

Factsheet: Belarus

Last update: 05 March 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

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

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **21**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

Upper House **30**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)
Partially indirectly elected and appointed.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	18	--	--
Female	18	--	--

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](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [FOSIGRID](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

14

Minimum Age
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 Belarus](#) (1999)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.47

124 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

99.84%

Both sexes (15-24) %

99.82% **99.86%**

Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

95.61%

Both sexes %

95.40% **95.83%**

Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.3%

Male (15-24) %

0.5%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

26.90%

Both sexes (13-15) %

31.60%

Male (13-15) %

22.20%

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

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

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.

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 7575.48

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.793

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)
53 out of 187 countries.

GINI

26.46

Year: 2011

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

31

119 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

PRESS FREEDOM

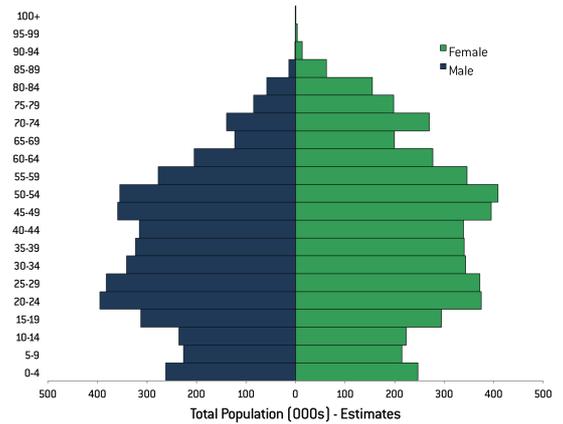
47.82

157 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

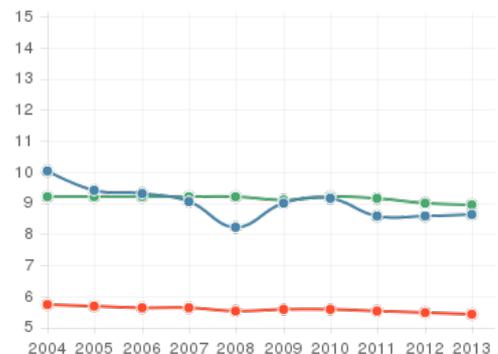
Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

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

BUDGET & SPENDING

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

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](#).

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 in the Ministry of Education was abolished by [Presidential decree](#) in 2004.

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

YES

YOUTH AND 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 NYC 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.

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

YES

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.

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

**BYR 592 MILLION
USD 60,346**

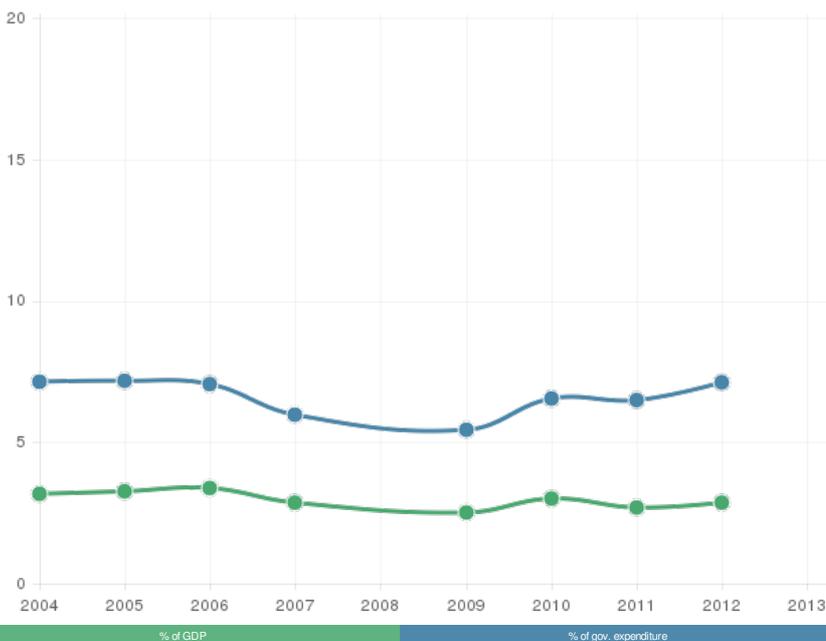
youth programming?

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

% of GDP

% of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)
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PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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