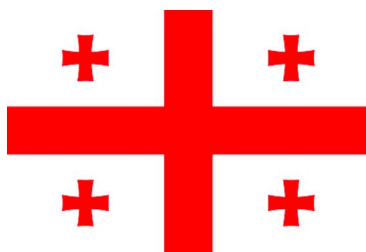


Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN GEORGIA



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By: Vakhtang Asanidze

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1. Context and principles of national youth policy

1.1 Context of national youth policy

Georgian youth is one of the most valuable assets to ensure long-term democratic development and economic growth of the country. It is essential to have a common view on the needs, challenges and role of young people, based on which appropriate mechanisms and approaches will be established for full-fledged development of the young generation in Georgia.

It is very hard to face all challenges of young people if there is no cross-sectorial approach to youth and youth policy. It is important to establish permanent coordination body with participation of all ministries, local governments, youth organizations and groups, private sector, international organizations and donors.

The first governmental structure responsible for development of youth policy in Georgia, "The youth affairs department of the Georgian republic", was created in 1994. During its existence the department had several successful initiatives about youth policy development, among them two legislative initiatives concerning youth and youth policy, which are the only legal bases up today in terms of youth policy.

It is very important to mention the decree 92 of 12th March 2001 of the president of Georgia on "State concept for supporting Georgian youth", but unfortunately it was never implemented. The decree 132 of 6th April 2000 entitled "Public Youth Council based with Administration of President of Georgia" and passed by the President, was also an important step. But it was ceased in 2004.

Unfortunately due to social-economical and general problems in the country, youth policy issues never became as one of the priority of state policy. Besides of this, territorial problems in Abkhazia and South Ossetia raised and as a result of armed confrontation this territories were occupied by Russian Government. The solution of this and other important problems are priority issues of the government. All these deprecated on all directions of the state policies and had negative influence on youth policy in Georgia.

However, the situation has changed since the new Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs was established in July 2010. As a result of two years work with Partner organizations UNICEF and UNFPA, on August 17, 2012 the Government of Georgia approved the State youth policy document (Resolution N1608).

On May 17, 2013 the "Coordination council on the development of state youth policy of Georgia" was created. Members of the Council are deputy ministers from the Cabinet of Ministers of the government, as well as representatives from the parliamentary committee of sports and youth affairs, the Public defender of Georgia, UNICEF and UNFPA. The main aim of the coordination council was to revise adopted "State youth policy document" which was done in 2013 successfully with full participation of all interested sides. The new state youth policy document was adopted by the Government of Georgia on March 28, 2014.

The next step for the Coordination Council is to create an Action Plan for implementation of state youth policy and to develop the legal base in the field of youth.

Regarding development of an Action Plan, it has to be mentioned that in coordination with the Ministry of sport and youth affairs of Georgia, UNICEF and National Statistics Office of Georgia conducted "National research on conditions of youth and adolescents in Georgia". The research is supporting the definition of main needs and problems of young people, as well as the development of knowledge and evidence based youth policy. Field and face to face research among the young people aged from 15 to 29 and administration data analyzes has been done in the frame work of the survey according to the youth policy document priorities of Georgia. The survey has been conducted in October-November 2013 and will be published in spring 2014.

1.2. Principles of national youth policy

The aim of national youth policy is to develop a suitable environment for full-fledged development of youth, where young people have the opportunity to realize their potential and to be involved in all fields of public life.

To reach this goal, youth policy needs to ensure:

1. Opportunities for young people to participate in public, economic, cultural and political life;
2. Access to high quality education, employment and professional growth;
3. Promotion of healthy lifestyle, accessibility to the medical services and improvement of quality in a youth friendly environment;
4. Raising awareness in civil rights and obligations, creation of a safe atmosphere, respect of their rights and support of young people with special needs.

The work of Government towards youth is based on the following principles:

1. Decisions are made based on reliable evidence, knowledge, and experience;
2. Accountability and transparency;
3. Equality;
4. Respect and recognition of rights;
5. Accessibility;
6. Youth friendliness;
7. Partnership and participation;
8. International cooperation;

Government ensures creation, implementation and evaluation of the youth policy action plan in line with the following four thematic directions:

1. Participation;
2. Education, employment and mobility
3. Health;
4. Special support and protection;

The target groups of the “State youth policy document” are young people between 14 to 29 years old, as well as young people with special needs and fewer opportunities.

State institutions and government agencies are responsible for the realization of the State youth policy according to their competence. All state programs and strategies concerning youth have to be in line of thematic directions and spirit of national youth policy.

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia is the responsible agency for development of state youth policy. Important key actors of youth policy are:

1. Committee of Sport and youth affairs of parliament of Georgia;
2. Local self-governments;
3. Youth;
4. Youth organizations;
5. Interested persons;
6. International organizations
7. Media;
8. Scientists;

Decision-making and coordination mechanisms;

For the development of youth policy, an intergovernmental coordination council is established. The council meets at least quarterly. The council is coordinated by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia.

The Government of Georgia will start dialog with local self-governments in order to make sure they are involved in the development of youth policy on local level.

The Government of Georgia will elaborate mechanisms to ensure participation of all interested sides in decision-making, coordination and realization of youth policy.

The Government of Georgia realizes that youth have a right to participate in the decision-making process about the issues that concerns them. The Government will use tools such as the structured dialog for youth participation.

The Government of Georgia ensures research on the youth issues, in order to annually evaluate fulfillment of indicators related to the priorities and directions of the youth policy.

2. Statistics on young people

Number and Percentage of young people in global population:

Number of young people from 15 to 29: 1007800 (22.5% of total population), 50.8% male, 49.2 female;

Number and percentage of young people by gender in global population

Number of young males: 511 900 (- 23.9% of total population);

Number of young females: 495 900 (21.1% of total population);

Any other relevant figures

Number of population of Georgia: 4 483 800;

Average age of Georgian population is 38 year old.

29.5% of young people are married. 69.7% among total married youth are females;

By gender, 40.6% from total female youth and 18.1% from total male youth are married;

Majority of young people lives in cities 53.1%;

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth: Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia

- Minister: Mr. Levan Kipiani
- Duration of mandate: N/A

Main tasks of the Youth affairs Department in the Ministry:

- Development and implementation of state youth programs;
- Cooperation with youth NGOs.

State youth programs of youth affairs department for 2014:

- Popularization of healthy lifestyle and involvement of youth in cultural life;
- Non-formal education development;
- Students and youth initiative support
- Development of the Georgian legislation in the sport and youth field;
- Integration of young people with disabilities;
- Youth ambassador of Georgia;
- Supporting ethnical minorities living in Georgia;
- Development of the relationship with the young people living in the occupied territories and supporting young internally displaced people;
- Youth development program in the regions of Georgia;
- International cooperation program;
- Re-socialization program for juveniles;
- Secondary school students professional orientation program;
- Program for supporting of young people with special needs and fewer opportunities;
- Youth media development program;

Number of people who work the youth affairs department: 18

Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry: Head of the youth affairs department Mr. Nugzar Kandelaki

Person in the youth affairs department competent for European youth policy: Mr. Vakhtang Asanidze

Analytic Department of the Ministry:

Analytic department coordinates development of Sport and Youth policy. Studies and analyzes international experience, prepares recommendations in the related fields and organizes sport and youth policy research.

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies:

“Coordination council on development of state youth policy of Georgia”, members of the Council are deputy ministers from the Cabinet of Ministers of the government.

Children and Youth Development Fund

“Children and Youth Development Fund” is a legal entity of public law under the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. The fund was established in 2000.

Aim of the fund is to promote youth involvement through funding and supporting implementation of various initiatives. Activities of the Fund are part of the national youth policy. Fund guarantees funding of the projects submitted according to the program priorities set by the advisory board of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. Based on its priorities, the Fund supports various youth non-governmental organizations through grant competitions; the main priorities of the fund are:

- Human Rights and Civil Society Support Program;
- Support of Media Development;
- Support of young people with special needs;
- Promotion of healthy lifestyle;
- Social Entrepreneurship;
- Agriculture and Environmental Support Program;
- Decentralization of Government of Georgia and Promotion of self-government reform in youth;
- Cultural-educational program;
- Promotion of youth involvement in Euro-Atlantic Integration Issues;

Children and Youth National Center

Legal Entity Public Law (LEPL) Children and Youth National Center (CYNC) is a national public body and operates under the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. Mission of CYNC is to promote young people through organizing trainings, conferences, creating strategic vision documents and establishing youth club with the cooperation of private and international organizations. The Center was founded in November 2007. The main purpose and activities of the Center are:

- According to main direction of the National youth policy to discover and show the intellectual physical and spiritual potential of young people of Georgia, to formulate and make appropriate conditions for self-realization of young people
- To realize the appropriate activities corresponding to the United Nations Convention on Child rights;
- To conduct annual monitoring on child and youth, to support partnership and international cooperation.
- To support initiative groups to organize mass youth activities, youth days and different games. Based on interests of young people to encourage creating cultural centers and youth clubs.
- To support leisure and free time activities for youth and to encourage the propaganda of healthy physical and spiritual lifestyle.
- To organize youth camps, support youth tourism.
- Contribute to the executive authorities in order to realize state youth policy under its competence.
- To popularize non-formal education, volunteerism and active citizenship

National Children and Youth Palace of Georgia

[National Children and Youth Palace of Georgia](#) is a legal entity of public law under the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. On May 2, 1941 the Palace opened its doors for children and it became their property. Since that time seven decades have passed. Currently, there are 13 cabinets, 6 studios

and 1 workshop in the Palace. In total about 550 hobby groups operate in which about 7 000 pupils are enrolled.

National Youth Palace is a multidisciplinary, educational and training establishment which through its flexible structure and a great variety of directions helps the schoolchildren and youth to organize out-of-school activities which cover a wide range of interests and get extra-school education.

Non-formal, friendly atmosphere, changeable form of training, the opportunity to make one's own choice independently create favorable conditions for pupils' self-realization and self-assertion, complete manifestation of their abilities, application of the gained knowledge in practice, formation of purposeful, motivated person with the sense of responsibility and high competence.

National Children and Youth Palace of Georgia has its own the library where hundreds of thousand books are kept. the library serves about 3000 readers.

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

Name: Sport and youth affairs committee of parliament of Georgia

Chairman: Khabelovi Leri

Role and competence: The sport and youth affairs committee of the parliament of Georgia is formed by 14 members of parliament. Under the competence given by law and its own statute, the committee:

- Coordinates state Youth policy;
- Ensures the development of legislation in sport and youth field;
- Controls the creation of supportive terms to involve youth with disabilities in social life;
- Coordinates relationships between youth organizations, ensures state support and protection of their rights and interests;
- Is working on youth economic, social and legal arrangements;

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Georgian State Youth Policy strategy is a political view of the Government of Georgia. Regional authorities and local self-governments shall use the document as a "roadmap" for implementation of local youth policy. Georgia is divided into two autonomous republics and nine regions. According to the constitution of Georgia autonomous republics are governed by its own Cabinet of Ministers, among them there is a department of sport and youth affairs. Nine regions of Georgia are governed by regional administration headed by State Governor who is officially appointed by the Government of Georgia. State Governor coordinates implementation of the state policy on a regional level, among them is youth policy. At this moment there is no special youth unit under the regional administration of the State Governor.

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Nine regions of Georgia are divided into municipalities. Under each municipality there are Educational, Cultural, Sport and Youth Affairs Division. According to the national youth policy document and needs and challenges of local youth, the division defines an annual action plan of projects and activities. The Ministry of Sport and youth affairs regularly meets representatives of the division responsible for youth issues and is trying to coordinate general work on municipal level based on main directions of state youth policy. From 2014, for a better coordination and visibility, the regional webpage for municipalities has been launched (regions.msy.gov.ge). Through the web page they are able to publish local activities and planed projects.

3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or nonpublic actors)

Major implementing institutions of youth welfare and social services for young people are the following ministries:

1. Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

- Reform of the child care service –upbringing of children in a family-like environment rather than in large institutions is a key priority of the child welfare reform. Several major steps have been taken under the framework of Child Care Reform in Georgia in recent years. Among those the most notable ones are: Development and improvement of relevant legislation to reduce administrative barriers for child’s reintegration into biological family, adoption and placement in foster care, strengthening the role of social workers in the field of child care, establishment of regional bodies of guardianship and care and delegation of relevant powers to them.

2. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

- Inclusive Education - Accessibility of education for children with disabilities has been prioritized by the Ministry of Education and Science within the framework of the current reform. www.inclusion.ge
- Inclusive Education Assistive Program
- Development of Inclusive Education in 9 Regional Public Schools
- Strengthening the General Education within the Penitentiary Establishments of Georgia
- Public School Management Strengthening (Decentralization) Programme
- Civil Integration Programs
- The Pre-school Sector Support
- Civil Activity Development Program 2010
- Supporting Gifted and Talented Youth Programme – National and International Olympiads
- Funding of students admitted at first cycle of higher academic education of higher education institutions under social assistance program.

3. Ministry of Justice of Georgia

- **Juvenile Diversion and Mediation Program (www.ganrideba.ge)** -The main goal of the Juvenile Diversion and Mediation program is to help the juvenile become a socialized citizen of the society. That is why rehabilitation and the social integration of the juvenile are very important. For this purpose, social workers will then formulate a bio-psycho-social portrait of the juvenile and bearing in mind the juvenile's mental, physical and social conditions, will draw up civil contract according to which a minor will be given the necessary services and bear the responsibilities of the victim and / or society. Services are very important for juveniles’ mental, physical or professional development. At the same time real interests of juveniles are taken into account.

Those are the most frequently used services for diverted juveniles:

- Education - foreign languages and computer courses;
- Sport - Basketball, football, swimming;
- Psycho-social rehabilitation -Individual/family psychological counseling; Training in volunteer work, leadership; Participating in the program, "My Senior friend"; Participating in the program "Diversion for carrying knife"
- Services for professional development - sewing, felt, wood carving, cooking courses

- **Leadership House** (www.lidertasakhli.ge) - Leadership House aims to promote healthy lifestyle in young people, help them develop creative thinking and common sense. Program covers all regions of Georgia and intends to provide various interesting opportunities to youth aged 14-21. Project "Leadership House" has four main categories: Sport, Art and Culture, Education and Science, Informal Education and Volunteerism. During the program, youth develop physically and mentally, get involved in voluntary work, plan and implement project that interest them. Project is implemented with the partnership of Public Service Hall, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, and Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. Active students, who are involved in most activities throughout the year, have the opportunity to participate in Summer School organized by Leadership House. Apart from that, Ministry of Justice of Georgia will issue small grants for summer school participants to finance their projects in regions.

4. Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance of Georgia

- **Care for Juveniles** - The main goal of the MCLA is to create the penitentiary and probation system that is commensurate with European standards. One of the fundamental parts of this reform is development of the juvenile justice system. The reform aims at elaborating the special approach towards juveniles in the penitentiary system that will be different from the one towards adults. The special approach should achieve juveniles' rehabilitation, re-socialization and their return as full members of the society. To reach the goal ministry works in the following main areas:
 - Penitentiary System
 - Probation System
 - Diversion by means of community service

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

Youth Organizations Forum of Georgia

"Youth Organizations Forum of Georgia" is Non-profit, non-governmental, non-political youth organization, which unites youth NGOs working on youth issues. Forum aims at the support for development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of an effective youth policy in Georgia and to support development of the field of youth work in close cooperation with governmental and non-governmental institutions through lobbying interest of young people as a starting point. Forum annually conducts 2 day Youth NGO "Forum", last year more than 160 youth NGOs has participated in the event where recommendations for national youth policy of Georgia was drafted. Forum is the best practice of involvement of young people in decision making process on the policy level.

Forum Goals

- Forum contributes to the development process of youth policy in Georgia and to its further implementation and evaluation.
- Forum creates non-formal educational opportunities for young people, youth workers, youth trainers and youth leaders for their personal and professional development.
- Forum runs awareness raising activities about different activities, resources and other types of information available and useful for young people for better coordination among youth organizations and young people.
- Supports youth organizations in the structural and organizational development.

- Promotes active involvement of young people in the development of the civil society and active participation.

3.3.1 Youth Councils

National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia (NCYOG)

National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia (NCYOG) was created in 1995. NCYOG is an acting structure, uniting 45 nongovernmental youth and children organizations of Georgia. Its activities are aimed at the development of the nongovernmental youth sector. NCYOG was founded with the purpose of creating favorable environment and conditions for development, cooperation and coordination of nongovernmental youth organizations, leading to increase of participation and social activity of young people. Since 2000 NCYOG is a full member of European Youth Forum. In 2009 NCYOG [conducted national research on Georgian youth](#). This research has been the most extensive attempt to collect detailed information on Georgian youth. The aim of the research has been to collect the most relevant and detailed data about young people directly from them. www.ncyog.ge

At this moment there are no structured regional youth councils on regional level.

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

European Youth Parliament - Georgia

EYP Georgia started its activities by organizing the 1st National Selection Conference in June, 2007. The organization has been granted the plenipotentiary membership of the European Youth Parliament in 2008, at the 57th International Session of the EYP in Prague. www.eyp.org.ge

Youth Voices Georgia (YVG) - World Bank Tbilisi Office

In May 2004, the World Bank selected a group of young people for the "Youth Voices" group (currently called Youth Voices Georgia – YVG). These were young active people aged from 15 to 25 who expressed their interest in discussing and analyzing issues of concern to young people in Georgia. The goal of forming the Youth Voices group was to bring to the World Bank fresh ideas and recommendations for youth programs and policies that are informed by their experiences, perspectives and priorities. The aim of the ECA Youth Voices groups in general is to establish a mutual learning initiative for youth stakeholders in individual countries and for the World Bank.

The Youth Voices initiative is part of the larger effort on behalf of the World Bank to engage in a systematic dialogue with young people, either as individuals or as youth groups, so as to include their perspectives and needs in the development process.

Some of the concrete objectives of the Youth Voices Georgia are to:

- Fill in an informational gap among the young people in remote regions, youth representatives of ethnic and religious minorities and young people living in conflict areas;
- Provide them with non-formal education;
- Promote their civic integration;
- Support youth initiatives;
- Fight youth idleness;
- Support IDP and other socially vulnerable youth.

Currently the YVG includes 9 members and is diverse in terms of age difference (18-25), educational, work/volunteering backgrounds and regional representation. They have just FB page <http://www.facebook.com/YouthVoicesGeorgia>

Youth Association DRONI

DRONI is a non-governmental organization with the mission to promote the establishment of a modern, healthy, educated and perfect society. In order to meet this task the association has been implementing educational and Youth development programs.

The organization's aims are to support the young people's physical, spiritual and educational development and to develop educational initiatives in the field of civil society, conflict resolution, human rights and peace-building, to promote intercultural relations in Georgian society or Youth.

Youth Association Droni was established on the basis of the international organization Academy for Educational Development in 2003 by young people with 4-5 years working experience in the NGO sector. DRONI is working mainly in the field of education with different target groups (children, youth, students, teachers, refugees). DRONI is mostly focusing its activities on the Caucasian region and cooperates with different NGOs in Europe.

The organization has been providing activities on:

- Human Rights Education;
- Gender Issues; Civil Education;
- Conflict Prevention and Peace-building;
- Active Citizenship;
- Youth Participation;

DRONI was actively involved in the "All Different, All Equal" European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation in Georgia (www.droni.org.ge).

Georgian School Students Unions' Alliance (GSSUA)

The Georgian School Students Unions Alliance (GSSUA) was funded in 2011. GSSUA is the only non-governmental youth organization which brings together pupils' self government bodies and clubs. The goal of the organization is to involve pupils in civil activities and encourage their initiatives on regional as well as international levels. GSSUA recognizes the importance of school students' activism and aims to promote the school democratization process through empowering school students and increasing their level of participation in the decision-making process.

GSSUA aims to:

- Unite the school student unions in Georgia and create a sphere where information, initiative, projects and ideas could be exchanged and new projects and programs could be written;
- Involve school students in various democratic processes, as well as various civil and social projects;
- Support school students in acknowledging their rights and abilities;
- Support school students to overcome discrimination and racism in school life;
- Empower school students for creating and implementing new project-initiatives ;
- Involve students in international projects, programs and organizations;
- Promote access to education for all school students;

Georgian School Students Unions' Alliance works at national level, its member school student unions are coming from varied social and economic backgrounds. For instance, we have members from mountainous villages and also from the big cities; also members coming from different ethnical backgrounds (Armenian school students living in Georgia, Azerbaijani school students, etc). The difference between member school student unions gives GSSUA the chance to promote cultural learning and sharing good practices among its members.

Helping Hand

MISSION - To inspire and equip youth as volunteers to meet the needs of their communities and strengthen the civil society network.

VISION - A world where united and engaged youth discovers their power to make a difference and to take the responsibility for their own communities and help those in need.

OUR VALUES - Helping Hands is committed to achieving its mission and vision by placing the utmost value on being:

- Effective – Working to make a difference in the lives of the individual, communities and organizations we serve.
- Reliable – Operating in a trustworthy and responsible manner.
- Empowering – Creating opportunities for youth to achieve personal growth and drive change.
- Caring – Serving people in need through service.

www.helpinghand.ge

Youth Space

The Non-profit, non-governmental organization "Youth Space" was founded in December 2009. Youth Space is a voluntary unification of the young citizens, which acts on the base of Georgian civil code. The organization is based on democratic values, active citizenship, and volunteering, as well as non-formal education principles. One of the biggest achievements of the organization is the translation of **manual on human rights education COMPASS in Georgian language** (www.futuregeneration.ge).

Goals and objectives:

- Advocate human rights, giving support to defend and realize them.
- Support participation of young people in civil society.
- Reveal and develop democratic values.
- Support volunteering.
- Promoting peace and conflict transformation.
- Support intercultural dialogue and increase tolerance.
- Gender equality.
- Support non-formal-education among youngsters.
- Prevent smoking, alcoholism, addiction and other bad habits, promote healthy lifestyle among adults.
- Research youngsters' problems, analysis, and revealing actual issues.
- Support, help and involve in civil society national minorities, internally displaced people and orphanages.

International Students Union (ISU)

International Students Union (ISU) is a Non-governmental, non-political, non-commercial, student organization founded in February 2011. ISU supports student exchange programs and helps students in cultural and social adaptation in the new environment. This organization provides for student's professional and self-development. ISU works actively on cultural integration programs and supports friendly relations between students of different religion and nationality.

Organization is a member of the biggest student organization in Europe, Erasmus Students Network - ESN, which helps us to work on international level. ESN is represented in 36 countries, consists of 391 local sections and serves 150 000 students of Europe. www.esn.ge

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

At this moment there is no national network for knowledge on youth. This is due to the fact, that the development of youth policy has never been governmental priority and has never had a systematic approach from the government till 2013. The Ministry of Sport and youth affairs of Georgia is working to create such a national network in the youth field through establishing 10 regional youth centers as administrative bodies of the Ministry. Main aim of the regional centers will be to study the situation on local level and to develop non-formal education and youth work, which will help to government to define evidence-based youth policy and programs.

4. Legislation

National legislation on youth

The work on the development of a legal framework and admission of regulating acts began only in the late 1990s in Georgia. Significant steps have already been made in this direction but, as our data show, there is still a lot to do. Today there are two main laws related to youth:

- The law concerning state support to children and youth unions (June 22, 1999)
- The law concerning the protection of under-age children from harmful influence (September 28, 2001)

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

Georgian constitution and other legislation define the citizen's rights and responsibilities according to their age groups.

- The lowest age of criminal responsibility is 14.
- Participation in referendums, elections of government and self-government institutions is allowed at the age of 18.
- A person of 21 can be elected as a member of Georgian parliament.
- A person over 28 can be appointed as a judge.
- Georgian citizen can be elected as Georgian President at the age of 35.

Regional and local legislation on youth

On 5th of February 2014, the parliament of Georgia adopted a new "local self-government Code" where by the initiative of the Ministry of sport and youth affairs of Georgia, to the "article 16" has been added an amendment, according to which Local self-government body is authorized to support the development of youth policy on the local level.

The Ministry of sport and youth affairs of Georgia with support of UNFPA is continuing development of legislation in youth field and by the end of the 2014 first version of the "Youth Code" will be drafted.

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

National action plan for non-formal education

According to the aims and objectives of national youth policy of Georgia, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia is working on a national action plan for non-formal education, which has the following main directions:

- Based on “General Education Goals” of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia as well as on the eight key competences for lifelong learning of the European commission, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia is developing general goals for national non-formal education action plan and will be elaborated framework of competences for young people which should be reached through non-formal education program.
In order to ensure realization of non-formal education national goals, special working group is developing program and resource materials – examples of non-formal education programs, that will be available for youth works in order to implement similar programs in accordance of specifics and needs on the local level.
- Strengthening youth work in Georgia through the development skills and qualifications of youth workers and recognition of experience and results gained during youth work. The aim of the special working group is to set up standards and competences of youth workers, according to the adopted competences, developing training programs, creation of system for evaluation of the program results, developing a minimum level of qualifications for getting the status of youth worker.
- Developing programs for the youth houses on local level in Georgia, through analyzes of the international experience and best practice about the “hobby education” program. Development of administration and programming management of the “hobby education”

Special group for development of the National Action Plan for non-formal Education consists of representatives of the Ministry and the NGO sector. National Action Plan for non-formal Education will be drafted by the end of the August 2014.

Annual national programs on youth

Youth affairs department of the Ministry of Sport and Youth affairs of Georgia is implementing the annual state youth program with 14 different directions according to specific youth target groups:

- Program for Popularization of Healthy Lifestyle and involvement of youth in cultural Life
- Civil and Non-formal Education
- Students Self-Government Support Program
- Development of the Georgian Legislation in the Sport and Youth Direction
- Integration Program for Young People with Disabilities
- Georgian Youth ambassador Program
- Program for supporting the integration of ethnic minorities living in Georgia
- The Program for the Development of the Relationship with the Young People Living in the Occupied Territories
- Youth Development Program in the Regions of Georgia
- International Cooperation Program
- Re-socialization program for Juveniles
- Secondary School Students Professional Orientation Program
- Program for Supporting socially disadvantaged young people
- Program for developing youth Journalism

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

For 2014, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia has allocated the following budget to youth programs and its legal entities on national level:

Youth affairs department of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia – 1,500,000 GEL

National Children and Youth Palace of Georgia - 1,500,000 GEL

Children and Youth Development Fund - 1,200,000 GEL

Children and Youth National Center - 2,800,000 GEL

Budgets to the youth sector on the regional level are allocated on the municipal level which is independent from the MSY administration and is managed by the local self-government. Total budget by regional level is approximately 1.700.096 GEL.

- Kvemo Kartli Region – 281,500
- Imereti Region – 627,287
- Adjara Region – 90,658
- Mtskheta-Mtianeti Region – 69,577
- Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Region – 38,000
- Kakheti Region – 33,7126
- Samtskhe-Javakheti Region – 155,340
- Shida Kartli Region – 54,828
- Guria Region – 38,280
- Racha-Lechkhumi Region – 7,500

7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1 Council of Europe.

15 years ago, on 27 April 1999 Georgia joined the Council of Europe (CoE) as its 41st Member State and declared its commitment to respect agreed standards in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Since 1999, Georgia has signed and ratified 69 Council of Europe Conventions.

Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia (MSY) takes actively part in the meetings of the European Steering Committee for Youth - CDEJ.

On 18th September, 2013, the Council of Europe adopted Action Plan for Georgia 2013-2015, one part of the action plan is the youth campaign "No Hate Speech Movement" which is managed by the Council of Europe's youth sector between 2012 and 2014 and aims to combat racism and all forms of discrimination. MSY has created national campaign committees for coordination the campaign, number of activities has already been organized and all materials have been published in Georgian language.

It is important to mention that the legal entity of the MSY "Children and Youth National Fund" has supported the project for translating "Compass, Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People" published by the Youth Department in 2012. The project is implemented by the organization "Youth Space". The manual will be published by September 2014.

Although Georgia does not contribute to the European Youth Foundation, Georgian youth NGOs are welcomed to apply for grants to EYF.

7.2 European Union.

7.2.1 Implementation of the Youth in Action/Erasmus + programme

For the year 2014 Georgia's number one foreign policy objective is to sign the Association Agreement between the European Union (EU) and Georgia. Association Agreement is a comprehensive and politically stronger document with the potential to lead co-operation between Georgia and the European Union towards qualitatively new and higher levels in many important sectors featuring specific articles on education, training and youth. According to the agreement Title VI, article 360:

The Parties agree to cooperate in the field of youth to:

- Reinforce cooperation and exchanges in the field of youth policy and non-formal education for young people and youth workers;
- Support young people and youth workers' mobility as a means to promote intercultural dialogue and the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences outside the formal educational systems, including through volunteering;
- Promote cooperation between youth organizations.

From 2014 EU started the new Erasmus+ program for Education, Training, Youth and Sport for 2014-2020. At this moment it is not defined how the new program will be implemented in Georgia, however NGO representatives from partner countries have possibility to take part in certain actions of the Program. In this regard SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre will be a key institution to facilitate the process as it was in case of Youth in Action program

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

There is no national strategy to follow-up the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018).

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Georgia

www.msy.gov.ge

www.youth.gov.ge