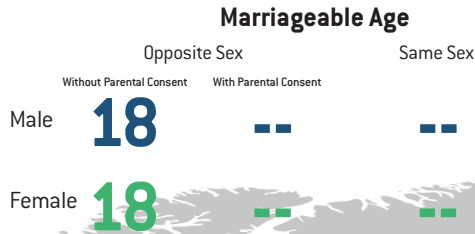


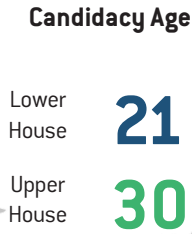
Belarus

Belarus' Law on Youth (2009) defines youth as between 14-31 years of age.

DEFINITION OF YOUTH



Civil registration offices may reduce marriageable age in special circumstance by not more than three years. Parental consent is not required. No specific law for same-sex marriage. Homosexual acts legal. Source: UNSD, ILGA



Eight members of the Council of the Republic (upper house) are appointed. Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union



The penal code states minimum age is 16, however provides an extensive list of exceptions for which 14 year olds are liable. Source: Penal Code of the Republic of Belarus (1999).

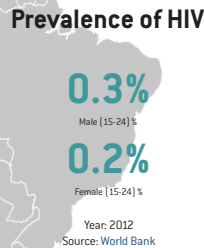
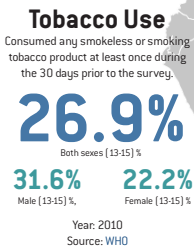
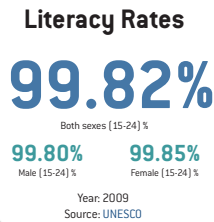
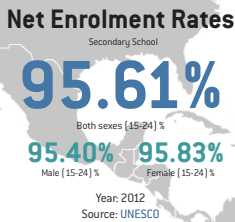


Source: FDSIGRID



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUTH POLICY & LEGISLATION

The [state law on youth policy](#) (2009) describes parameters for youth policy, stating its aims as:

- Supporting comprehensive education;
- Supporting spiritual, moral, and physical development, creation of conditions for free and effective participation in political, social, economic, cultural development;
- Providing social, material, legal and other support and extending opportunities for choosing one's life-path.

The [Constitution](#) guarantees the above as rights and emphasizes the role of the state to provide conditions for such to be achieved. According to the [2011 briefing](#), from 2006 to 2010, a state youth program called "Youth of Belarus" was implemented. There is no mention of such a program or of any new program on the official [webpage on youth policy](#) of the [Ministry of Education](#).

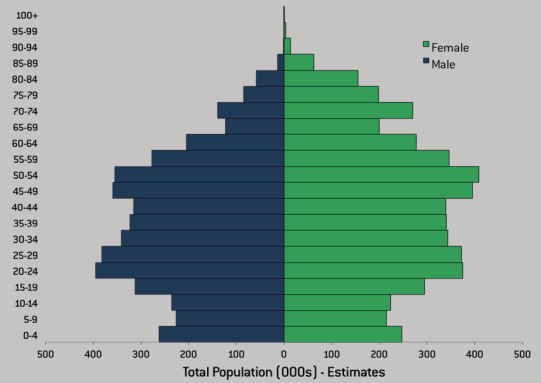
YOUTH POLICY FACT SHEET

HTTP://WWW.YOUTHPOLICY.ORG/FACTSHEETS/COUNTRY/BELARUS

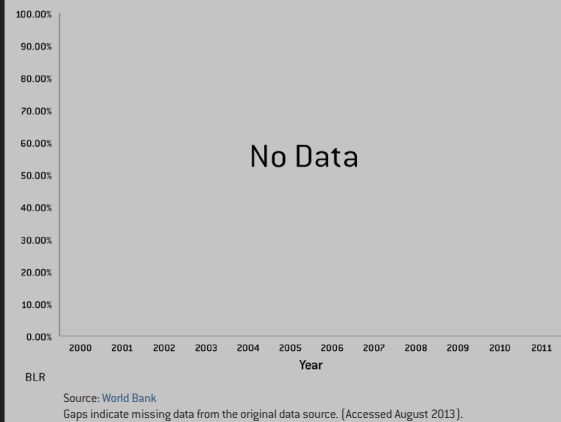
GDP PER CAPITA	HDI	GINI
USD 6,685.02	0.793 ¹	26.48 ²
	50 out of 187 countries.	
Year: 2012 Source: World Bank	Year: 2012 Source: UNDP	Year: 2011 Source: World Bank

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION	PRESS FREEDOM
29 ³	48.35 ⁴
123 out of 177 countries.	157 out of 179 countries.
Year: 2013 Source: Transparency International	Year: 2013 Source: Reporters Without Borders

Population by Age and Sex 2010



Youth Unemployment (share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment)



Is there a national youth policy?

Yes

The [state law on youth policy](#) of Belarus is from 2009. A [briefing paper](#) from 2011 is available.

YOUTH & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The [Ministry of Education](#) is responsible for youth affairs. Its [webpage on youth policy](#) states responsibility for: civic & patriotic education of youth; healthy lifestyles; support for young families; support for young people in education; support for talented youth; promotion of the right to work and the rights of youth to associate; promotion of socially significant initiatives of youth; international youth cooperation.

The Department of Youth Affairs within the Ministry of Education was abolished by a [presidential decree](#) in 2004.

YOUTH & REPRESENTATION

The Belarusian Committee of Youth Organizations (BCYO) is the state recognized NYC, but the [2011 briefing](#) says it is not active. The [Belarusian Republican Youth Union \(BRYU\)](#) receives 98% of the 2014 state budget for youth. The [Belarusian National Youth Council \(RADA\)](#) is the first post-independence national youth council and member of the [European Youth Forum](#).

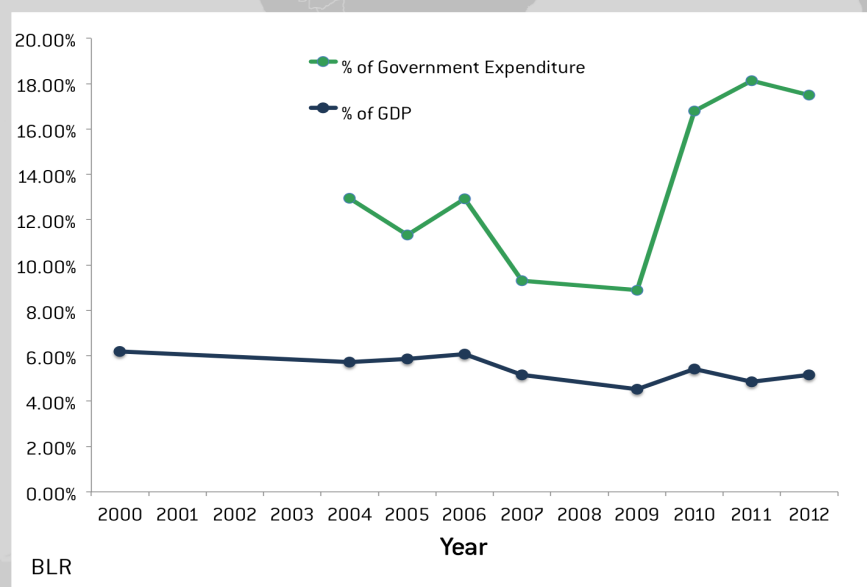
[Crackdowns on civil society, especially after the 2010 elections](#) caused it to go underground. Now RADA includes 20+ initiatives and is part of the [Alternative Youth Policy Platform](#). Neither cooperates with the state.

YOUTH BUDGET & SPENDING

According to [The Republican Budget 2014](#), the budget allocation for youth is 43 737 323 000 BYR (Belarusian Rubles) or approximately 4 594 256 USD. The [Ministry of Education](#), responsible for state youth policy, receives 1.35% of this budget (approx. BYR 592 million or USD 60,346). 98.65% goes to the [Belarusian Republican Youth Union \(BRYU\)](#), the largest state recognized youth organization.

According to the [World Bank](#), Belarus spent 17.5% of its government expenditure on education in 2012, but does not calculate what this translates to in terms of percentage GDP.

Total Expenditure on Education as a Percentage of Government Spending and GDP



Source: [World Bank](#)

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

Yes

Does the country have a national youth organisation/association (council, platform, body)?

Yes

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

BYR 592 million
USD 60,346

Publications & Reviews

Visit our library for further reading:

<http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/belarus>

Footnotes

- 1) A Human Development Index (HDI) value of zero means low human development, and a value of 1 means very high human development. HDI is a composite index measuring three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. (UNDP)
- 2) An Income Gini coefficient of zero means absolute equality, and a coefficient of 100 means absolute inequality. Note: figures multiplied by 100 for OECD data. (World Bank/OECD)
- 3) A Corruption Perception Index (CPI) value of zero means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt, and a value of 100 means it is perceived as very clean. (Transparency International)
- 4) A Press Freedom Index (PFI) value of zero means the highest degree of freedom that journalists, news organisations and netizens enjoy, and a value of 100 means the lowest. (Reporters Without Borders)
- 5) A Youth Development Index (YDI) value of zero means little or absolutely no youth development, and a value of 1 means the highest possible level of youth development attainable. YDI is a composite index measuring five domains: education, health, employment, political, and civic participation. (Commonwealth Youth Programme)



For full citation list & more information, visit:

<http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/belarus>

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