

YOUTH LAW

Section I General provisions

Article 1. This law determines the main principles, management and financing of the activities conducted for implementation of the state youth policy.

Article 2. The state youth policy is purposeful and consistent activity of the state, municipalities, youth organizations and society and aims at establishment of favourable conditions to complete personal growth of youth and their participation in social and economic life as well as their involvement in the governance at local, regional and national level through activities encouraging youth's development in the country.

Article 3. The main principles of the state youth policy are:

1. Legitimacy, visibility, equality in rights, purposefulness, system method and succession of state, municipality and society policies for the growth of youth.
2. Coordination of youth policies in the field of education, social policy, health services, culture, sport, justice, internal affairs and defence.
3. Coordination of state youth policy with youth policies implemented within/by the European Union, Council of Europe, United Nations Organization.
4. Integration of policies for children and youth
5. Guaranteed participation of young people in the formation of youth policy
6. Freedom of associating of young people, freedom for youth initiatives, self-government of youth organizations
7. Decentralization of youth policies.

Section II Formation of youth policy

Article 4. (1) State youth policy is implemented by the Council of Ministers through the Minister of Education, Youth and Science and in conformity with the National Youth Strategy.

(2) The National Assembly adopts the National Youth Strategy after the proposal of the Council of Ministers.

(3) The Council of Ministers puts forward the Strategy under paragraph 1 in the National Assembly after proposal of the Minister of Education, Youth and Science.

(4) The National Youth Strategy determines long-term objectives and priorities of the

state youth policy of the Republic of Bulgaria for a period of 10 years.

(5) The National Youth Strategy contains:

1. analysis of the challenges in front of the youth policy
2. the main and specific goals and priorities of the state youth policy
3. activities for reaching strategy's goals
4. activities related to supervision, evaluation and updating of the strategy.

Article 5. (1) The National Assembly ratifies annually an Annual Youth report after proposal of the Council of Ministers.

(2) The Council of Ministers puts forward the Annual report under paragraph 1 in the National Assembly, developed by the Minister of Education, Youth and Science till 30th of April.

(3) The Annual report reflects the changes in social-economic situation of young people from the beginning of the activity of the National Youth Strategy as well as the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the Strategy for the current year.

(4) The Approved Annual Youth report is published on Internet site of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science.

Article 6. (1) In pursuance of the National Youth Strategy, the Council of Ministers adopts annually till 31st of March, Annual plan for the implementation of the National Youth Strategy after proposal of the Minister of Education, Youth and Science.

(2) The Annual plan under paragraph 1 is developed on the bases of collected and summarized information for activities and initiatives in the youth field, gathered from the relevant central and territorial bodies of the executive power.

(3) The Minister of Education, Youth and Science coordinates and manages the development and implementation of the Annual plan.

Article 7. In pursuance of the National Youth Strategy, the Council of Ministers adopts National Youth programmes after proposal of the Minister of Education, Youth and Science.

Article 8. (1) The Minister of Education, Youth and Science controls the implementation of the National Youth programmes.

(2) Financial recourses for implementation of the National Youth programmes are planned annually by the State Budget Law for the relevant year.

(3) The provisions for funding projects under National Youth programmes are set up by Regulation of the Minister of Education, Youth and Science coordinated with the Minister of Finances.

Article 9. The Minister of Education, Youth and Science:

1. Coordinates the activities of the central and territorial bodies of the executive power in pursuance of the youth policy;
2. Interacts with youth organizations in implementation of the state youth policy

3. Manages, organizes and coordinates programmes and projects in the youth field;
4. Promotes youth volunteering;

Article 10. (1) In the implementation of the state youth policy, the Minister of Education, Youth and Science is supported by National Youth Advisory Council.

(2) The National Youth Advisory Council:

1. takes positions on drafts legal acts and strategic documents related to youth policy.
2. proposes measures for reaching the objectives of the state youth policy
3. debates other questions also related to conducting the youth policy

(3) The structure of the Council includes:

1. Deputy-minister of Education, Youth and Science, Deputy-minister of Economics, Energetics and Tourism, Deputy-minister of Labour and Social policy, Deputy-minister of Health Services, Deputy-minister of Culture, Deputy-minister of Internal Affairs, Deputy-minister of Justice, Deputy-minister of Regional Development and Public works, Deputy-minister of Finances, Deputy-minister of Physical Education and Sport, Vice chairman of the State Agency for Child' Protection
2. Representative of the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria
3. Representative of the National Representation of the Students' Councils
4. One representative from each nationally representative youth organization

(4) The names of the staff of the Council are fixed by written order of the Minister of Education, Youth and Science after proposal of the leader of the relevant administration or organization under Article 3.

(5) Chairman of the Council is the Minister of Education, Youth and Science or an authorized by him Deputy-minister of Education, Youth and Science

(6) The National Youth Advisory Council can also invite to its meetings other experts in the field of youth policy.

Article 11. The Minister of Education, Youth and Science issues Rules of Procedures for the work of the National Youth Advisory Council.

Article 12. The administrative service of the National Youth Advisory Council's activity is provided by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science.

Article 13. District governors ensure the conducting of the state youth policy on the territory of the relevant district as they:

1. Work in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science and youth organizations registered on the territory of the relevant district when topics concerning youth policy are considered.
2. Analyse the situation of the youth in the relevant district and formulate priorities, specific objectives and measures for development of the regional youth policy.
3. Confirm and coordinate Annual district youth plans.

Article 14. (1) District governor summarises the municipal youth plans for the relevant district.

(2) District Youth Plan sets the objectives and priorities of the regional youth policy in accordance with the National Youth Strategy.

(3) District Youth Plan contains:

1. Analysis of the changes in front of the in the relevant field;
2. Priorities and specific objectives for conducting the regional youth policy and measures for reaching them;
3. Description of joint activities which help for achieving the objectives of the National Youth Strategy;
4. Organization and coordination of the activities for achieving the objectives;
5. Activities for monitoring and evaluation of the district youth plan;
6. The way for ensuring information and publicity of the plan.

(4) Annually, till 1st March, the district governors submit the approved District Youth Plans to the Minister of Education, Youth and Science.

Article 15. (1) Mayors of municipalities are in charge of conducting the municipal youth policy in compliance with the state youth policy

(2) The Mayors work in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, district governors and youth organizations when issues related with youth policy are considered.

(3) The Mayors make analysis of the situation of youth in the municipality and work out a draft of the Municipal Youth Annual Plan.

(4) Annually, till 31st of January, the mayors submit to the district governors information about the planned and implemented activities directed to young people on the territory of the municipality.

(5) Mayors carry out municipal plans and programmes for youth policy and coordinate their implementation.

(6) When conducting municipal youth policy mayors can be supported by Municipal Consultative Councils dealing with youth issues and established by resolution of the municipal council.

Article 16. (1) Municipal Youth Plan is adopted by the Municipal Council after proposal of the Mayor of municipality and after confirmation to the Municipal Consultative Council on youth issues whereas such is established.

(2) Municipal Youth Plan determines the objectives and priorities of the municipal youth policy as well as financial resources for its realization, in accordance with the National youth strategy.

(3) Municipal Youth Plan contains:

1. Analysis of the changes in front of the young people in the relevant municipality;

2. The priorities and specific objectives for conducting the municipal youth policy and the measures for achieving them;
3. Description of joint activities which help for achieving the objectives of the National Youth Strategy;
4. Organization and coordination of the activities for achieving the objectives;
5. Activities for monitoring, evaluation and modernization of the municipal youth plan;
6. The way for ensuring information and publicity of the plan.

SECTION III

Youth Activities

Art. 17 Youth work is an organized activity or initiative which aims to present, protect and develop the interests and needs of the young people.

Art. 18 (1) The State and the Municipalities encourage and facilitate the implementation of activities and services for youth, which consist of:

1. informational and counselling services to support the personal, social and career development of the young people;
2. activities aimed at supporting young people in their successful professional and life realization;
3. activities for the organization of leisure time;
4. encouraging non-formal education to broaden the knowledge, experience and skills of the young people for their adherence to the values of civil society, science, culture, arts, entrepreneurship, healthy lifestyle, security of road transport and prevention of juvenile of young people;
5. activities in support of youth volunteering.

(2) Individual approach is applied in youth work and evaluation of the specific needs of young people and the peculiarities of adolescence.

SECTION IV

Youth Organization

Art. 19 (1) Youth organization is a voluntary association of persons for implementation of youth activities where not less than 70 percent of them are aged from 15 to 29 years,.

(2) Minors may be members of youth organizations with the explicit agreement of their legal representatives.

Art. 20 (1) Youth organizations can be established as non-profit legal entities, registered under the terms and procedures of the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act or as organized youth structures in the terms and procedures of special laws.

(2) For youth organization is considered an association of youth organizations established under the terms and procedures of the Non-profit Legal Persons Act.

Art. 21 Development of youth organizations is encouraged and supported by national, municipal, European and international programs and projects.

Art. 22 National Youth Representative Organization is a youth organization which members are not less than 900 physical persons and operates on the territory of not less than 30 percent of municipalities in the country.

Art. 23 (1) Youth organizations that meet the requirements of Art. 22, are entered in the list of the National Youth Representative Organization.

(2) The list of National Youth Representative Organization is published on the website of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science.

Art. 24 (1) The registration of youth organizations in the list of National Youth Representative Organization is made on their request.

(2) The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science conducts procedure for registration of a National Youth Representative Organization.

Art. 25 (1) Youth organizations wishing to be included in the list of National Youth Representative Organization, submit to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science a written application form approved by an order of the Minister of Education, Youth and Science.

(2) Additionally to the application should be applied:

1. data for the applicant – name, type, location and address; constitution, certificate of actual status or an equivalent document certifying the legal status of the applicant;
2. evidence of activity on the territory of not less than 30 percent of municipalities in the country;

3. list of members of the youth organization, containing the names, personal identification number, permanent address and handwritten signature of not less than 900 members.

Art. 26 (1) The Minister of Education, Youth and Science appoints by order the commission that examines the submitted documents under Art. 25.

(2) For clarification of the facts and circumstances for including in the list under Art. 23, the Commission may require from applicants additional documents and verification with the originals of the presented documents.

(3) The Commission, based on the requirements of Art. 22 and documents under Art. 25 submits to the Minister of Education, Youth and Science position with a proposal for inclusion of the youth organization in the list or for refusal.

Art. 27 (1) Based on the proposals of the Commission, the Minister of Education, Youth and Science enacts an order for inclusion or for rejection of inclusion of the youth organization in the list of national representative youth organizations.

(2) The order under par. 1 shall be subject to appeal under the Administrative Procedure Code.

Art. 28 (1) The inclusion of the youth organization in the list of the nationally representative organizations is for a period of 3 years.

(2) After the deadline under par. 1, youth organization may once again make an application for including in the list under art. 23.

(3) In cases under par. 2, the Commission makes a proposal to the Minister of Education, Youth and Science under Art. 26, for rejection of second inclusion in the list of the National Youth Representative Organization when youth organization no longer meets the requirements of Art. 22.

Art. 29 The list of National Youth Representative Organization is updated after each order of the Minister of Education, Youth and Science for inclusion or exclusion from the list.

Art. 30 National Youth Representative Organization shall notify the Minister of Education, Youth and Science within thirty days of their occurrence when changes have occurred in the circumstances under art. 22.

Art. 31 (1) The Commission makes a check-up under Art. 26 on a National Youth Representative Organization when information about changes in circumstances under Art. 22 has come and in case of reasonable doubt regarding the authenticity of documents submitted by under Art. 25.

(2) The Commission works out position to the Minister of Education, Youth and Science with a proposal to exclude the youth organization from the list of National Youth Representative Organization, when it is proven that it doesn't meet any longer the requirements of Art. 22.

(3) In cases under par. 2, the Minister of Education, Youth and Science issues an order to exclude the youth organization from the list of nationally representative organizations.

SECTION V

Youth Worker

Art. 32 Youth worker is an adult person who has passed special training for work with young people and/or who has acquired professional experience to work with young people and to implement youth activities.

Art. 33 Youth worker supports the youth organizations' work such as analyzing, planning, organizing, monitoring and evaluating the youth policy based on individual approach and assessment of specific needs of the young people.

Art. 34 The national and the municipal youth programs include activities in support of the development and specialized training of the youth worker.

SECTION VI

Youth Volunteering

Art. 35 Youth volunteering activity is a socially useful activity performed for free by the young people in Republic of Bulgaria or in another country under programmes and initiatives in the field of social, youth, sport and other socially significant activities.

Art. 36 The State and Municipalities encourage the youth volunteering activities through national and municipal youth programs.

Art. 37 Youth volunteering is performed on the bases on the principles:

1. free choice;
2. free of charge;
3. personal responsibility;
4. equality;
5. respect for life, health and dignity of the volunteer.

Art. 38 Minors implement volunteer activity with the written agreement of their legal representatives only.

Art. 39 (1) Minor volunteers cannot be assigned to activities that are prohibited or restricted for certain categories of persons because of their heavy, dangerous or harmful effect on mind and body under existing legislation.

(2) When implementing youth volunteer activity by minor volunteers, the organizer of the activity provides them a qualified adult supervisor.

Art. 40 (1) Youth volunteers – citizens of a member state of the European Union, European Economic Area and Switzerland Confederation implement youth volunteering in terms of Bulgarian citizens.

(2) Out of the cases under par. 1,` young volunteers can obtain a residence permit in the Republic of Bulgaria for youth volunteering in accordance with the Law on Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 41. (1) Youth organizations introduce and popularize best practises for youth voluntary activities.

(2) Annually, till the end of February, youth organizations submit in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science information for best practises of youth voluntary activities.

(3) Information under paragraph 2 contains description of youth voluntary activity, venue and period of conducting, number and age of the young people-volunteers.

Article 42. When carrying out youth voluntary activity, any volunteer receives instructions for safety labour or relevant specialized training from the organizer of the event.

Чл. 43. Upon request of the young volunteers, the organizer issues document certifying volunteer's participation.

Section VII

National Youth Information System

Article 44. (1) The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science creates and supports National Youth Information System in order to ensure up to date information about the needs of the young people in the country as well as for planning, supervision, management and evaluation of youth policies at national, district and municipality level.

(2) National Youth Information System contains:

1. data bases for youth organizations in the country;
2. list of National Youth Representative Organization;
3. surveys about the situation of youth, analysis and assessments for conducting youth policies at national, district and municipal level;
4. national and European documents, related to the implementation of youth policies;
5. up to date information about possibilities for funding of youth activities.

(3) National Youth Information System is generally accessible through the internet site of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science.

Article 45. Youth organizations which apply for financing under national and European youth programmes are obliged to be registered in data base under Article 44, paragraph 2, p.1.

Article 46. (1) Youth organizations register in data base under Article 44, paragraph 2, p.1. by submitting application in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science

(2) Along with the application form they should apply:

1. data for the youth organization – name, type, location and address; copy of constitutive act, certificate of actual status or equivalent document certifying the legal status of the applicant;
2. short description of the activity of the youth organization

Article 47. Youth organization which data have been changed under Article. 46, paragraph 2, p. 1, is obliged to notify the Minister of education, youth and science in thirty days period from their change.

Additional provisions

§ 1. Under this law young people are people between 15 and 29 years old.

§ 2. Provisions of this law are applied for minors as far as they don't contradict to the Law for political parties, Law for child protection and Law for persons and families.

Final provisions

§ 3. The Council of Ministers puts forward in the Parliament a draft of National Youth Strategy in two months period after the law comes into force.

§ 4. In two months period after the law comes into force the Minister of Education, Youth and Science issues the Regulation under Article 8, paragraph 3 and the Statutes under article 11.

§ 5. The law comes into force from the date of its publishing in the Official gazette.

The law is adopted by 41 Parliament on.....2012 and it is stamped by the official seal of the Parliament.

CHAIRLADY OF THE PARLIAMENT: (Tcecka Tcacheva).....