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

COUNTRY SHEET

ON YOUTH POLICY

IN ITALY



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1. Context and principles of national youth policy

1.1 Context of national youth policy

Over the years, a commitment of the State to safeguard young people has constantly characterized the political and legislative choices that accompanied interventions by the administration in office at the time.

With this aim, a real evolution in Italian political choices has been exhibited, although, indeed, the protection of youth was initially carried out using measures that were intended to bear directly on the phenomena that are an expression of the malaise of youth such as drug use, alcoholism and dropping out of school. Over the last few years interventions benefiting the younger generations have been agreed on, focusing on the prevention of this unease and on the development and acting-out of young people's 'potential'.

The first initiatives implemented on behalf of younger generations were developed at local, municipal and regional levels, and began at the end of the 1970s, becoming in the years increasingly well-constructed and multi-thematic so much that they adopted a transversal approach to tackle the problems of the younger generation.

On a more centralised level, development of youth policy has been a more recent occurrence. In fact, only in 1996 did responsibility for youth policy matters become amalgamated and assumed by an appropriate entity at the Office of the Prime Minister: the Department of Social Affairs. It was then transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies following the 2001 political elections. Subsequently, in 2006, responsibility for matters of youth and sport were assigned to an entity created ad hoc: the Department for Youth Policy and Sporting Activities (Dipartimento per le politiche giovanili e le attività sportive). In 2008, the government made the express decision to create a new department which no longer dealt with youth and sport contemporaneously, but which was aimed exclusively at implementing measures and interventions in order to benefit the younger generations.

To this end, the Department of Youth (Dipartimento della gioventù) was established via a Decree by the Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Silvio Berlusconi, on 8th May 2008, and was entrusted to The Rt. Hon. Giorgia Meloni, Minister without portfolio.

1.2. Principles of national youth policy

The programme of the Minister of youth

The main objectives of the Minister's programme, as expressed during her interview with the Parliamentary Commission of Social Affairs, are the following: promote "the right to the future", disseminate positive models and develop the concept of active citizenship. "Young people's right to have a future" is to be intended as the right to get a job, a financial credit, housing, as well as to form a family. The programme envisages many integrated measures aimed at supporting young people in accessing the labour market, through a better co-ordination between education/vocational training and labour market, between labour demand and supply. The programme outlines also a plan for the recruiting, on the basis of personal skills, of a group of young people that will get a specific training and a job in local, national and international Public Administrations. A highly important objective of the Minister of Youth is that of promoting an authentic Merit Revolution so as to give centrality back to those who have earned it. This means breaking down barriers, providing everyone with the same opportunity from the start – independent of their financial background, age, gender – and allowing everyone to be measured by their worth. The Minister would like to open a universal "entry gate" for the future and for aspirations, allowing talent, application and commitment to make the difference. Furthermore, there is the intention to promote entrepreneurship among young people, by conveying the culture of the enterprise in high schools and universities and supporting them in the start-up phase with ad hoc advice, tax relief and easy access to credit. Access to credit will be supported also for study purposes, both improving the existing tools and creating new ones. As regards "the right to form a family" the programme envisages measures aimed at granting housing to young couples, as well as, actions for reconciling work and family life. Positive models regarding young people will be spread using media and Internet network. The dissemination of values such as solidarity, respect of others and active participation to civil society will be promoted among children since the primary school. A particular attention is drawn also to the dissemination of healthy life styles (food, alcohol, drugs). Access to information will be developed, in order to increase the participation of young people in public life and facilitate their self fulfilment as active, responsible citizens. Participation in society will be strengthened through the promotion of youth communities and the active involvement of young people and their organisations both in ministerial activities and in the policy actions affecting them.

2. Statistics on young people

Total number of young people from the ages of 13 and 29: 10.709.539 (Source: ISTAT, January 2010)

AGE	No. men	No. women	No. men and women
13	288.294	271.776	560.070
14	288.268	270.914	559.182
15	291.682	275.174	566.856
16	298.040	281.943	579.983
17	310.159	292.690	602.849
18	311.578	291.949	603.527
19	316.475	297.671	614.146
20	314.648	297.678	612.326
21	320.576	304.478	625.054
22	313.239	300.251	613.490
23	316.891	305.107	621.998
24	326.308	319.216	645.524
25	334.828	327.548	662.376
26	343.781	336.432	680.213
27	355.936	351.540	707.476
28	360.162	356.729	716.891
29	371.591	365.987	737.578
TOTAL	5.462.456	5.247.083	10.709.539

Percentage of young people from the ages of 13 and 29: 17,75 % of the total population.

Percentage of young women: 8,70; Percentage of young men: 9,05% (Source: ISTAT, January 2010)

AGE	% men	% women	%
13	0,48	0,45	0,93
14	0,48	0,45	0,93
15	0,48	0,46	0,94
16	0,49	0,47	0,96
17	0,51	0,49	1,00
18	0,52	0,48	1,00
19	0,52	0,49	1,02
20	0,52	0,49	1,01
21	0,53	0,50	1,04
22	0,52	0,50	1,02
23	0,53	0,51	1,03
24	0,54	0,53	1,07
25	0,55	0,54	1,10
26	0,57	0,56	1,13
27	0,59	0,58	1,17
28	0,60	0,59	1,19
29	0,62	0,61	1,22
TOTAL	9,05	8,70	17,75

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth

- The Ministry

After political elections in April 2008, the structure of the Ministry for Youth Policies and Sports was modified, as it became Department of Youth, meanwhile a new Office for Sports was set up in the Prime Minister's Office.

Under Prime Ministerial Decree (DPCM) of 8 May 2008 Mrs Giorgia Meloni was nominated Minister without portfolio of youth.

Web site: www.gioventu.gov.it

- Duration of mandate

The official number of months on the legislation period is 60.

Department of Youth

Main tasks of the Department of Youth

Under Prime Ministerial Decree (DPCM) of 13 June 2008 the "policy-making functions and the coordination of all initiatives, including legislation and regulation, on matters relating to Youth were delegated to the Minister without portfolio of youth – Mrs Giorgia Meloni.

More specifically, with regard to youth policies, and without prejudice to the statutory powers vested in individual ministers, the Minister is responsible for:

- a) promoting and coordinating government activities to guarantee the implementation of policies for youth in every area, including economics, taxation, work, education and culture, also by coordinating programmes financed by the European Union;
- b) coordinating government action in the matter of international youth exchange schemes;
- c) promoting and coordinating the functions in the matter of fight and treatment of the youth deviance and discomfort in every area, economics, taxation, work, education and culture;
- d) performing the functions foreseen in art. 46, comma 1 let.c, of the Legislative Decree 30 July 1999, n. 300 in the matter of youth generations' policies;
- e) performing the policy-making functions and oversight of the Italian National Agency for the Community Youth Programme." The Minister also chairs the National Youth Forum.
- f) performing the functions foreseen in art. 1, comma 556, of the law n.266/2005, in matter of awareness and prevention of dependence;

g) performing the functions foreseen in art. 1, commas 72, 73, 74 of the law 247/2007 regarding the financing of initiatives to support young people make access in the labour market and the youth entrepreneurship;

f) performing the functions foreseen in art. 19, comma 2, of the law No 248 of 4 August 2006, regarding the National Fund for Youth Policies.

Together with the Minister's Cabinet, in early July 2008, the Department of Youth began its work, under a Head of Department and two Directors-General responsible, respectively, for Youth Policies, and for Resources and Organisation. The aim is to build up a light, streamlined and versatile coordination structure adequate to its tasks.

- Number of people who work in the Department of Youth

The number of people who actually work in this ministry is 44 (including the two General Directors and the Head of Department)

Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry

The Head of Department is Mr Andrea Sergio Fantoma

Tel. +39.06.67796880 - Fax +39.06.67796527

Contact person in the Department of Youth competent for European youth policy

Ms Sofia Pain

Tel. +39.06.67796803 - Fax +39.06.67796527

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Press Office of the Minister

Mrs. Cristina Missiroli

Tel. +39.06.67792305 Fax +39.06.67792376

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

Other Ministries

Various other ministries have responsibilities in the youth field: Ministry for Labour and Social policies, Ministry of Education, University and Research, Office for Sports, Ministry of Health Ministry of Family, Ministry for equal opportunities, EU Affairs Ministry.

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

- Chamber of Deputies (www.camera.it): Social affairs Commission. The Commission is chaired by Mr Giuseppe Palumbo

- Chamber of Deputies (www.camera.it): Culture, science and education Commission. The Commission is chaired by Mrs Valentina Aprea.

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

- Region **Abruzzo**: Direction Active Employment Policies, Training and Education, Social Policies, Service Social Promotion, (person responsible: Aida Mastrogiovanni, Via Raffaello, 137, Pescara, phone +39 085 7672020, Fax +39 085 7672143 e-mail: aida.mastrogiovanni@regione.abruzzo.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.abruzzo.it>
- Region **Basilicata**: Department of Training, Job, Culture and sport - Office for the Sports and Youth Policies (person responsible: Ornella Salvatore, Via Vincenzo Verrastro, 8 - 85100 Potenza (Pz), phone: +39 0971 668069, Fax: +39 0971 668086, E-mail: ornella.salvatore@regione.basilicata.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.basilicata.it>
- Region **Calabria**: Department n. 12 Tourism, Cultural Goods, Sport and Show, Youth Policies (person responsible: Raffaele Rio, Via S. Nicola, 8 - 88100 Catanzaro, phone: +39 0961-856882 /0961-856884, Fax +39 0961-856822 Fax: +39 0961.856885) Web site: <http://www.regione.calabria.it>
- Region **Campania**: Area youth policies and regional youth forum (person responsible: Gaspare Natale, Centro Direzionale, Isola A6 – Napoli, phone: +39 081/7966225-6239, Fax 081/7966238 email: g.natale@maildip.regione.campania.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.campania.it>
- Region **Emilia-Romagna**: Social Policies Department, Office of Social and Educative Policies Promotion for Childhood and Youth, of Immigration Policies and Voluntarism, Associations and Third Sector (person responsible: Leonida Grisendi, Viale Aldo Moro 21 - 40127 Bologna, phone: +39 051-5277161, Fax +39 051-5277056, E-mail: DgSan@regione.emilia-romagna.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it>
- Region **Friuli Venezia Giulia**, Central Direction of Education, Culture, Sport and Peace, Service for Recreational and Sport Activities (person responsible: Rosella Bianca Longallo, Trieste - Via Carducci, 6, phone: +39 040 3773422, fax +39 040 3773416, e-mail s.sport@regione.fvg.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.fvg.it>
- Region **Lazio**: Social Department, Direction of Job, Peer Opportunities and Youth Policies (person responsible: Rosanna Bellotti, Roma - Via Rosa Raimondi Garibaldi, 7 - 00145 - Tel +39 0651685011, E-mail: rbellotti@regione.lazio.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.lazio.it>
- Region **Liguria**: Department of health and social services, Service family, minors, young people and equal opportunities (person responsible: Giorgina Zaccaron, Genova, via Fieschi 15, phone: +39 010.548.5299, Fax: +39 010.548.8411). Web site: <http://www.regione.liguria.it>
- Region **Lombardy**: General Direction of Sport and Youth (person responsible: Director General Gianni Carlo Ferrario, Via Rosellini, 17 - 20124 Milano, email: gianni_ferrario@regione.lombardia.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.lombardia.it>
- Region **Marche**: Social Policies Service, Area Policies for Family and Social Inclusion, Sub-area Childhood, Family and Youth Policies (person responsible: Paolo Mannucci, Via Gentile da

Fabriano, 3 60125 Ancona AN, phone: +39 071806-4305, Fax: +39 071.806.4041, Tel. 071/8064305 – Fax 071/8064041 email:paolo.mannucci@regione.marche.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.marche.it>

- Region **Molise**: Service of Planning, Social Policies and Coordination Activities in the Third Sector (person responsible: Colavita Michele, Via Toscana, 63 - 86100 Campobasso, phone: +39 0874/ 424310, Fax +39 0874/ 424320 e-mail: direzionefp@regione.molise.it). Web site: <http://www3.regione.molise.it>

- Region **Piemonte**: Regional Direction of Social Policies, Programmatic Sector for the support of Person, Family that deals with the youth issue (person responsible: Raffaella Vitale, C.so Stati Uniti, 1-Torino, phone: +39 011.4321542, fax +39 011.432.5647, e-mail: direzioneB19@regione.piemonte.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.piemonte.it>

- Region **Puglia**: Regional Direction “Policies for the promotion of health, people and equal opportunities” (person responsible: Aulenta Mario, Viale Caduti di tutte le guerre, 15 - 70126 Bari, phone: +39 080 540 3069, Fax : 080 540 3459). Web site: <http://www.regione.puglia.it/>

- Region **Sardinia**: Department of Public Education, Cultural Goods, Information and Sport deals with the youth issue (person responsible: Antonina Scanu, Viale Trieste, 186 - 09123 Cagliari, phone:070/6065011; fax 070/6065001, e-mail: pi.assessore@regione.sardegna.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.sardegna.it>

- Region **Sicily**: Department of Family and Social policies (person responsible: Grazia Genduso, Via Trinacria, 34-36 90100 Palermo; phone:+39 0917074338; e-mail: graziagenduso@regione.sicilia.it; Web site: <http://pti.regione.sicilia.it>

- Region **Toscana**: Direction General Citizenship rights and social cohesion – Social inclusion Unit (person responsible: Giovanna Faenzi, Via Taddeo Alderotti, 26 50127 Firenze, phone: +39 0554385098, E-mail: giovanna.faenzi@regione.toscana.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.toscana.it>

- Region **Trentino Alto Adige**: Autonomy Province of Trento, Department of Education and Youth Policies (person responsible: Carlo Basani , Via Gilli, 3, 38100 – Trento, phone: +39 0461. 497233, fax: +39 0461.497252, E-mail: dip.istruzione@provincia.tn.it). Web site: <http://www.provincia.tn.it/>.
Autonomy Province of Bolzano, Office for Women, Family and Youth (person responsible: Eugenio Bizzotto, Palazzo 12, via Canonico Michael Gamper 39100 Bolzano, +39 047141 82 30, fax 0471 41 82 49). Web site: <http://www.provincia.bz.it>

- Region **Umbria**: Direction of Health and Social Services, (person responsible: Lombardi Adriana, Via M. Angeloni, 61 - 06124 Perugia, phone: +39 0755045686, Fax: +39 0755045569 e-mail: alombardi@regione.umbria.it). Web site: <http://www.entra.regione.umbria.it>

- Region **Valle D’Aosta**: Department of Health, Welfare and Social Policies, Direction of Social Policies, Service Family and Youth Policies (person responsible: Scaglia Patrizia, Grande

Charrière, 40 - 11020 Saint Christophe, phone: +39 0165 52.7005, e-mail p.scaqlia@regione.vda.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.vda.it>

- Region **Veneto**: Regional Assessor for Social Services with competence on Youth Policies (person responsible: Remo Sernagiotto, Palazzo Balbi - Dorsoduro 3901, 30123 Venice, phone: +39 041 2792881 - +39 041 2792882, fax: +39 041 2792883, e-mail: assessore.sernagiotto@regione.veneto.it). Web site: <http://www.regione.veneto.it>.

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

At a local level, each Municipality (8.101) has an office in charge of youth affairs.

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

Youth Information Centres (Informagiovani)

The Informagiovani centres are public (mainly municipal) services for young people that provide information of all kinds, on subjects of interest to young people. The service is free and the information is reliable and varied.

In Italy, since 1981, over 1.200 Informagiovani centres have opened in all the large cities and in many smaller ones and towns as well.

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

3.3.1 Youth Councils

In 2002 the Minister for Education created the **National Forum of the Students' Associations**. It aims at favoring the dialogue between the Ministry and the students' associations, representing needs and formulating proposals, providing advice about initiatives taken by the Minister.

In December 2006 the Ministry of Youth Policies and the Ministry of Home Affairs established together a Youth Consultation for Religious and Cultural Pluralism. The purpose of this Consultation is to encourage young people to play a leading role in building up models of dialogue and tolerance between Italy's different religions, faiths and cultures.

The **National Council of University Students** is an advisory body, representing the students who attend. It offers advice and proposals to the Minister of Education, University and Research and elects eight students' representatives in the National University Council.

A part from the national level, Youth Councils exist in many Italian Municipalities and in some Regions with the aim to promote the dialogue among young people and represent their needs, proposals and opinions to the administrative and political authorities.

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

FORUM NAZIONALE GIOVANI (<http://www.forumnazionalegiovani.it/home>)

INFORMAGIOVANI (<http://www.informagiovani.it>)

Eurodesk (www.eurodesk.it)

Rete GAI - Associazione per il Circuito dei Giovani Artisti Italiani (<http://gai.informadove.it>)

Centro Turistico Giovanile (www.ctg.it)

Erasmus Student Network (www.esn.it)

Servizio Civile Internazionale (www.sci-italia.it)

MO.DA.VI. Onlus (www.modavi.it)

AMESCI (www.amesci.org)

Movimento Giovanile Missionario (MGM) (www.mgmoperemissionarie.com/)

AFSAI - Associazione per la Formazione, gli Scambi e le Attività Interculturali (www.afsai.it)

AGESCI (www.agesci.org)

C.N.G.E.I (www.cngei.it)

Unione Italiana Sport per Tutti (UISP) (www.uisp.it)

Associazione Giovani Italiani nel mondo (www.giovaninelmondo.com)

Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza (www.cnca.it)

Federazione Italiana Comunità Terapeutiche (www.fict.it)

Specifically, the Department of Youth collaborates – by virtue of the appropriate conventions – in activities of the National Youth Forum (Forum nazionale dei giovani), recognised by Title 30 law of December 30th 2004, no. 311 which is the national and international representative platform for 75 organisations which reflect the heterogeneous nature of youth civil commitment. In particular, the Forum nazionale dei giovani activities were financed by the Department to the sum of € 483,000.00 in 2011 , and fall into the following four programme lines for planning activities:

Objective 1 “A person's centrality”, a primary reference parameter for ideas and actions. Projects of this nature aim to support values that must not be renounced such as liberty, equality, justice and solidarity, as well as to promote reciprocal respect and to combat every form of social exclusion and discrimination;

Objective 2 “Participatory citizenship” refers to projects aimed at developing and increasing youth involvement in the country's decision-making processes in reference to institutional reforms and welfare.

Objective 3 “Dialogue with national, European and international institutions” refers to projects focusing on a vision of Europe according to parameters of peace, integration and justice, wherever a European dimension of inclusion, respect and multicultural enhancement is developed.

Objective 4 “Training paths” deals with projects that aim to provide the right means for young people to act as players and citizens aware of social policies that affect them, and that aim to provide young people with training courses and appropriate tools for operating in the world of work. Finally, and in line with the implementation of a structured dialogue as laid out at the community level, there is a push to promote the implementation of dialogue with all young representatives on the local level (Regional, Provincial and Municipal). This applies in view of the normative revision of youth representation which is currently underway.

3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?

A permanent network with the cooperation partners doesn't yet exist, but there are many informal contacts with official institutions that collect statistical data on youth, research groups or individual researchers who do youth research and youth organizations. There is the intention to create such permanent network.

4. Legislation

The Ministry for Youth Policies and Sport was instituted for the first time in May 2006.

After political elections in April 2008, the structure of the Ministry for Youth Policies and Sports was modified, as it became Department of Youth, meanwhile a new Office for Sports was set up in the Prime Minister's Office.

Under Prime Ministerial Decree (DPCM) of 13 June 2008 the "policy-making functions and the coordination of all initiatives, including legislation and regulation, on matters relating to Youth were delegated to the Minister without portfolio of youth – Mrs Giorgia Meloni.

Even though this is a Ministry without Portfolio, there are several ways of funding to perform its institutional activities and tasks.

For further information on the duties of the Department of Youth please see point 2.1.1.

The Title V - Art. 117 of the Italian Constitution, as modified by the Constitutional Law n. 3/2001, gives to the Regions legislative and executive powers in all subject matters that are not expressly covered by State legislation, such as youth policies and more in general social policies. In matter of social policies the State has exclusive legislative powers only for the determination of the basic level of benefits relating to civil and social entitlements to be guaranteed throughout the national territory. The Italian Constitutional Court (www.cortecostituzionale.it) established that the strong link existing between the determination of the basic level of benefits and the concrete implementation of the actions always needs a previous agreement between the State and the Regions. For this reason there are many regional laws regarding youth topic and many agreements between the Department of Youth and the local authorities (Regions, Provinces and Municipalities) for the interventions to be carried out on the territory.

For further information please see point "Guidelines or principles concerning youth policy if there is no special legislation on this field" and point 5.

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

Art. 31. - The Republic [...] protects maternity, childhood and youth [...].

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

The National Youth Policy aims in particular at reaffirming the central position of young people in Italian national growth policies. The achievement of these objectives is very closely linked to the specific local situations of the areas concerned in terms of social services, infrastructures, economic and occupational development. To guarantee the same opportunities to young people in the whole country it is necessary to exploit the value of the youth resources present in the less developed areas. Here there is a more serious gap between young people and employment opportunities, and so public intervention must narrow it improving both the services for young people and the systems for the labour demand/supply match.

The main lines of action planned are the following ones:

- The guideline “Right to the Future” is made up of various measures designed to tackle the precarious condition with which young people are faced in their daily lives, measures to be set in place principally in concert with other Ministries. The objective of guaranteeing young Italians' right to the future cannot forgo the centrality of topics such as work, housing and the family.
- The “Generational Protagonism” guideline focuses on tackling the gerontocracy that is present in all levels of society. Even spaces of aggregation, places where young people can freely express their personality, form artistic aptitudes, socialize forma and exchange their opinions fall under this topic.
- The guideline “The Best of Youth” takes off from the consideration that young people are submitted to a bombardment of erroneous messages, incorrect programmes and bad examples. It is resistance to this that proves the qualities of this generation as there is an extraordinary world of volunteering, social and political commitment where ideals are transformed into something solid that can be communicated to local communities. of everyday heroism in youth “living positively” should be told through images, sounds and words that are coherent with their background.
- The “Merit Revolution” aiming at assuring the same educational and working starting conditions and removing the main obstacles that prevent the quality and excellence from coming to light.

In November 2011, in line with them, the Minister of Youth launched under the title of “Diritto al futuro” (Right to the future) a package of measures has been adopted by the Italian government to tackle the precarious condition with which young people are faced in their daily lives, measures to be set in place by the Department of youth in concert with the other ministries. The objective of guaranteeing young Italians' right to the future cannot forgo the centrality of topics such as work, vocational training and education, housing and the family. Many actions will be carried out to support youth employment, via the implementation of instruments for information and youth

guidance and the optimization of services for local enterprises so as to stimulate job applications; stimulate housing autonomy; further and develop youth mobility, through the implementation of international exchanges, the optimization of receptive structures, youth information on international opportunities and the creation of a worker network in the sector, even on an international scale. This package of measures is granted with 216 ml/€ of the Department of Youth that become 300 ml/€ thanks to other public and private financing. Financial support will contribute to the transformation of 10.000 fixed-term contract into permanent ones for young parents. 10.000 new loans will be granted to young couples working as temporary employees. 100 million Euros will finance young entrepreneurs for the start up of new enterprises, especially in the fields of technological innovation, eco-innovation, of arts and traditional crafts and of promotion of the Italian and European identity; the development of youth talents in the fields of culture, music, cinema, theatre, design; the transformation of patents and innovations in concrete productive activities or in marketable products. In the period 2011- 2013 more than 20.000 students will participate in a unique training and orientation experience and will have the opportunity to come face-to-face with some of the most important Italian and foreign companies and more than 20,000 students will be involved in the job placement.

More specifically, the implementation of the above priorities will be based on the following approaches, methods and instruments:

- the development of a structured dialogue with young people and their organisations, researchers in the youth field and policy-makers;
- "awareness-building and discussion panels" with institutional parties at the various national, regional and local levels, to jointly identify synergistic courses of action to be implemented in a wide-ranging and systematic manner;
- identification of the best projects, national and international, for gradual implementation, that are able to pursue the broader European cohesion objectives, drawing on the potential of the younger generations;
- actions to strengthen and enhance the design capacity and cross-cutting systemic assistance and support activities for the benefit of the Regional and Municipal authorities, and the other institutions involved in planning and implementing the Framework Programme Agreements regarding youth and policies.
- international, national and local co-operation on youth policy development, with particular focus on setting standards and supporting their implementation.

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

Amounts allocated to youth policies or to actions in the youth field on national level.

Law No 248 of 4 August 2006 enacting "Urgent measures for economic recovery" instituted the National Fund for Youth Policies to promote culture, vocational training and social integration and support the access to credit. The initial capital endowment of this Fund integrated for the three-year period 2007-2009 under the law n. 296 of 27 December 2006 (Financial Law) has been established:

for 2010 by the Financial Law for 2010 as follows: 81,087,000.00 € (the 46,15% of this sum finances regional and local projects according to an agreement among the Government, Regions and Autonomous Provinces approved on the 7th October 2010 during the State-Region Conference session).

for 2011 by the Financial Law for 2011 as follows: 32,909,777,000.00 €. Currently this sum is reduced at 20,123,671.02 because of the reduction of the national public expenditure (the 46,15% of this sum will finance regional and local projects according to an agreement among the Government, Regions and Autonomous Provinces approved on the 7th October 2010 during the State-Region Conference session).

This fund has been assigned to the Department of Youth by the Decree-Law No 85 of 16 May 2008, enacted as Law No. 121 of 14 July 2008.

Law No 266/2005, as modified by the Law n. 191 of 23 December 2009, instituted the National Fund for youth communities of 5,000,000.000 per year from 2006 to 2009 and of 3,000,000.000 for 2010. In 2011 balances are used to finance ongoing projects and activities. This fund has been assigned to the Department of Youth by the Decree-Law No 85 of 16 May 2008, enacted as Law No. 121 of 14 July 2008.

Law No. 247 of 24 December 2007 instituted a National Fund to support young people to make access in the labour market, to credit and create new enterprises of 150,000,000.00 for 2008. In 2011 balances are used to finance ongoing projects and activities. This fund has been assigned to the Department of Youth by the Decree-Law No 85 of 16 May 2008, enacted as Law No. 121 of 14 July 2008.

Law No 133 of 6 August 2008 instituted a National Guaranty Fund of 4,000,000.00 € for 2008, of 10,000,000.00 € for each for the years 2009 and 2010 to support young families (young couples and singles with children under age) in the purchase of their first house. In 2011 balances are used to finance ongoing projects and activities.

Regional level

Framework Programme Agreements (APQs) have been defined with the Regional governments of all the Regions, including the two autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano.

For the period 2007-2009 21 APQs have been signed by the Department of Youth, the 19 Regions and two Autonomous Provinces with the aim to increase the participation of young people in public life and facilitate their self fulfillment as active, responsible citizens and develop the structured dialogue; to promote the inter-culture dialogue, the development of cultural, creative, and entrepreneurial activities and etc. Currently many of these initiatives are still ongoing.

For the period 2010-2011 the agreement among the Government, Regions and Autonomous Provinces signed on the 7th October 2010 during the State-Region Conference session defines, as priorities areas of intervention for the APQs to be signed (within the 31st of July 2011), the following ones: implementation of an integrated information system to help young people's access to local, national and European initiatives; training opportunities in the field of arts and crafts of the cultural local tradition; promotion of the legality culture, enhancement of the youth creativity and talents and of a network of structures for young people's accommodation, in particular hostels for young people.

Collaboration across the country also occurs by way of agreements with the Union of Italian Provinces (Unione delle Province d'Italia or UPI) and the National Association of Italian Municipalities (Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani or ANCI).

In particular, the understanding between the Department of Youth and the UPI (www.upinet.it) promotes interventions that are integrated in areas of youth policy, enhances strategies and policies that benefit the young – which can involve various institutional levels, collective youth associations and all those who work in the ambient of youth.

Moreover, agreements to promote local projects for young people have been defined by the Ministry of Youth also with the Municipal Authorities (ANCI - www.anci.it).

7. European Dimension of youth policy

This section should outline how European strategies, policy commitments and programmes are implemented at the national level.

As a Member State of the European Union and of the Council of Europe, Italy represented by the Department of Youth, participates in the international debate on youth policy at different levels.

Within the European sphere, political involvement takes place via participation in the Council of the European Union – sitting on committees for education, culture and youth – as well as through preparatory tasks by the Youth Working Party at the heart of the Council.

Moreover, Italy takes part in several events for the exchange of opinions which are all promoted by the European Commission and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, such as conferences, meetings with the director generals of the youth sector and think tanks.

Italy contributes to the implementation of the EU Youth in Action Programme, both at European level as a member of the Youth in Action Programme, and at national level as the internal supervisory authority of the National Youth Agency.

7.1 Council of Europe.

The Department of Youth disseminates information on the Council of Europe programmes, seminars, study sessions and other training opportunities to the Forum nazionale dei giovani and to other relevant youth NGOs that can present their candidature. Italian Youth NGOs presents also projects according to the European Youth Foundation call for proposals.

For further information on 2010EYF grant decisions:

www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/fej/Grant_decisions_PC23.pdf

www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/fej/Grant_decisions_PC24.pdf

7.2 European Union.

7.2.1 Implementation of the Youth in Action programme

One of the main objectives of the Youth in Action Programme is to promote active citizenship among young people through five specific actions: youth for Europe, European voluntary service, youth in the world, youth support systems, and support for European co-operation in the youth sector. The Department of Youth is the National Authority in charge for this programme, which is implemented by the National Agency for the Youth in Action Programme. Under a special provision

adopted in December 2006, this National Agency for the Youth in Action Programme was instituted, as an autonomous body, to implement the Decision 1719/2006/CE of the European Parliament and the Council of Eu Ministers. The Agency plays a vital role in supporting the beneficiaries of the Youth in Action Programme during the preparation, implementation, evaluation and management of the project. Information and counseling activities on the Youth in Action Programme are performed by the Agency together with the National EURODESK office. EURODESK is the European network responsible for the dissemination of European Union information and for the provision of telephone enquiry services for young people and other actors in the youth field. Policy-making and oversight functions over the Agency are performed by the Department of Youth.

In 2010 the National Agency, together with EURODESK carried out many activities such as seminars and 60 info days at national and local level aiming at disseminating information on the EU Programme “Youth in action”, supplying training and technical assistance to enhance the number and the quality of projects.

Moreover six main events were carried out in 2010 at national or international level, involving approximately 50.000 young people across Italy such as:

- Youth World Meeting - Bari, March 2010;
- RoadShow TNT Festival Bari, Torino and Rome, August-September 2010;
- Notte Bianca di Torino – Stand Gioventù Esplosiva, Torino, Novembre 2010
- The TNT Festival - the First major event ever held in Italy on young talent – Rome, November 2010
- Partner volleyball World Cup 2010 – September Milano, Catania and Rome, September-October 2010;
- The Tool Fair, Venice, November 2010

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Website: www.eurodesk.it

Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth purposes

LIFE LONG LEARNING – in Italy the programme is carried out by the Ministry of Education, University and Research and the Ministry of Labour and Social policies.

PROGRESS – in Italy the programme is carried out by Ministry of Labour and Social policies.

EUROPASS – The Italian Europass Center is carried out by ISFOL (Istituto per lo Sviluppo della Formazione Professionale dei Lavoratori).

7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level

Please describe if there is a national strategy for following up the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018).

The Eu Youth Strategy stretching over a variety of fields of intervention involves different policies affecting young people's life and, so, following up it needs a *mainstreaming* activity and strategic linking with other development policies (i.e. school, university, work, welfare, health, housing, environment and social services).

Therefore, the follow up of the Strategy requires an effective application of a transversal approach towards youth policies, possible through a continual exchange of ideas both with policymakers and those responsible for local bodies.

This is currently carried out by the Minister of Youth that has the function and duties of directing and co-ordinating all initiatives (even laws) that concern youth policy, in relation to other Ministries and local bodies (the Regions, Provinces and Municipalities).

This transversal approach is implemented by both the combined realisation of projects and the formation of appropriate task forces of technical co-ordination experts, or 'steering committees'.

Dialogue between the Minister of Youth and local authorities takes place through programme framework agreements and conventions and via the Permanent Conference for State, Region and Autonomous Province Relations (also known as the State-Region Conference).

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Italy

Websites:

www.governo.it

www.gioventu.gov.it

www.interno.it

<http://www.istruzione.it>

<http://www.lavoro.gov.it>

www.serviziocivile.gov.it

<http://www.agenziagiovani.it>

<http://www.eurodesk.it>

<http://www.istat.it>

<http://www.isfol.it>

www.forumnazionalegiovani.it

<http://www.informagiovani.anci.it/>

www.portaledeigiovani.it

<http://www.quotidianogiovani.it>

Every Region, Province and Municipality have its own portal that provides information on policies, programmes and initiatives promoted in the youth field, especially concerning specific topics such as training, education, employment, mobility and European opportunities.

You can find information on the different regional, provincial and local websites in this webpage of the Italian government: http://www.governo.it/link/istituzioni_nazionali/index.html