Factsheet: Dominican Republic

Last update: 11 June 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The Ministry of Youth defines youth as those aged 15 to 35 years of age. The National Youth Law (2000) refers to young people aged 10 to 35.

CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>Upper House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Code of the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (Dominican Republic) 2003

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.32
66 out of 170 countries.
Year: 2013
Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

Secondary School

97.93%
Both sexes (15-24) %
78.61%
Both sexes male (15-24) %
98.61%
Both sexes female (15-24) %

Year: 2015
Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

62.09%
Both sexes %
57.80%
Male %
66.50%
Female %

Year: 2012
Source: UNESCO

TOBACCO USE

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

14.90%
Both sexes (13-15) %
18.40%
Male (13-15) %
11.90%
Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010
Source: WHO

POPCULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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

BUDGET & SPENDING

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

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Policy & Legislation

The Dominican Republic formally approved a national youth policy in January 1998 and enacted a General Youth Law (Ley 49-00) in August 2000. According to a report by RED Nacional de Acción Juvenil (2011), the General Youth Law is the main legislative tool for youth and was introduced in order to promote the comprehensive development of young people. Reference has been made to a National Youth Policy (2008-2015), however this is not currently available online or from the Ministry of Youth.
The mission of the Ministry of Youth (MJ) was established following the enactment of General Youth Law (Ley 49-00) (2000). The aim of the MJ is to promote the development of young people aged 15-35 through effective coordination and involvement of youth in decision-making. The MJ has responsibility for defining, monitoring and evaluating national level youth policies, cooperating and coordinating the work of other government agencies addressing youth issues, and coordinating youth activities at the provincial and local level.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

In March 2014, the Ministry of Youth (MJ) announced that 11 municipal youth councils had been established, despite the law providing for 154. The General Youth Law (Ley 49-00) (2000) provides for the creation of municipal, regional and national youth councils. The National Program for the Formation of Youth Councils (PNCCJ) aims to strengthen the development, implementation and monitoring of youth policy through coordination between the national, regional and municipal levels. The youth councils serve as consultative and advisory boards for government and private sector organisations.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

In 2013, the budget for the Ministry of Youth was DOP 327.4 million (USD 7.6 million), an increase of 1% percent on the 2012 allocation (DOP 324.3 million/USD 7.5 million). According to the World Bank, Dominican Republic spent 11.02% of its government expenditure and 2.19% of its GDP on education provision in 2007. More recent data is not available.

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

*No Data*

Source: World Bank

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

**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

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