

National report: First cooperation cycle of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012

CYPRUS

SECTION 1: GENERAL YOUTH POLICY

1. Does your country have a 'youth law' or legislation that specifically refers to youth issues, or laws containing a section addressing the needs and/or rights of young people?

Yes

2. Please provide references for the law (title, adoption date, validity, etc) in your national language as well as in English

The basic law that specifically refers to youth issues is the Youth Board Law: - Αριθμός 33(I) του 1994, Ο ΠΕΡΙ ΟΡΓΑΝΙΣΜΟΥ ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑΣ ΝΟΜΟΣ ΤΟΥ 1994 - NUMBER 33(I) of 1994, THE YOUTH BOARD LAW OF 1994. Additionally, there are other laws addressing the needs / rights of young people as follows: - Ο περί Προστασίας των Νέων κατά την Απασχόληση Νόμος του 2001 - Law for the protection of Young Persons during their employment (Law 48(1) of 2001) - Ο Περί Παγκυπρίου Συντονιστικού Συμβουλίου Εθελοντισμού 61(1)2006 - Law on the Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council/ PVCC

3. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?

Yes

If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the law in available languages together with this national report.

- The Youth Board Law is available in both Greek and English. Both documents are uploaded below. - The Law for the protection of Young Persons during their employment is available only in Greek at the following weblink: [http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/dli/dli.nsf/All/4641F6C339899D4BC2256F710040D36A/\\$file/N.48\(I\)-2001.pdf](http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/dli/dli.nsf/All/4641F6C339899D4BC2256F710040D36A/$file/N.48(I)-2001.pdf) - The Law on the Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council/ PVCC is available in Greek at the following weblink: http://www.volunteerism-cc.org.cy/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=112 The English version of the Law is uploaded below.

4. Does your country have a National Youth Strategy and/or Action Plan, or a cross-sectoral strategy specifically referring to youth issues?

Yes

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If YES, please provide references (title, adoption date, validity, etc) to this strategy or action plan

The National Youth Strategy is according to the Governance Programme for 2008 - 2013. There is also the Inter-ministerial Consulting Committee, which comprises of all Ministries / Agencies responsible for youth matters: • Ministry of Education and Culture • Ministry of Labor 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 • Ministry of Finance • Ministry of Interior • Ministry of Communications and Works • Planning Bureau • Commissioner for Children's Rights • Theatre Organization of Cyprus (Semi - governmental) • Cyprus Sports Organization (Semi - governmental) • Cyprus Tourism Organization (semi-governmental) • Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council • Human Resource Development Authority Cyprus • Union of Cyprus Municipalities • Cyprus Union of Communities

5. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?

Yes

If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the document in available languages together with this national report.

6. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy, adopted in November 2009, has influenced youth priorities in your country at the NATIONAL level?

A: It has reinforced existing priorities

Please specify your answer.

Cyprus, and particularly the Youth Board of Cyprus (YBC) has always dealt with these issues / areas, hence the EU Youth Strategy that was adopted in November 2009, came to reinforce the existing priorities, for instance through different programmes addressed to young people and public consultations with young people. The Youth Board promotes progress and prosperity of all young people of Cyprus regardless of their religious, ethnic or racial origin. At the same time it promotes their substantial participation in the social, financial and cultural development of Cyprus. Its main tasks are: Participation, Volunteerism, Evaluation of youth policy, Youth Information, Positive Lifestyle, Prevention - Drugs, Campaigns, Employment - Entrepreneurship, International Cooperation. Other services and departments of the Cyprus Government support the opinion that after 2009, existing priorities in the youth field have been reinforced.

<p>7. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy has influenced youth priorities in your country at the LOCAL and/or REGIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>Some initiatives have already been taken at local level, however there is room for more actions to be taken in order to further implement EU Youth Strategy at local level in Cyprus.</p>
<p>8. Does the government of your country support and promote cross-disciplinary research relating to young people and their living conditions in line with the Council resolution on active inclusion, having regard to the socio-economic environment and the opportunities and obstacles this poses for the social inclusion and employability of young people?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>No current plans exist to carry out measures in this field</p>
<p>9. Is there an institutionalised and regular cooperation between the Ministry responsible for Youth and the youth research community in your country?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any initiative to establish such cooperation.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>There is no official youth research community established in Cyprus. However, occasionally ad-hoc surveys on youth related issues are carried out.</p>
<p>10. Does your Government have an inter-ministerial working group on youth or any other institutionalised mechanism for ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy?</p>	<p>YES, such an institutional mechanism has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

Cyprus

Additional comments.	Inter-ministerial Consulting Committee, which comprises of all Ministries / Agencies responsible for youth matters: • Ministry of Education and Culture • Ministry of Labor 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 • Ministry of Finance • Ministry of Interior • Ministry of Communications and Works • Planning Bureau • Commissioner for Children’s Rights • Theatre Organization of Cyprus (Semi - governmental) • Cyprus Sports Organization (Semi - governmental) • Cyprus Tourism Organization (semi-govermental) • Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council • Human Resource Development Authority Cyprus • Union of Cyprus Municipalities • Cyprus Union of Communities
11.Has your Government carried out specific initiatives targeting young people or the field of youth policy utilising EU funding opportunities through the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and/or the Rural Development Fund, or any other relevant EU funds or programmes such as PROGRESS[1]? [1] Please note that the question does not refer to EU programmes such as the Lifelong learning or Youth in Action programmes.	YES, we have carried out youth initiatives or projects utilising the general EU funding opportunities mentioned above in the past, before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, but they are now finalised.

Additional comments.

Different departments of the Government are utilising EU Funding opportunities to carry out initiatives targeting young people: - Over the period of 2007 to 2013, the Cypriot Government has implemented an Operational/ Business Programme called "Sustainable Development and Competitiveness" to strengthen Youth Entrepreneurship. - The Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environment implements the Rural Development Plan 2007 - 2013, in which there is a scheme for the set up of young farmers. - PROGRESS Programme: "Creativity and Innovation against Discrimination". Starting date 1/11/2008 and closing date 31/1/10. The following six projects were implemented: 1. Teachers acting against discrimination 2. Parents say so. 3. Stop discrimination, camera, action! 4. Anti- discrimination: Can you see - What can you do? 5. Society, Trends, Opinions, Messages through the Press (S.T.O.M.P.). 6. Brush away discrimination

12. Does the Government of your country have a strategy to acknowledge, raise awareness of, and reinforce the role of youth work in society, in line with the Council Resolution on Youth Work (2010)?

NO, the Government is not planning to set up such a strategy.

Additional comments.

13. What are the main measures implemented by your Government in order to improve the recognition and support the development of governmental and non-governmental youth work?

The Cyprus Government supports the development and education of youth-workers in the following ways: - Funding through the Youth Initiatives Program - Trainings (introduction stepping into youth information for youth information workers of the YBC and NGOs and other trainings to youth workers as well) - Interventions such as presentation of youth information work to the Board of Directors of the YBC - Dissemination of relevant information to youth workers - Free use of Youth Information Centers (YIC) spaces to YNGOs so that they can fulfill their own projects - Series of workshops on Europass - free to attend. An effort for the recognition of youth work has been initiated, by providing "certificates of participation" when young people participate in various activities.

<p>14. What are the main challenges and/or obstacles that your Government has been confronted with during the first three years of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy?</p>	<p>The lack of public awareness of the existence of EU Youth Strategy.</p>
<p>15. Which measures and/or actions have your Government carried out in order to communicate the EU Youth Strategy to relevant stakeholders?</p>	<p>- YBC held informative meetings for its personnel. - YBC held informative meetings with its Inter Ministerial Committee and its General Advisory Body and the Cyprus Youth Council. - A public consultation was held in April 2010 where students, non-governmental organizations, representatives from various Ministries and other relevant stakeholders were informed about the EU Youth Strategy. - Signed co-operation memoranda with The National Guard, The police, The Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council and co-organized various informative events.</p>
<p>16. Has your Government carried out any actions to measure the impact or success of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy at the national level?</p>	<p>No specific actions have been taken. However, in the Youth field, through specific youth programmes and services carried out by the Youth Board of Cyprus, it has been noted that the participation of young people has increased. The same applies to the Structured Dialogue public consultations where more and more young people are participating.</p>
<p>17. According to the principles of the EU Youth Strategy and in line with previous practice, Member States are asked to involve young people and their organisations in responding to this National Report. Please outline the various ways how young people have been consulted.</p>	<p>The questionnaire has been sent by email and by fascimile to all youth organizations which are members of the General Advisory Body of the Youth Board of Cyprus, to the Cyprus Youth Council and to the Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council.</p>

SECTION 2a: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth employment & entrepreneurship

<p>18. To take the specific situation of young people into account when devising flexicurity strategies?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>19. To promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Cyprus participates in the Socrates - Erasmus programme and has been awarded by the Erasmus University Charter. Moreover, the education field has signed bilateral agreements with several European Institutions. In some other fields though no actions have been taken yet to promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people. Presentations to student of Eures, Euroguidance, Grundtvig, Europass workshops which include guidance for work interview</p>
<p>20. To develop career guidance and counselling services?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Cyprus

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Career guidance and counselling services have been developed by different departments of the Cyprus Government: - Successful candidates in the Scheme of youth entrepreneurship must attend a special training and development programme organized and subsidized by the Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus (HRDA). - The enhancement and modernization of Public Employment Services (PES) included actions to strengthen the individualised guidance services and the counselling services offered by PES to the unemployed and the young people as a vulnerable group, in response to the negative impact of the economic crisis. - The Counselling and Careers Education Service (CCES) operates within the Public Secondary Education System of Cyprus and offers various services to students and other young people, at schools and the Central, as well as the District Offices. The goal of the CCES is to provide specialised assistance to students and youngsters through career guidance and counselling in order to deal effectively with their personal, educational, career and social challenges. - Development of Career Guidance services at the Youth Information Centers (YIC) since November 2010. Some departments have not taken any action yet to develop career guidance and counselling services.</p>
<p>21.To promote quality internships and apprenticeships to facilitate the entry to, and progress within, the labour market?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Various measures have been taken: - Human Resource Development Authority (HRDA) has launched "Job placement and training of unemployed tertiary education young graduates" aiming at strengthening the management capacity of enterprises and organizations through the employment and training of young university and other tertiary education graduates. The measure provides incentives to enterprises to provide employment, practical training and work experience to young graduates. - Department of Labour has launched a Scheme for Providing Incentives for Hiring Disadvantaged Individuals in the private sector and local authorities. Disadvantaged individuals, among others, are considered those who satisfy the following criterion: are aged 15-24. The aim of the scheme is the full time employment of disadvantaged individuals. The Scheme is co-financed by the European Social Fund and the Republic of Cyprus within the framework of the Operational Programme "Employment, Human Capital and Social Cohesion" 2007-2013. - Dissemination of relevant European opportunities by Eurodesk (after 2010) and YIC through all our communication channels with young people (emails, website, facebook, presentations of ploteus, eures, euroguidance, Europass, Eurodesk, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs) including the European Youth Portal and via the Career counseling at YIC. In some other fields though no actions have been taken yet.</p>
<p>22. To promote sharing of responsibilities between partners in order to facilitate reconciliation between professional and private life for both young women and young men?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>23. To promote entrepreneurship in the field of sustainable development?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- The Government in its effort to promote entrepreneurship among young people launched the scheme for the enhancement of Youth Entrepreneurship. The scheme was included in the Operational Programme 2007-2013 “Sustainable Development and Competitiveness”, and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, and the Cyprus Government. The aim of the Scheme is to develop, support and encourage the entrepreneurship of young people between the ages of 20-39 who wish to establish an enterprise in any economic activity (manufacturing, e-commerce, services and tourism in traditional buildings) except from commerce. The above aim is to be achieved with the exploitation of motives under the means of grants and educational seminars of training for the creation of new and viable very small enterprises. Particular emphasis is given at the development of new technologies, the use of innovative methods of production, promotion of goods and services, environmental entrepreneurship and in general the promotion of modern business activities resulting in the creation of strong competitive businesses.

- Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme of Ministry of Commerce, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, Cyprus Productivity Centre schemes and opportunities, Human and Resources Development Authority projects, Green professions etc by the YIC In some other sectors though no actions have been taken yet.

Additional comments on employment & entrepreneurship

SECTION 2b: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth participation

24. to develop mechanisms for dialogue with youth and youth participation on national youth policies?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- The Youth Board of Cyprus holds regular meetings with its General Advisory Body and the Cyprus Youth Council in order to inform them on current youth policy matters and to provide them with the opportunity to express their opinion on youth related policy matters that they wish to be further explored by the Government. - A public consultation was realized in 2010 for the Renewed Framework of European Cooperation (2010 - 2018). - The government also promotes dialogue between young people and state officials such as Mayors, Members of the Parliament, or even the President. The Cyprus government is still taking initiatives on the subject.

<p>25. to encourage use of already existing, or development of, guidelines on youth participation, information and consultation in order to ensure the quality of these activities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Participation of young people in decision making /democratic life is the core of the Cyprus National Youth Policy, recognized as such by national law: THE YOUTH BOARD LAW OF 1994 [33(I) of 1994]. According to the above mentioned law, the Youth Board shall be Appointed and supervised by the Administrative Board. The appointed members include one representative from each youth NGO of the political parties which have a Parliamentary Group in the House of Representatives, the candidacy of whom shall be proposed by the organization concerned through the Minister, and they are appointed by the Council of Ministers. Additionally, all other youth NGOs fulfilling certain criteria, are represented in the 4 advisory bodies of the Youth Board of Cyprus, which are: 1. The “Political Committee” 2. The “Trade Union Body” 3. The “Student Committee” 4. The “General Advisory Body” The above mentioned youth NGOs are active stakeholders in the shaping of the National Youth Policy in a co-decision management system, regulated by the Youth Board Law. YBC has implemented the European Youth Information Charter and has created a number of YIC since 2002.</p>
<p>26. to support politically and financially youth organisations, as well as local and national youth councils and promote recognition of their important role in democracy?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Cyprus

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- In 2010 new Municipal and Community Youth Councils were created. At this time they are more than 20 in total. The goal of the Youth Board of Cyprus (YBC) is to upgrade the institution of Municipal / Community Youth Councils and the promotion of participation of young people in the current affairs of their society. In order to achieve this goal a conference shall be organized in 2012 where all competent bodies will be invited, in order to share views on finding ways to upgrade the role and institution of the Municipal / Community Youth Councils as well as their institutionalization. The role of the councils is mostly advisory instead of political. YBC support to the local and national youth councils is mainly financial rather than political. - The Cyprus Youth Council participates in the meetings held between the YBC and the General Advisory Body. - YBC provides an annual fund to Youth Clubs and to the Cyprus Youth Council in an effort to further support their actions. - YBC has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Cyprus Youth Council in 2011. - YBC covers the expenses met by young people who participate in seminars abroad through the “Youth Initiatives” program. - Youth Board of Cyprus provides free of charge all the necessary space and for youth organizations to organize their own political gatherings.</p>
<p>27. to promote the participation of more and a greater diversity of young people in representative democracy, in youth organisations and other civil-society organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- YBC encourages and supports financially the participation of young people in seminars / conferences abroad through the “Youth Initiatives” program. - The Youth in Action Program enables the participation of a diverse population of young people in representative democracy. - National consultations of Structured Dialogue take place in various geographical areas of Cyprus in order to cover a wider spectrum of young people. - EURODESK, as a tool, assists in the promotion of participation of young people. - YBC supports financially non-governmental organizations and enhances their existence so that young people can participate in them. - Youth participation is achieved through the General advisory Body of the Youth Board of Cyprus.</p>

<p>28. to make effective use of information and communication technologies to broaden and deepen participation of young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- Social media / social networking tools, such as facebook, e-mails, publications and EURODESK (mostly developed after 2010), is widely used for the further encouragement of the participation of young people in youth related events and through the website of the YBC - www.youthboard.org.cy - The operation of YIC provides young people with effective use of information by: educating them on how to search for info in the internet, providing them with free internet access at accessible hours (afternoons, Saturdays), being present at social networks that young people use every day provides them again with relevant basic info, disseminating info through emails, mobile phones, websites - New training tools have been developed by ERYICA (European Youth Information and Counseling Agency) such as Digital Yintro and Safety & Quality in online youth information that empower young people to make good use of available online Youth Information resources. - All these are considered essential for youth participation as information is a prerequisite to youth participation.</p>
<p>29. to support various forms of learning to participate from early age through formal education and non-formal learning?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Non formal learning is available to young people in Cyprus from an early age: - The infrastructure projects of the Youth sector, such as Youth Information Centers, Youth Multifunctional Centers and Toy libraries, are available to public. - Through the Programs offered at the Multifunctional Youth Centers, such as workshops of art, music, theatre, computers and dancing. - The “Youth Initiatives” Program encourages non-formal learning through the provision of funding to non-governmental organizations for the realization of various youth initiative projects. - Promoting “Learning to participate” is a basic goal of the educational reform which currently being implemented. - All schools have students’ councils.</p>
<p>30. to further develop opportunities for debate between public institutions and young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- The “Youth Initiatives” program provides funding to representatives from non-governmental organizations to participate in debates with other public institutions at European and International level. - The Youth Board of Cyprus holds regular meetings with its General Advisory Body and is responsible to forward young people’s messages / opinions to the House of Representatives for the adoption of related policies. - At times, YBC has organized open dialogues between young people with the President of the Republic, Ministers and other Politicians for youth issues such as road safety, participation, etc. - The latest example of a debate between public institutions and young people is the discussion between youngsters and the Minister of Education and Culture and the Mayor of Kato Polemidia Municipality on 14/11/11 on “Youth Participation” (Initiative of Eurodesk and YIC). - Nevertheless, we are still taking initiatives on the subject.</p>
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Additional comments on participation (for example references, web-links, project examples).

SECTION 3: ON VOLUNTEERING and the implementation of the Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers

<p>31. To create more opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

<p>32. To raise awareness about opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Dissemination of European opportunities by YIC and since 2010 by Eurodesk and its multipliers</p>
<p>33. To assure quality through the development of self-assessment tools?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>34. To promote cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>There are educational institutions in Cyprus which are members of the Educational Council of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and they are involved in joint ventures. Work teams from these institutions visit overseas educational institutions.</p>
<p>35. To give particular attention in this context to young people with fewer opportunities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>36. To promote the recognition of skills acquired through voluntary activities through instruments such as Europass, Youthpass and Member State instruments?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>37. To promote intergenerational solidarity through voluntary activities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC), the Volunteer Centre and many voluntary organizations/NGOs promote intergenerational solidarity, awareness raising on various issues, human rights, recycling, etc through voluntary work or voluntary activities.</p>

Cyprus

Additional comments on volunteering (for example references, web-links, project examples).

An example of a good EVS project materialized in Cyprus through the Youth in Action Programme Project Title: Caring for Homer's Ancestors One young female volunteer from Germany was hosted in Cyprus by the Pancyprian Organisation for the Blind. She was involved in all services and programs of the Organization and contributed actively in many activities:

- Mobility, orientation and daily living courses for the blind such as the training in the use of the long cane techniques and basic daily living skills such as cooking, washing dishes and clothes, ironing and keeping their home and themselves in safety.
- Library and transcription services (talking and Braille books and magazines, recording and transcription of print material into Braille).
- Information programs provided to all blind and partially sighted persons in Cyprus.
- Production of different bulletins, leaflets and other material.
- Publication and circulation of an international newsletter, which is distributed free of charge to more than 100 countries all over the world.
- Organization of different sport programmes and sports events and participation in different international championships in Cyprus and abroad.
- Organization of different recreational and leisure activities for our members throughout the year.

Main achievements: She has participated in a great number of events and activities which were organised by the Pancyprian Organisation for the Blind in different cities around Cyprus and in rural areas and she had the chance to meet and contact people from local authorities and exchange views and opinions with them regarding the customs and tradition of Cyprus and her home country. Moreover, she was actively involved in finding different funding programmes for the blind people. Her assistance was vital for the Organisation and its members since, because of their disability, they were not able to do this task on

SECTION 4: On the implementation of the additional fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy

<p>38. To support the development of youth work and other non-formal learning opportunities as a way of addressing early school leaving?</p>	<p>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>However, the Adult Education Centres and the Afternoon and Evening Classes of Technical Schools of the Ministry of Education and Culture, offer the opportunity of non formal learning even though their objective is not to address early school leaving. Moreover, the Cyprus Productivity Centre and the Human Resource Development Authority offer non formal learning opportunities as well although their target is not to address early school leaving. Additionally, the Lifelong Learning Programme is trying to encourage the participation of pupils in the Apprenticeship scheme in Leonardo da Vinci mobility Projects. The issue will be explored with the Technical and Vocational Secondary education Department of the Ministry of Education and Culture.</p>
<p>39. To strengthen the use of the range of tools established at EU level for the transparency and validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Cyprus

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Regarding the validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications: - Cyprus is committed towards introducing relevant EU tools in the national scene. Within the framework of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the development of a National Qualifications Framework (NQF), for promoting the recognition of academic and vocational qualifications that have been acquired in Cyprus, is a priority of the government. The ultimate target is to make EQF a common reference system for comparing the qualifications of the citizens of member states, in order to facilitate their education, training and employment in the EU. The development of a competence based system of Vocational Qualifications, which will constitute an integral part of a future National Qualifications Framework (NQF) is a high priority objective for Cyprus. - Participants in Lifelong Learning Programmes (LLP) are encouraged to acquire the Europass Certificate. - Educational programmes are using the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). Although some measures in this field have been taken already, more concrete measures are expected in 2012, when all stake holders will be involved for the creation of a strategic plan to implement EU tools for the validation and transparency of skills and recognition of qualifications.</p>
<p>40. To promote learning mobility of all young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Different Government bodies promote the learning mobility of young people: - The Foundation for the Management of the European Lifelong Learning Programme is the National Agency through which the educational programmes of the EU like Comenius, Erasmus and Leonardo da Vinci are implemented in Cyprus. These sub-programmes give young people the opportunity to travel abroad and meet and interact with people from other countries, learn their culture and habits. Regarding the participation in all above mentioned Programmes the majority of the participants are young people. Especially Erasmus gives young people the chance to study for a period of time abroad.</p>
<p>41. To make the broader public aware of the value of non-formal learning?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Various Government departments take measures to make the public aware of the value of non-formal learning: -The HRDA systematically conducts informative meetings and awareness campaigns contributing towards raising awareness on the value of lifelong learning. It also maintains a web page (www.hrdauth.org.cy) with information and advice on approved training opportunities and its research studies. Furthermore, it collaborates with the Ministry of Education and Culture, and with the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, as well as parents and students. - The Foundation for the Management of the European Lifelong Learning Programmes organizes each year thematic meetings which are open to the public. Some of the meetings organized so far were for the "Use of new technologies in education and training - e-learning", "Participation to the Lifelong Learning Programme as a means to combat social exclusion", "Creativity and Innovation" etc. -Furthermore, the Planning Bureau in the framework of a proposal co-financed by the European Commission organized in 2009 a campaign with the motto "lifelong learning as a vital asset to the life and work". The specific target that was pursued throughout the campaign was to embed in people's conscience of the great value and the crucial role that the lifelong learning has for their employability and social inclusion, in a knowledge based society and economy. However, there is still room for more initiatives to be taken.

Additional comments on education & training (for example references, web-links, project examples).

B. HEALTH & WELL-BEING

42. To follow up the Council Resolution on the health and well-being of young people and encourage youth fitness and physical activity by applying the EU Physical Activity Guidelines?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Government encourages youth fitness and physical activity in the following ways: - The Ministry of Health organizes educational programs via the School Health Services to children during elementary education. The goal of these programs is for the pupils to comprehend the benefits of physical exercise in controlling body weight, avoid depression and anxiety and raise awareness that exercise contributes to the creation and maintenance of healthy bones, muscles and joints. A long term goal is for the pupils to include exercise in their daily program. Moreover, the Ministry of Health has produced the following publications: Ø Exercise Recommendations for Enhancing Health based on WHO & EU. Ø National directives of diet and exercise publications (2007) - Through the programmes of the Cyprus Sports Organisation: • CSO - Sport For All National Program since 1985 • CSO - National Sport Development Support Scheme NSDSS (ESYAA) • CSO, Ministry of Education - Student Sport Label/Badge Scheme since 09/11 • Open School Sport Programs operated by municipalities • CSO - Social Cohesion Program 2004 • CSO - Health Card issued for all competitive sport athletes - Within the framework of the Multifunctional Youth Centers, several workshops operate in regards to youth fitness and physical activities, such as gymnastic, yoga, taekwon-do e.t.c.</p>
<p>43. To encourage healthy lifestyles for young people via physical education, education on nutrition, physical activity and collaboration between schools, youth workers, health professionals and sporting organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- The Ministry of Health places great emphasis on the development, application and assessment of programs of health education and promotion, aiming at promoting a healthy life style of adolescents, healthy nutrition, exercise as well as the prevention and treatment of obesity, with the long term aim of maintaining and promoting physical, spiritual and sexual health during adolescence. - The Ministry of Education and Culture has developed a long-term strategic plan aiming to support schools to develop and implement an action plan for health promotion that is acceptable by both pupils and teaching staff. The action plan should consider the needs and characteristics of each school. For the implementation of this plan, it is necessary to cooperate with parents and other community members. Following this policy, a new administrative structure has been established in 2009 to coordinate the various Health Promotion programmes at all levels. Many health promotion programmes, actions and interventions carried out in 2009-2010 have been supported by funds provided by the Coordinating Committee of Health Education and Citizenship. - CSO Programs mentioned above. - Through events that encourage healthy lifestyle such as beach volley & mini football tournaments, educational activities like theatrical games, painting- handcrafts etc on healthy nutrition - Through monthly events that take place in the Toy Libraries, children of the ages of 4 to 12 get educated in a playful manner.</p>
<p>44. To increase knowledge and awareness of youth workers and youth leaders of health issues?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Some departments have taken measures before January 2010, others after, while there are some that have not taken any initiative on the subject yet. - The Ministry of Health encourages cooperation between authorities for the creation of policies which will achieve well being. It develops planned information concerning health issues to young people and it promotes education on health issues by peers at schools and youth organizations. - In order to increase awareness of youth workers on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) issues, the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance of Cyprus, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture, promoted the mainstreaming of OSH issues into the curricula of the public schools on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of a study prepared on behalf of the Department of Labour Inspection. Within the framework of the reform of the Cyprus education system, a new lesson has been introduced as from September 2011 in the analytical programmes of all levels of education, under the title «Education on Health Issues» dealing, among others, with OSH. - The PVCC, the Volunteer Centre and many voluntary organizations/NGOs promote awareness raising on health issues through voluntary work or voluntary activities. - Youth leaders are urged to participate at the AIDS national committee, at trainings of the Family Planning Association, financing YNGOs to realize activities for raising awareness in different health issues.</p>
<p>45. To encourage peer-to-peer health education?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Some departments have taken measures before January 2010, others after that, while some have not taken any initiative on the subject yet. - The Ministry of Health aims at maintaining health promotion of children and adolescents who attend public junior and high schools. The mission is the early detection, treatment and monitoring of health problems of children at school, the development of healthy attitudes and behaviour, the assurance of hygienic environment at school and the prevention of communicable diseases. These services are provided to the schools by School Doctors and Health Visitors. - CSO encourages health education through seminars: Ø First Aid - towards Sport for All trainers, coaches e.t.c. Ø Basic Life Support-towards health facility (stadium) employees Ø Intermediate Life Support, sudden death in athletes , mostly towards team doctors, stadium doctors - The “European Network of Health Promoting Schools” (ENHPS) was developed, as a pioneering approach for the promotion of a healthy way of living. At the same time it provides a healthy and secure supporting environment. The ENHPS concerns the school environment, the official and unofficial curriculum, the pupils’ families and the community. Peer to peer learning is an important component of the programme. -YBC is financing youth for youth team of the Family Planning Association to realize peer to peer education and organizing peer to peer workshops at YIC on sexual and reproductive health</p>
<p>46. To facilitate access to existing health facilities by making them more youth friendly?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- The School Services of the Ministry of Health aim at maintaining health promotion of children and adolescents who attend public junior and high schools. The mission is the early detection, treatment and monitoring of health problems of children at school, the development of healthy attitudes and behaviour, the assurance of hygienic environment at school and the prevention of communicable diseases. These services are provided to the schools by School Doctors and Health Visitors. - CSO has the following programmes: • Euro Sport Health Project (Preparatory Actions in the field of Sport & Health 2009) Ø Six Programs have been evaluated as best practices in Cyprus • Women and sport Study (Study on the participation of women over the age of 15 in leisure and competitive sport activities. • Sport Participation (Health and Local Authorities Conference) Dec. 2010 • "Live better through exercise" conference Nov 2011.</p>

<p>Additional comments on health & well-being (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Nowadays youth enter secondary schools with little danger of exposure to the infectious diseases responsible for morbidity and mortality of past years (immunizations, sanitation and drinking water, improvements in nutrition and product safety). Risks to youth's well-being have changed from disease and disability to stresses of life style. Particularly unhealthy eating habits, lack of physical exercise, tobacco use, alcohol use, drug use, anxiety, are all dangerous behavioural patterns observed among the youth of Cyprus resulting in an increase in problems of physical and mental health, such as obesity, accidents, violence - injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, adolescent pregnancy, abortions, depression and eating disorders. Bearing all the aforementioned in mind, the Ministry of Health, Cyprus attributes great importance to the development, implementation and evaluation of programmes of health education and health promotion, aiming at not only supplying information and increasing knowledge on issues concerning health, but mainly on the development of healthy attitudes and behavioural patterns of children. Promoting healthy and safe behaviours among youth is an important part of the mission of schools, which is to provide young people with the knowledge and skills they need to become healthy and productive adults. Specifically the main objectives of the School Health Services in Cyprus is the prevention of illness as well as the promotion of health and well being of the students through early detection and care of students with health problems, development of healthy attitudes and healthy behaviors by students, ensuring a healthy environment for children at school and prevention of communicable diseases at school. Personal hygiene, healthy eating habits, the prevention of accidents, smoking and menstruation/adolescence are included in the basic subjects of</p>
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C. SOCIAL INCLUSION

<p>47. To realise the full potential of youth work and youth centres as means of inclusion?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

<p>48. To adopt a cross-sectoral approach when working to improve community cohesion and solidarity and reduce the social exclusion of young people, addressing the inter linkages between e.g. young peoples education and employment and their social inclusion?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>A cross-sectoral approach is necessary when trying to address education-employment and social inclusion of young people effectively. - The ongoing Educational Reform is an effort for a comprehensive introduction of changes and innovations at all levels and all aspects of the educational system aiming at the modernization, restructuring and upgrading of the national curriculum. The main objective of this effort is to create a democratic and student focused educational system, which includes all students irrespective of social racial, or ethnic background, gender, or physical or mental ability and offers high quality education to each student thus assisting them to maximize their potential and acquire skills and knowledge which will enable them to become active and democratic citizens - YBC holds regular meetings (3 per year) with its Inter-Ministerial Committee in order to inform them on current youth related matters. Members of the said Committee include representatives from other governmental and semi-governmental offices, as well as Community and Municipal Councils. - There are Higher Education Programmes which provide professional education and extensive practical training which enable the graduates to have access to a wealth of career options.</p>
<p>49. To support the development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat prejudice?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Different governmental bodies support the development of intercultural awareness and competences through their activities: - The policy priorities of the Educational Reform place particular emphasis on democratization, by cultivating respect for the dignity and uniqueness of each individual; creating opportunities for active participation in the decision making progress; providing equal opportunities in all aspects of school life; encouraging cooperation and responsibility. - YBC funded activities organized by UNITED for Intercultural Action - YBC organized a festival through the All Different All equal Campaign in which immigrants and various non-governmental organizations participated. - Additionally, intercultural awareness and competences are promoted through the "Youth Initiatives" Program, by funding of intercultural events organized by young people themselves. - Dissemination of relevant information by YIC and Eurodesk</p>
<p>50. To address the issues of homelessness, housing and financial exclusion with a particular focus on young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Regarding Housing, the Cyprus Government, besides the measures concerning housing policy in general, promote the following especially for young people: - The granting of low priced ready-made dwelling houses to young people from low-income strata. - Tackling the accomodation problem of students through the construction of Student Halls of Residence and the subleasing of flats at lower prices by Higher and Tertiary Education establishments. The following programs, although not addressed to young people exclusively, aim to assist citizens with their housing needs and fight homelessness: (a) Comprehensive Housing Scheme (CHS) (b) Housing land parcellations for low income families in countryside communities (c) Improvement of Housing Conditions (d) Improvement of Housing Conditions for accommodating old persons or persons with disabilities (e) Housing Schemes provided by the Cyprus Land Development Corporation Low Income Housing Scheme Medium Income Housing Scheme - Dissemination of relevant information by YIC and Eurodesk</p>
<p>51. To promote access to quality services e.g. transport, e-inclusion, health, social services?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Some departments had already taken measures prior to January 2010, while others after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010. Among the measures taken for this subject is the dissemination of relevant information by YIC and Eurodesk.</p>
<p>52. To promote specific support for young families?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Provision of psychosocial support via the services of the Youth Board of Cyprus: (a) Section of Prevention and Counseling Services (b) Infrastructure projects: toy libraries, multcentres, career guidance counseling. Dissemination of relevant information by YIC and Eurodesk. Some departments had already taken measures prior to January 2010, while others after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>53. To engage young people and youth organisations in the planning, delivery and evaluation of European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Not all sectors took measures on the subject.</p>

Additional comments on social inclusion (for example references, web-links, project examples).

D. CREATIVITY & CULTURE

54. To support the development of creativity among young people by following up the Council conclusions on promoting a Creative Generation: developing the creativity and innovative capacity of children and young people through cultural expression and wider access to culture?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- The Youth Initiatives funding program offers incentives to young people for mobility and active participation in the cultural, sports, political and social life of Cyprus. Its aim is to contribute to creating Active Citizens. The program promotes also creativity and innovation for young people. - Furthermore, the Youth Board of Cyprus carries out cultural events at the Multicenters and hosts the annual Youth Festival, through which the entertainment and participation of young people is promoted. - This goal is also achieved through the expansion of the Toy Libraries and Multifunctional Youth Centers to more cities.

55. To make new technologies readily available to empower young people's creativity and capacity for innovation, and attract interest in culture, the arts and science?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Almost all Youth Infrastructure Projects offer free computer and internet access to the general public. Free computers workshops and photo processing workshops are available for all young people aged from 6 to 35.</p>
<p>56. To provide access to environments where young people can develop their creativity and interests and spend a meaningful leisure time?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>YBC's Youth Infrastructure Projects (Toy Libraries, Multifunctional Youth Centers, YIC) and the Youth Festival Space offer young people a place to utilize their free time creatively as they are venues of free expression and creative activities for young people, contributing to their motivation to participate in public life. The Multifunctional Youth Centres offer free workshops in several subjects such as Computers, Dancing, Gym, Theatre, Art, Painting, Music and language workshops. Children and young people from 6 to 35 years old, as well as persons with special needs may attend these workshops. Moreover, each year the subjects offered are readjusted, according to the needs and interests of young people. The rooms of these centers are provided upon request to young people and youth organizations for their own use i.e. for hosting events, conferences, seminars, press conferences, movies, art exhibitions and other activities.</p>
<p>57. To promote specialised training in culture, new media and intercultural competences for youth workers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The PVCC, the Volunteer Centre and many voluntary organizations/NGOs promote intercultural competences through voluntary work or voluntary activities.</p>
<p>Additional comments on culture & creativity (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">E. YOUTH & THE WORLD</p>	
<p>58. To raise the awareness of young people about global issues such as sustainable development and human rights?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- Cyprus has a long term policy for raising awareness of young people about sustainable development and environment. In the framework of that policy various environmental and sustainable development actions have been developed in all educational levels. Some indicative actions are the creation of networking of environmental education centers, the participation of schools in various international, bilateral and national environmental education programs. Also, educational kits and tools in various issues of environment and sustainable development as consumption and production, climate changes, forests, tourism, transportation means have been written in order to help students to be informed, aware and sensitize in these issues. Also, particular environmental educational conferences in schools and school based activities organized in specific issues as water, forest, waste sustainable management, culture and environment etc. Finally, through the curriculum of Environmental Education and Sustainable Development students spend two hours a week working on various environmental and sustainable development issues according to the needs of their school and local community, aiming to implement a sustainable educational policy of their school. - With regards to human rights, YBC provides funding to non-governmental organizations for realizing such activities. In particular, YBC provides funding for the annual "Rainbow Festival" promoting human rights.</p>

59. To provide opportunities for young people to exchange views with policy-makers on global issues (e.g. via participation in international meetings, virtual platforms/fora etc.)? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here. - YBC supports the participation of young people in seminars / trainings abroad through the “Youth Initiatives” program.

60. To encourage young people to participate in green volunteering and "green" patterns of consumption and production (e.g. recycling, energy conservation, hybrid vehicles, etc.)? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>- Special emphasis is given by the Cyprus Government to promote voluntarism for environment and sustainable development, through the National Action Plan for Environmental Education and Sustainable Development (ESD). Various Campaigns as “Cities without Cars”, “Green Week”, “Earth Day” are organized to actively involve young people to all these issues. Additionally, voluntarily environmental events to the communities organized in cooperation with local authorities and young people in issues as water saving, energy saving, consumerism. Also, in cooperation with NGOs young people are actively involved to cleaning campaigns, energy and energy saving campaigns. Great emphasis is given to the promotion of sustainable consumption and production models were through the curriculum for ESD young people are working to various actions and activities in community and in school in order to promote sustainable ways of leaving. - Informative meetings / seminars for youth workers and NGO representatives at YBC infrastructure projects. - YBC provides funding to non-governmental organizations for materializing related activities at national level through the “Youth Initiatives” program. - Green volunteering is also promoted through various informative and entertaining events taken place at the YIC, The Multifunctional Youth Centers and Toy Libraries. Some governmental bodies have not yet taken any initiative on the subject.</p>
<p>61. To promote entrepreneurship, employment, education and volunteering opportunities with countries or regions outside of Europe?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	

<p>62. To encourage young people to participate in development cooperation activities either in their country of residence or abroad?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>YBC encourages young people to participate in such activities by providing funding through the Youth Initiatives program. The Youth Initiatives program funds both youth NGO's in Cyprus as well as abroad (Cypriot student organizations active abroad and NEPOMAK - the World Organisation for Young Overseas Cypriots).</p>
<p>Additional comments on youth & the world (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	

SECTION 5: EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

<p>63. Has your government carried out any specific measures or is it planning to do so based on the conclusions from the European Youth Week, which presents a number of recommendations on how the structured dialogue can be improved at the national and the European levels?</p>	<p>YES, the government has implemented specific measures responding to recommendations from the European Youth Week in May 2011.</p>
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Cyprus

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>-The consultation periods are planned precisely and avoid holiday periods/exams -Communication and questions are adapted to national context -National consultations are materialized in youth friendly environments where young people feel comfortable to express themselves -National consultations take place in different regions of the country, covering a wider geographical spectrum with different target groups of young people -Guiding questions are translated into participants' national language and explanatory terms are used for clarification -Provide information on the content and process of Structured Dialogue in a youth friendly language -Use of social media, on-line questionnaire, publications, newsletters, EURODESK, presentations of Structured Dialogue at meetings/seminars -Close cooperation and commitment among members of National Working Group who meet on a regular basis - Support is provided to Cyprus Youth Council (CYC) by the YBC through the provision of its infrastructure projects to carry out consultations CYC answered: NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field. Decisions have been taken at NWG level,(which is coordinated by CYC and in which the government participate through the Ministry of Education and Culture and the YBC). The questions are now translated in Greek.</p>
<p>64. Has your Government supported the establishment of a National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If yes, how has this been supported? If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here</p>	<p>The National Working Group of Cyprus consists of the following representatives: CYC which holds a coordinating role, YBC including a member of the Youth in Action Program, and Ministry of Education and Culture.</p>
<p>65. Does the National Youth Council play a leading role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

If your answer is NO please elaborate and indicate who plays a leading role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

66. Does the competent national ministry play an active role in the National Working Group? Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

- Sends out invitations to its members to inform them about upcoming consultations or any other events related to structured dialogue -Attends national consultations as an observer and an expert -In decision making -Assists in the preparation of the guiding questions

67. Given the cross-sectoral character of the EU Youth Strategy, have other national ministries played an active role in the National Working Group? No

<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate and indicate who plays an active role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>As one of the members of the National Working Group represents the Ministry of Education and Culture, which is also responsible for Youth affairs, through his participation at the meetings for Structured Dialogue, the other two fields of the said Ministry (Education and Culture) are kept informed on current Youth matters.</p>
<p>68. Does your Government provide financial or other support for the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate (maximum 300 words) If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>CYC answered: CYC is responsible for consultations. It applies for funding to the “Youth Initiatives” Program of the YBC. It often uses YBC’s premises to carry out consultations. The premises are provided without charge. The CYC has also asked for more permanent financing to be used for Structured Dialogue purpose (especially for report writer). This is still under discussion.</p>
<p>69. Is the competent national ministry aware of the process of consultations, and subsequent results, undertaken by the National Working Group in response to guiding questions issued by the European Steering Committee for the structured dialogue with youth?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Representatives attend all national consultations and are also members of the National Working Group</p>
<p>70. Has your Government taken any initiatives to follow up the points that were raised as priority areas in the conclusions of the structured dialogue on youth employment, as outlined in the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism answered: No, but we intend to take relevant initiatives/measures in 2012 The Ministry plans to re-launch the Scheme the soonest possible since it turned out to be one of the most successful schemes ever launched. Considering the economic crises, the Ministry, along with the Planning Bureau, exerts efforts to recover funds from other Schemes or Programmes of the Structural Funds or even from the Government Budget, in order to re-launch the Scheme. It must be underlined that, in case that the Scheme is re-launched, the Ministry intends to develop it so as to allow more people to benefit. The Cyprus Productivity Centre is currently implementing the New Modern Apprenticeship (NMA) with co-funding from the European Social Fund. The NMA is designed to offer an alternative form of training and development for young people, and especially those with fewer opportunities. It has a preparatory apprenticeship level for early school leavers, designed to offer them a second chance to go back to the traditional school system or to move on to the core apprenticeship level, which is of three years duration and combines institutional and in-company training.</p>

<p>71. Would your Government support a structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations in other fields than those covered by the overall thematic priorities, and individual Presidency priorities, agreed at European level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer</p>	<p>The YBC holds regular meetings with its General Advisory Body, which consists of 47 non-governmental organizations, and the CYC in an effort to inform all stakeholders of current developments in the youth field both at national and European level, including those related to structured dialogue.</p>
<p>72. Does your Government consider the National Working Group already established in your country to be sufficiently inclusive in its composition to ensure a participatory process open to all young people?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate</p>	<p>However there is room for improvement: -Creative and innovative ways for reaching out to young people should be further explored in order to reach out to those with fewer opportunities -Social media, including facebook, twitter, on-line questionnaires and EURODESK should be further exploited in order to give the opportunity to non-organized youth to express their views -National consultations materialized in as many as possible different regions of the Republic -Participation of other experts at national consultations to facilitate the process -Realize more information campaigns at schools and universities CYC answered: CYC coordinates, NGO and youth participation is ensured.</p>
<p>73. What are the methods of consultation with young people that have been applied within the structured dialogue in your country?</p>	<p>-National consultations in different regions of the Republic - Organization of national consultations in youth friendly environments -Information campaigns at universities and schools -Informative sessions with trainers -Use of social media, such as facebook -On-line questionnaires -E-mail</p>

<p>If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>74. Do youth researchers and those engaged in youth work play a role in carrying out the structured dialogue in your country?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Youth workers facilitate some public consultations but researchers are not involved in the structured dialogue process and do not therefore play any role in carrying out the structured dialogue in our country</p>
<p>75. Would your Government support efforts to enhance the visibility and transparency of structured dialogue at national level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>As representatives from the Ministry of Education and Culture and the YBC are members of the National Working Group, both bodies are informed about youngsters' views and try to accommodate their needs in every possible way through their programs and services. All information related to structured dialogue is also communicated to young people through EURODESK. Also, the YBC plans to forward future national reports to its General Advisory Body and to the members of its Inter-Ministerial Consulting Committee in order to further enhance the visibility and transparency of the structured dialogue process and its results at national level. CYC answered: No Actions are taken by the National Working Group, not the Government. However, the YBC and the Ministry of Education and Culture participate in the National Working Group.</p>

<p>76. Based on the experiences gained since 2010, does your Government feel that the format and working methods employed at EU Youth Conferences contribute to a successful conduct of structured dialogue?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>The participation of Ministry representatives and young people at Youth Conferences provides both parties with the opportunity for a fruitful and constructive debate. Both parties not only proceed to an exchange of views but they also propose concrete actions, on a topic of their concern, that they wish to be included in a Council Resolution, which will then be adopted at the Council of Ministers.</p>
<p>77. Based on the experiences gained from the first two cycles of the structured dialogue, does your Government have particular recommendations for the further development of the structured dialogue?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>As young people today are more interested in securing their financial future and well-being rather than becoming engaged in their society and becoming active citizens, member states should explain to young people the importance of participating in a structured dialogue consultation. Member states should stress to young people that they have every right to express their views on issues of their concern and should provide them with every mean to enable them to help define youth policies. Each State should strive to find innovative ideas for attracting young people and for enabling them to shape their society as they envision it. In order to achieve this, the further development of evidence-based research in the youth field is essential.</p>

SECTION 6: ON EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE	
<p>Presentation of good practice # 1</p>	
<p>Presentation of good practice # 2</p>	
<p>Presentation of good practice # 3</p>	