

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



European Union
Union Européenne

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN CYPRUS

1. Context of national youth policy (give a brief assessment of youth policy in your country (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies ...))

During 2010 the Youth Board of Cyprus has fully accomplished its goals in regards to the permanent structure and departments. This year is the first, since the Board's establishment, that all permanent staff has been employed, including Senior Officers, Officers, Accountant Officer and Secretarial staff. In August 2009 the Council of Ministers appointed the new Administrative Board, for the next 3 years (until 2012). The Members of the new Board are the following:

- Mr. Andreas Vyras President
- Mr. Nemos Koutsokoumnis Vice-President
- Mr. Charalambos Papayiannis Member
- Mr. Nicos Violaris Member
- Mr. Savvas Lazarou Member
- Mr. Charalambos Stavrides Member
- Mr. Constantinos Stylianou Member

Concerning the process of an overall assessment of Cyprus Youth policy, the findings in the "Conclusions of the Council of Europe - International Review" in respect to "...many competing and often contradictory perspectives, inconsistent and often incomplete information"¹ are still valid, though a significance progress has meanwhile been accomplished. A major goal for the following period should be the establishment of a National Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy which will operate as a local Network between actors and structures that engage in drafting, applying and diffusing youth policies and activities. The latest since Cyprus' accession to the European Union, there has been a larger-scale tendency in the development of youth policies, both by states and non-state agents. Additionally, the since February 2008 new President of the Republic of Cyprus has stated his firm commitment to upgrade the social role of the young generation, establish a state of social justice and face challenges concerning youth unemployment, juvenile offense, social marginalization and disengagement. Most notable are the constant steps in the direction of a full implementation of the education reform with an overall increase of a total 12.5% by the developmental expenses of the ministry of Education, the €12 million subsidy package for students and the very successful government school bus scheme.

2. Statistics on young people

Mention the number of all young people from the ages of 13 and 30 who live in the country

(if you do not have statistics covering this age range, please give the number of young people specifying the age range used)

- Number of Young People from the ages of 10 to 30²
 - o 240.800³ (in a total population of 796.900)

¹ Daniel Menschaert et. al. (2007), Youth Policy in Cyprus: conclusions of the Council of Europe: International review, Published by the Council of Europe, 2007. p. 5.

² Following the statistical model of the Statistical Service of Cyprus, data available covers the age range of 10 - 29.

³ Source for all data in section 2: Statistical Service of Cyprus, Population by Age and Sex, End 2004 – 2006. Last updated 29/09/2010.

http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/index_en/index_en?OpenDocument Access on 22nd October, 2010.

- Number and Percentage of young people in global population:
 - o $240.800 / 796.900 = 30.2\%$
- Number and Percentage of young people by gender in global population:
 - o Female: $120.000 / 796.900 = 15.05\%$
 - o Male: $120.800 / 796.900 = 15.15\%$
- Number and Percentage of young people by gender in young people global population:
 - o Female: $120.000 / 401.900 = 29.85\%$
 - o Male: $120.800 / 395.000 = 30.58\%$

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

[Ministry in charge of youth](#)

- Ministry of Education and Culture⁴
- Minister: Dr Andreas Demetriou
- Duration of mandate: Until February 2013

Youth Department in the Ministry

Youth Department at the Ministry – The Youth Board of Cyprus⁵ (Legal Entity of Public Law under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture)

The Youth Board of Cyprus, which succeeded the Central Youth Agency, is the actual National Agent on youth issues. It was established by virtue of Law 33(1)/94, unanimously enacted by the House of Representatives in April 1994. Its first Governing Board was appointed in June 1994. The Administrative Board is appointed for a 3-years term and consists of seven members. The Minister of Education and Culture acts as the liaison between the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Council of Ministers. The Board's budget is covered by State subsidy. The Youth Board of Cyprus is a legal entity of public law (Semi-Governmental organization) independent of the civil service, with its own structure and staff, mainly composed of officers and associates employed on a contract basis. It aims at promoting progress and prosperity for all young people of Cyprus, regardless of religion, ethnic and racial origin. It also strives to promote young people's active participation in the social, economic and cultural development of the country and Europe.

- Main tasks of the Youth Board of Cyprus

The Youth Board handles issues in the following fields of Participation, Volunteerism, Evaluation of youth policy, Youth information, Positive lifestyle, Prevention, Campaigns, Employment and International Cooperation. The Youth Board plays in big part an advisory role, but it also realizes programs concerning the youth field after an approval by the Council of Ministers. As an advisory body, the Administrative Board of the Youth Board of Cyprus submits recommendations in relation with the drafting of a complete youth policy aiming to achieve its objectives. The Minister of Education and Culture has the authority to give directives to the Administrative Board that he is regarding as necessary.

⁴ <http://www.moec.gov.cy>

⁵ <http://www.youthboard.org.cy>

- *Number of people who work at the Youth Board of Cyprus*

By the year 2010, the Youth Board of Cyprus has reached its highest employment status of the employees. More specifically, the personnel of the Youth Board consist of 75 persons: 29 permanent employees out of 29 approved in the 2010 Budget, 3 timeworkers and 43 Associates (outsourcing of services). During 2010, the Youth Board of Cyprus has employed its own Accounts Officer.

- *Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy:*

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Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

- Other Ministries⁶

Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural resources and Environment, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Finance.

- Offices
 - Cyprus Theatre Organisation (semi-governmental)⁷
 - Cyprus Sports Organisation (semi-governmental)⁸

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

- Name

The Parliamentary Committees of Education and Culture, Labour and Social Insurance, and the Committee on Crime and on Fight against Drugs and Addictive Substances are basically or partially responsible for youth issues.

- name of president / chair

Education and Culture Committee: Chairman: Mr Nikos Tornaritis.

Labour and Social Insurance Committee: Chairman: Mr Pambis Kyritsis.

Committee on Crime and on the Fight Against Drugs and Addictive Substances: Chairman: Mr. Yiannakis Thoma.

- role and competence

Education and Culture Committee: deals with matters relating to education, training, science, art, cultural activities, sports, youth work, copyright, and financial aid for students.

Labour and Social Insurance Committee: handles issues of employment, working conditions and social insurance.

Committee on Crime and on the Fight Against Drugs and Addictive Substances: deals with issues of criminality and use and trade of addictive substances.

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

N/A

Describe the structure of authorities on the regional (or federal) (existing institutions and their competencies and mandate; relation with national authorities in charge of youth and with EU institutions).

⁶ For a detailed illustration of programs and activities provided by each body see Youth Policy in Cyprus (2005), Supplement A: Programs of Ministries and Semi-Governmental Organizations related to Youth.

⁷ <http://www.thoc.org.cy>

⁸ <http://www.sportskoa.org.cy>

N/A

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Describe the structure of authorities on the regional (or federal) and local level (existing institutions and their competencies and mandate; relation with national authorities in charge of youth and with EU institutions).

On a local level, municipal and community authorities are themselves involved in youth issues. Depending on their size, municipal and communal bodies may be engaged themselves in the drafting of local youth policies and the development and application of youth activities.

Municipal and Community Youth Councils

Additionally to the local authorities, 2010 saw the empowerment of youth initiative on a local level with the continuation of the ongoing improvement and upgrading of the respective Municipal Youth Council institutions. At the same time, various events and activities (cultural, athletics, informative campaigns, etc) aiming both at youngsters' engagement and entertainment and their involvement in public affairs, were held. During 2010, the Youth Board of Cyprus supported financially the Municipal / Community Youth Councils for their numerous activities. To the present day, 19 municipal and one communal council have been established.

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

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

Please explain the structure of youth welfare services in your country and mention the major implementing institutions.

1. Commissioner for Children's Rights of the Republic of Cyprus⁹

The institution of the Commissioner for Children's Rights of the Republic of Cyprus has been established by the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights Law, 2007 [Law 74(I)/2007] of the Republic of Cyprus, which came into force on 22/6/2007. Pursuant to Law 74(I)/2007, Ms Leda Koursoumba was appointed first Commissioner on 29/8/2007 and assumed her duties on 6/2/2008. The Commissioner is an independent institution and deals exclusively with the rights of the child and whose competences and obligations are prescribed by law and its mission is to protect and promote the rights of the child. The Cyprus Commissioner participates in the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) which is a non-profit association of independent children's rights institutions. Its mandate is to facilitate the promotion and protection of the rights of children, as formulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹⁰

⁹ http://www.childcom.org.cy/ccr/ccr.nsf/DMLindex_en/DMLindex_en?opendocument

¹⁰ <http://www.unicef.org/crc>

2. The Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA)¹¹

The Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA) is a non-governmental, nonprofit, voluntary organization in Cyprus aiming to protect and ensure the reproductive and sexual health of all people living in Cyprus. The association provides services to the public since 1971 and is a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), European Network. The CFPA provides high-quality informational, educational and clinical services in an accessible and affordable manner, especially to the marginalized people. In 1996, members of the association formed the Youth for Youth group, which consists of young volunteers.

3. The Pancyprrian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children (PCCPWC)

The PCCPWC was formed in 1994 by the District Committees working on children's issues since 1979, with the aim to coordinate all district and national activities, namely Children's Week and Children's Festival. Today, the PCCPWC developed into the national body working towards the full implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of the child and advocating for children, both within Cyprus and abroad. In pursuing its aims, the PCCPWC established the Annual Pancyprrian Conference on the Protection and Welfare of Children, established, regulated and funds the Cyprus Children's Parliament, comprising 56 elected children, issued Position Papers on different serious issues concerning child protection and welfare, has become an active member of Eurochild^{aishbl}, of the International Forum for Child Welfare and of the European Anti-Poverty Network Participated in different EU and national programs investigating and tackling serious children's issues and problems.

3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

Mention and describe non-public actors/structures who are directly or indirectly involved in youth policies, and have influence in the policy-making process and in the decision making process.

3.3.1 Youth councils

Describe the national youth council. Please refer to its role and objectives as well as to its composition (who is a member). Please mention if there are youth councils on other geographical levels and describe their role. Please refer to their objectives and give a link to their website (=contact person)

1. Cyprus Youth Council (CYC)¹²

The CYC is the Youth Council of Cyprus. It was founded in 1996 and is a full active member of the European Youth Forum. It currently hosts 51 Member Organizations, political and non- political NGYO from both communities of Cyprus, all religious

¹¹ <http://www.cyfamplan.org/FamPlan/page.php?pageID=1&langID=13>

¹² <http://www.cyc.org.cy>

minorities, and foreign students living in Cyprus. The CYC was formed to promote co-operation between youth organizations in Cyprus and youth organizations in Europe and the world. It is described as a voluntary, non-profit association open to youth organizations in Cyprus, guided in its actions by the principles described in the UN Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights. The CYC of Cyprus was established in 1997 when the need came up for Cyprus youth civil society to participate in the European Youth Forum, as it is stated in the Conclusions of the Council of Europe international review¹³. The CyCIC has 40 youth NGOs as members, including 3 Turkish Cypriot and 2 bi-communal NGOs.

2. The Advisory Bodies of the Youth Board of Cyprus

According to the Youth Board of Cyprus Law No. 33(1)94, the Board consists of 4 Advisory Bodies in which youth organizations and youth sections of other organizations participate. These are: the Political Committee, the Students' Committee, the Trade-Union Committee and the General Advisory Body that comprises of 44 youth organizations

3. Youth Centres

The Institution of the Youth Centers has been established in 1969 and developed during the 70's. Youth Centers are Community Organizations with voluntary establishment aiming at the progress and well being of the youth of their local community. At present, 105 Centers operate and organise activities, events, and seminars for counseling purposes. By 01/01/2008, the Youth Centers became administrative independent. During 2008, the Youth Centers Cyprus Organization (KOKEN)¹⁴ was established. KOKEN operates as a private non-profitable organization and is now the highest rank coordinating body of the Youth Centers. It has legal responsibility over its Centers – Members and is the competent agent for determining how each Center is supported. Also, it is responsible for the establishment of new Centers or for the termination of those already in effect.

4. The Pancyprian Federation of Students' Unions (POFEN)¹⁵

The Pancyprian Federation of Student Unions (POFEN) was established in 1973 by hundreds of democratic Cypriot Students in Greece and Cyprus who fought against oppressors of the Greek junta and dictatorship. The Federation before POFEN was already in the hands of fellow dictatorship students. Through the years, POFEN, related her name with the democratic struggles of the Cyprus people for independence, peace and the reunification of our small island. Since 2003, the Federation was renamed to POFEN.

5. The Pancyprian Coordinating Students' Committee

This Committee is the representing body of Cyprus High School Students. Its administrative board comprises of 10 elected members from technical and high schools of all Cyprus. Its role has been substantially upgraded and the body is experiencing a notable amount of acknowledgement through the Cyprus state and the present government since its election in 2008.

6. The Cyprus Children Parliament¹⁶

¹³ Menschaert, D. et. al. (2007), Youth policy in Cyprus, Conclusions of the Council of Europe, international review. P. 35. http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Source/IG_Coop/YP_Cyprus_en.pdf. access 22/04/2009.

¹⁴ <http://cyco.org.cy>

¹⁵ <http://www.pofen.net>

¹⁶ For a brief presentation see <http://www.yppnetwork.gr/parousiaseis/3.cyprus.pdf>

The *Cyprus Children's Parliament* was established in 2000. Starting as an annual session of representatives of High School Students from all over Cyprus, with the support of the President of the Parliament, it was decided that the annual event during which a group of children occupied symbolically the seats of the members of our Parliament, should develop into a formal session in imitation of the normal sessions of Parliament and under his own Chairmanship. The next step was to set up the Children's Parliament as a standing body, in operation throughout the year and not only as an event of Children's Week. In the following three years, the Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children (PCCPWC) trained volunteer "coordinators" who worked with the students at district and national level to create the new permanent institution of the Cyprus Children's Parliament. The work of the district groups and plenary sessions of the Children "Parliamentarians" was usually related to the theme of the annual Children's Week, in which students actively participated.

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Please mention the most relevant youth NGO's which are not members of the national youth council. Please refer to their objectives and give a link to their website (=contact person)

1. Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council¹⁷

The Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council was founded in 1973, when there was a need for coordination among the voluntary organizations, development of policy for the voluntary sector, social policy consultation with the voluntary sector and cooperation with governmental authorities. Recognizing the vital role of the Council, the State decided to provide a legal framework [the Pancyprian Welfare Council Law (152/89)] for its operation. In 2001 it was recognized that there was a need to further upgrade the legal framework of the Council in order to respond to its role and mission more effectively. In 2006, the House of Representatives passed a new legislation that governs "the establishment and function of the Pan-Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council" (PVCC), which represents the continuation of the Pan-Cyprian Welfare Council (PWC).

2. The Young Volunteers Cyprus - YVC¹⁸

The Young Volunteers Cyprus is a registered charitable institution. Members are children between the ages of 4 - 18 years of age. The main objective of the YVC is to encourage volunteerism with the involvement of the whole family and through this, to offer community service. The objectives of the initiative include involvement of children in voluntary activities from an early age, awareness of social and health problems etc. For the past 5 years, together with parents, the Young Volunteers Cyprus have been involved in voluntary activities, both of fundraising nature through the organization of charity events and of community service to those who need help. The YVC started with a group of 20 children from 5 different schools in Nicosia and Paphos and today numbers over 1200 children from elementary and high schools all over Cyprus.

¹⁷ <http://www.volunteerism-cc.org.cy/>

¹⁸ <http://youngvolunteers.net>

3.4 Other structures

Expert groups, permanent networks etc.

Please mention permanent structures in the field of youth research; (Example: Researchers or research groups who are regularly involved or consulted in youth related topics on a national or regional level)

N/A

4. Legislation

Please explain the legal foundations of national youth policy / actions concerning youth.

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

In the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus there are numerous references concerning all people of Cyprus in both constitutionally established communities, the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish-Cypriot. It is therefore self-evident that these references affect young people as well and concern all basic rights and freedoms, e.g. the right to life and corporal integrity in Article 7 (Appendix D, Part II). More specific references exist in relation to concrete provisions concerning age. Neither, though, is there a definition of such a term like “young people” or “youth”, nor there is an explicit usage of such an expression. In relation to age, the following examples of evidence explicitly refer and affect young people:

- in Article 11 in connection to provisions about deprivation of liberty
- in Article 18, par. 7 in connection to the freedom of religion
- in Article 20 with reference to the right for education
- in Article 22, par. 1 in relation to “*Any person reaching nubile age...*”

National legislation on youth

National legislative actions that lay down the foundations of a national youth policy or initiate the establishment of institutions whose main tasks include the promotion of youth issues refer to the following:

1. The Youth Board of Cyprus

The Establishment of the Youth Board of Cyprus: The Youth Board of Cyprus was established by virtue of Law 33(1)/94, unanimously enacted by the House of Representatives in April 1994. Its first Governing Board was appointed in June 1994. The seven-member Governing Board consists of a representative from the youth organizations of each political party with a parliamentary team in the House of Representatives and other members are appointed directly by the Council of Ministers. The Minister of Education and Culture acts as the liaison between the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Council of Ministers.

2. Commissioner for Children's Rights of the Republic of Cyprus

The Institution of the independent **Commissioner for Children's Rights of the Republic of Cyprus** was brought into being pursuant to the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights Law, 2007 (Law 74(I)/2007) which came into force on 22/6/2007.

The Commissioner is appointed by the Council of Ministers and is an independent institution which deals exclusively with the rights of the child and whose competences and obligations are prescribed by law. The mission of the Commissioner is to protect and promote the rights of the child.

3. Establishment of Private Universities

Since Higher University Education was until lately an exclusive right of the state, the approval of Legislation 109 (I)/2005 by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus which permits and regulates the establishment and operation of Private Universities in Cyprus, should be seen as a major step that explicitly affects young people. The "Private Universities (Establishment, Operation and Control) Law 109(1) of 2005" entered into force on July 29, 2005. The first private Universities in Cyprus began their operation after a respective decision by the Council of Ministers on 12th September 2007. These are the Frederick University, the European University of Cyprus and the University of Nicosia.

4. OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON YOUTH ISSUES

I. Criminal code, Cap. 154 Section 14 provides that:

"A person under the age of fourteen years is not criminally responsible for any act or omission. A person under the age of fourteen years is not criminally responsible for an act or omission, unless it is proved that at the time of doing the act or making the omission he had capacity to know that he ought not to do the act or make the omission. A male person under the age of fourteen years is presumed to be incapable of having carnal knowledge".¹⁹

II. "The Relationship of Parents and Children Law of 1990 (216/1990)" includes provisions for the guardianship and juvenile property administrator. The Court has an important role in the relationships of parents and children.²⁰

III. "The Treatment of Drug Addicted Juveniles and Convicted Persons in Detoxification and Rehabilitation Centers Law of 1990 (57(1)/1992)".

Section 5: This is the most important section of this Law. It provides for the issuing by the Court of a Juvenile Treatment Order. The Court issues the above order on the basis of an affidavit made by the juvenile's guardian.

Section 6: It provides that a nolle prosequi is entered for the period during which a juvenile is undergoing medical treatment unless the Attorney General decides otherwise. In cases involving juveniles, consent must be given by a guardian because juveniles have no will of their own and full understanding of the consequences of their actions regarding their health and future.²¹

¹⁹ For a detailed illustration of the Cyprus Crime Prevention Strategy see Nicolaidis Panayiotis for Chief of Cyprus Police (2007). http://upload.eucpn.org/stratdocs/eucpn_crime_prevention_strategy_Cyprus.pdf

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

IV. Children’s Law, Cap. 352 as amended by Law 64(I)/2007 and particularly section 5(2) provides the following:

*“The owner of the entertainment place is obligated to assure that a person under the age of seventeen does not enter the cabaret, even if he / she is accompanied by a parent or a guardian”.*²²

V. “The Sale of Intoxicating Liquors Law”, Cap. 144, as amended by Law 83 (1)/1998, and particularly Section 5A provides among others the following:

(1) No person shall sell, distribute or supply any person with any intoxicating liquors either for consumption on the premises or place as the case may be or for any other reason without a written proof that the person is over the age of seventeen.

(2) No person under the age of seventeen shall take or consume any Intoxicating liquors.²³

VI. “The Places of Entertainment Law 29/85” as amended by Law 65(I)/2007, addition of a Section 19A, which states the age limit (seventeen) for an entrance in Places of Entertainment (including cabarets).²⁴

VII. “Combating of trafficking of persons and sexual exploitation of children Law 3(1)/2000”: Under this law the following acts are being made offences:

- a. Sexual exploitation and ill treatment of minors (under 18)
- b. Trafficking of minors for purpose of sexual exploitation
- c. Marketing of pornographic material using children (under 18)²⁵

VIII. “The Police Regulation No. 5/18” entitled: Interrogation and Handling of Cases Involving Juvenile Offenders explains the ways in which the Police handle juvenile offenders in accordance with the provisions of the Juvenile Offenders Law, Cap. 157. Explanations are given for the procedures which are followed by the Police for Children under the age of 14, as well as for Young Persons between 14 – 16 years of age who are involved in various offences. Additionally, the abovementioned Police Regulation includes a paragraph entitled: Reports which states that Police have the responsibility of informing the Statistics and Research Department regarding cases in which juveniles are involved.

IX. Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

- Law on Domestic Violence 119(I)/2000 as amended by Law 212(I)/2004
- Children’s Law, Cap. 352
- Law on Combating Trafficking of Persons and Sexual Exploitation of Children (3(I)/2000)²⁶

X. Hooliganism and Violence in Athletic Fields

- Relevant Offences at Sport Events, Law 1994. L.5 Par. 1/1994, which among other things it prohibits the entrance in athletic fields for persons who have an antiathletic social behavior and break the above mentioned Law.²⁷

XI. Protection during Work

- Council Directive 94/33 / EC of June 22, 1994, on the protection of young people at work was implemented in Cyprus by virtue of the **Law on**

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

Protection of Young Persons at Work 48 (I)/ 2001 and thus the employment of children is prohibited except for the purpose of:

- a) vocational or occupational training, or
- b) in cultural, artistic, sports, or advertising activities provided that such employment is approved by the Minister of Labour under certain circumstances.²⁸

- XII. “Law on the Prevention of the Use and Dissemination of Narcotic Drugs and Other Addictive Substances” was enacted in 2000, providing for the establishment of the Cyprus Anti-drugs Council, the supreme coordinating mechanism responsible for drug policy. Specific regulations also provide for the creation of the Cypriot National Centre for Documentation and Information on Drugs.
- XIII. “**The Education and Training of Children with special Needs Law of 1999 - 113(1) Law**” has set one objectives to ensure the proper application of the legislation and the safekeeping and protection of the rights of people with special learning difficulty/dyslexia in Cyprus
- XIV. Law that ratifies the Optional Protocol to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (Law 6(III)/2006)
- XV. Additional Protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (Law 22(II)/2006)
- XVI. Law that ratifies the Convention of the Council of Europe in Cyber Crime (23/1/2001) (Law 28(IV)/2004)
- XVII. The Council of Europe Cyber Crime Convention, Law 23(III)/2004 additional Protocol to the convention criminalization of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through.
- XVIII. A Law to combat trafficking of persons and sexual exploitation of children (Law 3(I) of 2000)
- XIX. **Family Right:** In Family Law, a series of amendment Laws have been enacted improving the Laws on Property Rights among Spouses, Parents and Children Relations, Family Courts, the Children Law etc.
- XX. **Citizenship Law:** According to a recent amendment of the Citizenship Law equal rights regarding the citizenship of their children are granted to Cypriot Women.

Regional and local legislation on youth

N/A

(Guidelines or Principles concerning youth policy if there is no special legislation on this field)

N/A

5. National Programmes on youth

Name and describe the national programmes on youth.

²⁸ Etgen Reitz, Anders (2006), Labor and employment law in the new EU member and candidate states, American Bar Association. Section of International Law, Published by American Bar Association, p. 88. <http://books.google.com/books?id=xy1AWld-qe4C&printsec=frontcover#PPA88,M1>

Please refer to their objectives and the duration. If possible provide a link for further information.

CYPRUS THEATRE ORGANIZATION: Cyprus Modern and Ancient Theatre Schools C

CYPRUS THEATRE ORGANIZATION: Amateur Theatre

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR²⁹ - Low-Cost Housing Program

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR: Self-housing program on government and private land

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR: Purchase of house or apartment program

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR: Rental subsidization

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES³⁰: Probation Services for juvenil adults in accordance with legislation

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES: Day care centres for school-ag run by voluntary organizations

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES (Social Welfare Services): Gove hostels for young people aged 13 - 18

CYPRUS PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE³¹: Mediterranean Institute of Management (MIM)

CYPRUS PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE: Training Program

MINISTRY OF HEALTH³²: Child Health Program

MINISTRY OF HEALTH: Health Education

MINISTRY OF HEALTH: PERSEAS Drug Prevention Centre for adolescents mental he services

MINISTRY OF HEALTH: Dental School Services

MINISTRY OF HEALTH: Oral health education to the National Guard of the Republic o

MINISTRY OF HEALTH: Program for the prevention of use of Tobacco

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Prevention Centres «Mikri Arktos» (Ursa Minor)³³

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Communication Help Line 1410

²⁹ <http://moi.gov.cy>

³⁰ http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/mlsi.nsf/dmlindex_en/dmlindex_en?OpenDocument

³¹ <http://www.kepa.gov.cy>

³² http://www.moh.gov.cy/moh/moh.nsf/index_en/index_en?OpenDocument

³³ <http://www.preventionsection.org.cy>

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Counseling Services «Proposition»

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Social Discriminations in Cyprus

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS (Ministry of Commerce): Strengthening of Youth Entrepri

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Youth Festival

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Television Program “We are here”³⁴

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: “Youth Initiatives” PROJECT

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Infrastructure Projects – Multicentres and Multifunction: Centres

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Toy Libraries

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Youth Information Centres

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: “Cyprus – the Aegean, Myth – History – Art”

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Municipal and Community Youth Councils

YOUTH BOARD OF CYPRUS: Youth Card Euro<26 - Euro<26 Student³⁵

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (HRDA)³⁶: Training schemes for young school-leavers, the unemployed and economically inactive women

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Laptop Cash Grant Scheme

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: eTwinning

Action plans i.e. official strategies

Name and describe (very shortly) the national action plans on youth

1. Ministry of Health (Antidrug Council): National Strategy on Drugs 2009 - 2012
2. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: CYPRUS LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME
3. Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman)³⁷: Cyprus Equality Body
4. MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL INSURANCES: National Employment Policy

Programmes and actions for specific target groups

³⁴ <http://eimasteedo.com>

³⁵ <http://www.euro26.org.cy/english/index.shtm>

³⁶ <http://www.hrdauth.org.cy>

³⁷ <http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy>

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level

€6.939.999 - Youth Board of Cyprus

Regional level

N/A

7. European Dimension of youth policy

Please describe the context in which international youth work takes place (legislation, implementing institutions)

7.1 Council of Europe programmes or activities implemented in an important way for youth purposes (including funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation)

7.2 European Union programmes

Briefly explain how the YOUTH Programme is implemented in your country and provide a link/ to the institutions who implement this programme (National Agencies or other)

Please also refer to European action in the field of youth information (national website of Eurodesk)

Upon Cyprus becoming a European Union member-state (01/05/2004), the Youth Board of Cyprus represents or participates in the Council of Ministers of Education, Culture and Youth, as well as in the Working Group of the Council, responsible for youth issues.

➤ *European Union Program "Youth in Action"*

On 15 November 2006 the European Parliament and the Council established the program "Youth in Action". "Youth in Action" is the EU Program for young people aged 15-28 who are permanent residents in one of the 27 member states of the European Union or in countries members of the Program. Eligible participants are informal groups of young people, youth organizations, youth mentors, local authorities and any non-governmental organizations involved in youth matters. It promotes mobility within and beyond the EU borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue. The total sum of communal funding for this program for Cyprus for 2010 is €1.513.140.

➤ *Eurodesk*

2010 is the first year of implementation of Eurodesk in Cyprus. The host Agency of EURODESK is the Youth Board of Cyprus which is responsible for the establishment and implementation of EURODESK.

Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth purposes

- **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: eTwinning:** eTwinning is an action that supports online-based projects between at least two schools from at least two different European countries. Schools form a project and use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to carry out their work. As schools communicate and collaborate via the Internet, there are no grants or administrative conditions connected to the scheme and face-to-face meetings are not required.
- **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: CYPRUS LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM:** The program enables individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe. There are four sub-programs focusing on different stages of education and training and continuing previous programs:
 - [Comenius](#) for schools
 - [Erasmus](#) for higher education
 - [Leonardo da Vinci](#) for vocational education and training
 - [Grundtvig](#) for adult education

OTHER PROGRAMS

- **COMMONWEALTH'S "YOUTH" PROGRAM:** The Youth Board of Cyprus participates in the Commonwealth's "Youth" Program and submits an annual subscription of €15,000.

8. Forthcoming events/conferences

8.1 Current developments/plans with regard to national legislation/guidelines

N/A

The present government has set its priorities and objectives in its election program from 2008. Concerning young people, the government ensures that it will have a vision of a just society for young people which can ensure the ability to learn, create and become useful and productive citizens for our country and society. In the program, the following is included:³⁸ For the enhancement of the social role of the state we shall promote the following:

- The restructuring of the Youth Board of Cyprus.
- The strengthening of the cooperation with the agencies of the mass youth movement so that their participation can be safeguarded.
- The safeguarding of the right of pupils to school student unionism.
- The upgrading of the Information Centers into agencies for providing detailed information by specialists.

Meritocracy – Equal opportunities

- Extension and safeguarding of objective procedures regarding the hiring of new employees, promotions and transfers in the public sector.
- Openness at all levels and stages in the evaluation procedure of candidates for admission into the broader public service.

Creative utilization of leisure time

- Creation of multi-purpose youth hostels.
- Extension of all-purpose youth centers in all municipalities.

³⁸ For further details see "BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ELECTION PROGRAM OF DIMITRIS CHRISTOFIAS, NICOSIA 2008".

- Implementation of a program for enhancing the contact of young people with cultural activity.

Juvenile delinquency

- Elaboration and implementation of programs that offer support to children who express a tendency towards juvenile delinquency.
- Establishment of a scientific committee to monitor juvenile delinquency.

Working youth

- Termination of the efforts underway for the extension of the retirement age in public education, in the public and private sector.
- Strict implementation of the policy for the non-employment of pensioners in the broader public sector.

Housing

- Granting of low priced ready-made dwelling houses to young people from low-income strata.
- Tackling the accommodation problem of students through the construction of Student Halls of Residence.

Students

- Extension of the student grant so that it can cover students as a whole.
- Rendering a real substance to the Student Card.
- Abolition of fees for the postgraduate programs of the University of Cyprus, the Technological University and the Open University.
- Significant increase in the funds for the State Scholarship Foundation.

Soldiers

- Revision of the current Military Regulations.
- Complete abolition of the provision for serving military service disciplinary jail time longer than the regular duration of military service.
- Eradication of extreme nationalist propaganda in the armed forces.
- Eradication of physical or psychological abuse of soldiers.

Tackling the plague of drugs

- Revision and modernization of the strategic plan for tackling drugs.
- Enhancement of the activity and functioning of the Anti-Drug Council.
- Modernization of the legislation governing the Anti-Drug Council but also of the legislation regarding the treatment of drug addicts.

8.2 Current developments/plans with regard to European youth policy priorities

Please mention important events in the youth field, especially those linked to the four Open Method of Coordination key priorities and give the dates foreseen.

N/A