bodies (political parties, committees, municipalities etc.);
- 8. young people are not a priority for state in decision making process;

Problem:

Youth field is not a priority

Root causes:

- 1. the results are not available in a short period
- 2. politics couldn't earn money in this field
- 3. politicians are mainly old people
- 4. politicians don't understand or don't want young people to specify problems
- 5. mentality, stereotypes
- 6. lobbying
- 7. not organized youth mass
- 8. the main percentage of people who can vote consist on adults.

Problem:

No political will

Root causes:

- 1. manipulation is easier
- 2. politicians are afraid not trustful of active youth
- 3. youth is very diverse difficult to find approach
- 4. no direct impact on economical growth
- 5. changing very fast, spontaneous
- 6. stakeholders hardly to identify
- 7. conflict of generation
- 8. procedures are too complicated

Problem:

No mechanism how to influence

Root causes:

- 1. not enough financial resource
- 2. official structures do not offer any mechanism
- 3. young people do not know how to create mechanism by themselves
- 4. young people do not feel need to create mechanism
- 5. the are to many different ways how it should work or how to create it
- 6. there are less organizations for lobbying
- 7. disappointment
- 8. not enough human resources and capacities.

Problem:

Lack of professionals in youth policy

Root causes:

- 1. lack of awareness of youth needs and problems
- 2. no tradition of youth work and youth policy
- 3. youth issue are not mainstreamed in society
- 4. lack of sharing best practices and adoption to local level
- 5. lack of education in concrete fields (formal and non-formal)
- 6. insufficient funding
- 7. lack of quality standards
- 8. fast change of generations, no transferred knowledge and experience.

RECCOMENDATIONS

For raising involvement of young people in youth policy development

Following the conclusions of discussions and group work, participants of the seminar wish to highlight following recommendations on youth policy development in the areas of non-formal education, youth research, professionalism of youth policy, motivation of young people and disseminating of information.

Non-formal education

We need a bright scale of actors involved in promoting non-formal educational (NFE) approach. NFE activities are necessary as supplementary programmes during school time and as extracurricular activities. Higher educational institutions should introduce a course on NFE approach in teachers' training. NFE also needs more investments, which correlates with the issue of recognition. Public authorities, non-governmental organizations, youth institutions and educational institutions, as well as international donors and media should keep more attention for promoting, supporting and developing non-formal education in all the spheres of youth life.

Youth research

Youth organizations, NGOs, international donors and research institutions have to develop partnership in order to provide systematic and complex youth research in each country and on international level. As youth research is a new filed, it needs to be standardized and supplement by innovative methods. Sharing good practise and using social networks, taking experience from academic institutions and non-governmental actors working in youth field will be helpful and bring inspiration for elaborating approach. Complex youth research will create fundamental basic for raising professionalism in youth policy; it should be applicable to realities and helpful by defining youth policy approach on European, national and local level.

Professionalism of youth policy

In order to increase the level of professionalism in youth policy we need to launch consultations with relevant actors in order for sharing best practices from different countries and adopt best experience from the countries with similar history. This may allow creating common base for understanding of the sense of youth policy and the role of youth work for involving youth in policy-making process. Despite of institutional differences in youth affairs for each country, we need to create common European tradition of youth policy / youth work, to develop common standards and approaches to be recognized not only by international, but on national / local level.

Motivation of young people

Youth policy makers, youth workers and public authorities should invest more in involving young people in decision making process, to explore their needs and interests and develop youth policy strategy according to reality of youth. Youth centres and educational institutions should be the main place for youth integration; however these institutions should work on inclusion strategy, taking in account the needs of unorganized youth, informal groups and youth organizations. Young people should see clear connection between youth policy process on European, national and local level. Exchange of best practises, implementing project approach and non-formal educational methods in youth work will create good basic for increasing motivation of young people and visibility of youth policy process.

Disseminating information

The young people, especially those not organized in youth organizations, often feel a lack of information about possibilities to participate in decision making process. Information youth centres should elaborate more various methods for disseminating the information, to involve as multipliers youth leaders, teachers, local politicians, NGO, donors, media, parents and local community leaders. Informational materials should be created in a language understandable for youth (also in easier one), also by using of new media and introducing attractive design. As the biggest part of youth population is not represented by youth organizations (up to 85-95%), the firs step for inclusion

should be secured access to information and possibility to use it in order to needs and interests of youth people.

Intergenerational relations

Young people feel the request from society to be aware on the issue of intergenerational relations; however their interest and needs should be discussed. There is a need to work on special approach by involving different generations in exchanges, trainings, seminars and debates. Intergenerational dialogue is a proper tool for raising youth participation in policy development, giving good value for youth voice and raising role of young people in decision making. There is a need to explore the topic of intergenerational relations through the media by giving space to hear the point of view of others as well as to be heart.

Participants of the seminar also would like to highlight special recommendations for main youth policy stakeholders as National Youth Councils, youth NGOs, youth workers and youth institutions, politicians and local authorities responsible for youth.

National Youth Councils and Youth NGOs are recommended to take measures in order to present youth policy as profitable policy field for political stakeholders by disseminating good practices and presenting valuable role of political actors in youth policy development. There is the need to convince politicians systematically to participate in development of harmonized youth policy, to raise young people participation in political events and to find relevant approach in order to involve unorganized youth in policy development process.

Political actors and civil servants responsible for youth and education should give more value for youth policy development; it concerns founding and managing of support structures as youth centres, youth information centres and training institutions, especially in the countries, were youth policy is still in transition. It relates also recognition of non-formal education and youth work, intercultural learning, participation and inclusion. By elaborating effective mechanism in these matters launching consultations with young people is strongly recommended.

Youth workers and youth institutions/organizations should take care on presenting role models and developing good practices in youth affairs, studying experience from different countries, launching consultations on international level and developing ability to transfer and to adopt experience to own realities.

These recommendations are the output of group work and plenary discussions, which included mapping of needs, interests and challenges of young people and expectations from society, defining young people interests and priorities, defining stakeholders and formulating recommendation for improvement of involvement of youth in youth policy development process.

PLANS FOR FUTURE

In order to follow the recommendation and needs of the countries participants of seminar proposed following plans for future activities and cooperation:

- **Armenia**: to organize workshop / seminar for youth and municipal authorities in 3 northern regions in Armenia, to speak about youth policy issues, opportunities and possibilities.
- **Azerbaijan**: to present a model of NFE to Ministry, to gain new experience and information how to do it. To start research on intergenerational issue.
- **Belarus**: to get together as many as possible NGOs and other stakeholders and organize working group on elaborating proposals; to make research on possibilities of research
- **Czech Republic**: to report about this seminar, we will share; to bring youth to topics on youth volunteering and structured dialogue
- Georgia: to organise seminar with SALTO and bring municipalities and youth NGOs, to bring experience on establishing cooperation between stakeholders and organize structured dialogue. It will be organized with SALTO and Tbilisi city hall.
- **Lithuania**: impact at local level training for local authorities and youth for improving youth policy.
- **Moldova**: Organize dialogue with authorities (national and other, then with local authorities), international best practice exchange between governmental actors from other countries; to try organize research on youth policy.
- Poland: active involvement in creating NYC and to promote this idea among organizations, esp. local. Euro-2012 should be a good platform for NGOs to promote the idea of active participation.
- **Romania**: to inform people from high schools to take part in youth policy and to be more active in organizations
- **Russia**: support NFE through information (web-site as a platform); lobbying in NYC the youth event (2012 Ministerial conference, the reason to start from local level and to prepare it)
- **Slovakia**: to organize meetings with NGOs, youth / student councils, young people to share information of seminar and to draft future plans
- **Ukraine**: to organise some forum of youth NGOs and to involve organizations from local and national level.

.... and internationally

- youth exchange in Lithuania on youth participation (YiA)
- Volunteering Forum of CIS in Minsk (April 2010)
- Youth exchange between schools councils (idea from Russia)
- International seminar in Tbilisi for municipal authorities and youth NGOs (8 countries, 24 pax)
- Study visit / seminar in Czech Republic and Slovakia on best practice in youth police developing
- Study visit for Armenian group in Slovakia
- Follow up TC for youth leaders in Lithuania for local leaders and policy makers
- TC on research of impact of NFE on youth (YiA, idea to be discussed)
- Sharing best practise seminar in Moldova (to be discussed)

Contributions to the seminar (Youth Policy WG of Network of Multipliers of Youth in Action Programme in Eastern Europe and Caucasus):

- 1. Yaroslav Aleynik from League of Youth Voluntary Service: facilitation
- 2. *Olga Artsyuh* from Fialta: programme design
- 3. **Yaryna Borenko** from European Dialogue Society: programme design, input on policy making/ international level of youth policy & reporting.
- 4. **Andriy Donets** from Donetsk Youth Debate Centre: organizing, programme design, facilitation and reporting.
- 5. *Giorgi Kakulia* from Academy for Pease Development: facilitation
- 6. **Nerius Mignis** from Free Learning Centre: facilitation
- 7. **Andriy Pavlovych** from SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre, input on EU youth policy.
- 8. **Ekaterina Sherer** from Association of Young Leaders/ Agency for Non-Formal Education: input on European youth policy, programme design & facilitation
- 9. Anna Yeghoyan from "Youth Initiative Centre" NGO of Gyumri : program design; facilitation

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Lithuania

Moldova
Poland
Russia
Slovakia
Ukraine

Participation of young people in the process of the youth policy development: 10-17th of March 2010, Donetsk, Ukraine.

Reporter: Yaryna Borenko, Andriy Donets

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