



NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY
2010 – 2020

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I. INTRODUCTION

The care for young people is the most important national cause, in order to provide European Development of Bulgaria.

The creation of favorable conditions for school and university education; non-formal education; vocational, social and personal realization of young people; their participation in social and economic life and in governance at local, regional and national level, as well as for those studying abroad to return in Bulgaria, will help to improve the demographic situation and is an important factor not only for overcoming the crisis, but also for improving quality of life and achieving the objectives of the European Union.

Under an open and frank dialogue with young people, the state should take care of the development of competent and enterprising youth and guide them to an active social life.

1. MULTISECTORAL POLICY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The diversity of issues affecting young people requires a multi-sectoral approach to youth policy. Consequently, youth policy cannot be successful unless it is in collaboration with other sectors such as education, employment, gender equality, health, competitiveness, etc.

The multi-sectoral approach should be developed at national, regional, district and municipal level by including in to the sectoral policies such targeted activities that support the development of young people and by providing opportunities for constructive dialogue with them regarding the formulation, implementation and evaluation of youth policy.

2. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

On 27th July 2009 in response to the Programme Declaration of the Government for European Development of Bulgaria, the 41st National Assembly created the Ministry of Education and Science, taking into account the importance of youth policy and the need for an integrated approach to its implementation. On November 5th, 2009 the Council of Ministers adopted the Programme of the Government for European Development of Bulgaria 2009-2013, which defines policy for young people as an important factor for the development of society and human capital.

These strategic actions are logical and necessary response to the dynamic development of social and institutional attitudes, policies and priorities in the youth sector in the country.

As a result is the new different initiatives related to the formulation of a comprehensive, long-term and sustainable vision for development of young people in Bulgaria.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Public consultations were organized with the participation of over 900 young people, representatives of youth organizations, municipalities, state and district administrations. During these consultations target groups, strategic objectives, priorities and tasks of the National Strategy have been discussed and defined. Participants made over 250 written suggestions.

Between September 2009 and January 2010, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science organized a survey on the draft of the National Strategy which has involved 1418 young people from 61 settlements. Inter-institutional expert evaluation of the project was also performed.

The social assessment of the proposed National Strategy priorities and tasks showed that the defined strategic objectives are extremely important and are supported by the young people.

4. EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH POLICY

The National Youth Strategy (2010-2020) is aimed at achieving the objectives and implementing the measures for young people's development within the European Union, of which Bulgaria is a full member since January 1st, 2007.

Pursuant to Art. 136 and Art. 137 of the Treaty of Amsterdam in recent years the European Union has taken significant actions oriented towards the development of young people in Europe.

During the European Council in Lisbon in 2000, the European Union set itself the objective to become "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion".

In implementation of the Lisbon strategy, the European Council approved a special Resolution on the social inclusion of young people (published in the Official Journal C 374/28.12.2000). In 2001 the European Commission published the White Paper 'A New Impetus for European Youth' (COM (2001) 681), which identified four priority areas for

youth policy - participation, information, voluntary activities and better understanding and knowledge of youth issues.

In March 2005 the European Council proposed a European Youth Pact to improve opportunities for developing the knowledge, mobility, employment and social inclusion of young Europeans. In the areas of youth policy such as employment, social integration, education, training, reconciling personal and professional life, the open method of coordination was adopted.

Promoting entrepreneurship and innovation with regards to young people is part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme 2007-2013 and the European reference framework for key competences. In the EU Health Strategy (2008-2013), approved by Council resolution (2008/C 319), one of the priorities indicated is health of children and young people.

In its declaration of 2008, the European Parliament pleaded for enhanced multi-sectoral approach for providing opportunities for young people.

On 27th April 2009 the Commission proposed “An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering (COM (2009) 200) aimed at creating more opportunities for the young people in education and employment, improving access and full participation of all young people in public life and promoting mutual solidarity between society and young people.

On 28th November 2009 the EU Council of Ministers adopted Resolution (2009 / C 311/01) on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018), which sets the following general objectives: creating more equal opportunities for all young people in education and on the labor market and promoting their active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity.

On 1st December 2009 the Treaty of Lisbon came into force. It provides the EU with the competence to take action to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of Member States in the field of youth to encourage youth participation (art. 2, p. 2 and art. 149).

On 3 March 2010 The European Commission presented Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (COM (2010) 2020), whose key initiative "Youth on the move" is aimed at improving the performance of education systems and facilitating the entry of young people into the labor market.

The National Youth Strategy (2010-2020) is consistent with the recommendations of the Council of Europe set out in: Recommendation 1437 (2000) of the Parliamentary Assembly on non-formal education, Recommendation 1585 (2002) of the Parliamentary Assembly on youth policies in the Council of Europe, Resolution Res (2003) 7 of the

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe youth policy, Recommendation Rec (2006) 1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the role of national youth councils in youth policy development.

In its Declaration of 29th July 1999 the National Assembly recommended that the executive authorities and local self-government applies the principles of the European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life, adopted by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (revised in 2003). The National Strategy offers decisive steps towards the effective implementation of the principles of the European Charter.

On 25th November 2008 the Committee of Ministers adopted Resolution CM / Res (2008) 23 for youth policy of the Council of Europe, in response to the Final Declaration of the Ministers responsible for Youth, adopted at the 8th Conference of the Council of Europe /Kiev, 10-11 October 2008/ and Recommendation 1844 (2008) of the Parliamentary Assembly to update the agenda of the Council of Europe's youth policy. Three key priorities for future policy and action of the Council of Europe in the youth field emerged - human rights and democracy, living together in diversity and social inclusion of young people.

4. NATIONAL DIMENSION

The National Youth Strategy (2010-2020) is consistent with the Constitution, basic laws and regulations, research and national strategic documents: National Report on the Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion of Bulgaria; National Strategy for Demographic Development of Bulgaria (2006-2020); National Strategy for Children (2008-2018); Health Strategy (2008-2013); National Strategy for Development of Physical Education and Sport (2009-2013); National Action Plan "Environment-Health"; the National Integrated Plan for Implementation of UN Convention on the rights of the Child (2006-2009); National Strategy for lifelong Learning (2008-2013); the Strategy for Educational Integration of Children and Pupils from Ethnic Minorities (2004-2015); the National plan for Integration of children with special educational needs and/or chronic diseases in the public education system; Development program for education, science and youth policy (2009-2013); the updated Employment Strategy (2008-2015); the Framework Programme for Integration of Roma into Bulgarian Society (2010-2020); the National Programme for Integration of Refugees in Bulgaria, as well as with the operational programs for 2007-2013, approved by the European Commission – Human Resources Development, Administrative Capacity,

Development of the Competitiveness of Bulgarian Economy, Regional Development and the Programme for Rural Development.

The National Youth Strategy (2010-2020) is oriented towards building and implementing a unified, consistent and sustainable youth policy in Bulgaria, based on multi-sectoral approach, inter-sectoral collaboration and joint management with young people at national, regional, provincial, municipal level.

The first part of the strategy presents the challenges facing the development of young people in Bulgaria. The second part offers strategic objectives and tasks. The third and final part of the strategy is dedicated to its implementation – principles, institutional environment, resources and information and expected results.

National Youth Strategy (2010-2020) is oriented to young people aged 15 to 29 years, according to international and European standards for youth work.

II. ANALYSIS OF The CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH POLICY IN BULGARIA

Youth community in Bulgaria for the past 20 years has been characterized by dynamic change. People, who are characterized as young, formed their core values during the transition from totalitarian to democratic, from a closed to a market oriented system.

The most characteristic feature among young people seems to be striving for independence and self-realization – a strong drive for individual decisions and individual approach to life. Studies show that while the psychological independence of the young person in our country grows stronger, much stronger is its social and economic dependence on the family. Over the past decade activity of young people radically shifted - from public and political life to the private sector of the economy. However, recent elections for members of the European and national parliament have shown activation of youth civic and electoral participation, demonstrating the will for change and a clear concern for the European Development of Bulgaria.

1. DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE¹

Since 1989, Bulgaria's population has declined by over one million people. Young people aged 15-34 years decreased by more than 300 000.

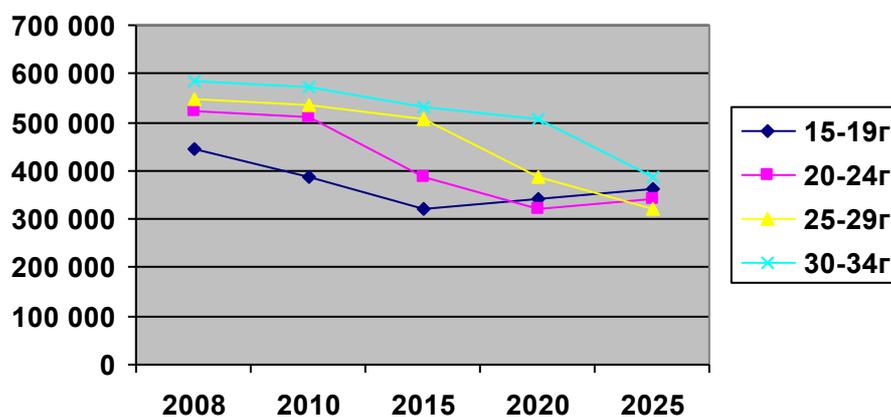
Population aged 15- 34 years by sex as estimated by 31.12.2008 (National Statistics Institute)

Age	Total		
	Total	Male	Female
BULGARIA	7 606 551	3 681 280	3 925 271
Total aged 15 – 34	2 103 259	1 077 320	1 025 939
15 – 19	445 510	228 690	216 820
20 – 24	523 522	268 246	255 276
25 – 29	548 593	281 528	267 065

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30 – 34	585 634	298 856	286 778
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- Statistics show that if today people aged 15-34 years are nearly 2,103,259 people, in 2015 their number will be 1747648, and then in another 5 years – nearly 1,555,852.



- Target forecast of the National Statistics Institute (NSI) shows that in 2020 the number of young people will decrease, and this will dramatically affect the age groups 15-19 and 20-24.
- More than three quarters of young people aged 15 to 34 years live in cities and only a quarter of them live in the villages.
- The trend shows that the most intensive spatial movement in the direction "city-city". Significantly smaller in number and relative share are the migration flows "from village to village". The number of migrants from villages to cities is higher than in the opposite direction "city - village".
- After the sharp decline in emigration sentiment in the period 2002-2006, recent years have seen a new rise in young people's desire for emigration, particularly among those aged 20-29 years. One positive is the change in the structure of the potential immigrant flow. If previously mostly highly educated young people emigrated, now there is as a decline of emigration attitudes and intentions among this group. The increase is in the lower educated strata. The alarming fact remains, that every eighth young person has an intention to emigrate in the foreseeable future. Over a quarter of the young people in the country are definitely interested in temporary labor migration abroad – they are mostly professionals and people with no occupational qualification.

2. FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL LEARNING

- With the age of 14 comes the period of adolescence, when young people's identity, interests and development orientation are being formed and when they feel a strong need for self-approval and trust.
- Despite the use of appropriate traditional and new approaches for conducting educational policy, currently in Bulgaria 14% of the students drop out of secondary education.
- Young people's interest in reading books collapses. Only 16% of the pupils, 29% of the students, 13% of youth workers and 8% of the unemployed young people read serious books. Almost every fifth young person is not in the possession of books at home.
- Young people that drop out of the education system do not acquire any level of vocational qualification and their ability to return to the education system is limited.
- Popularity and recognition of non-formal learning are limited.

3. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

- Under existing Bulgarian legislation, the young person becomes capable of working at the age of 15 years, while working at an earlier age is possible under special protection. Streamlining development policies would help career orientation and would facilitate the inclusion of active young people in the employment system.
- A comparison of national values of indicators for young people's performance with the average EU level shows that in terms of unemployment Bulgaria is close to the average European performance.
- Since the beginning of the financial and economic crisis, the youth unemployment (15-24) has increased throughout the European Union. Bulgaria has one of the lowest levels of unemployment rate (22.5%) compared to other EU members.¹

Changes in youth unemployment rate (15-24) in the EU -%

Country	May2009	March2010	April2010	May2010
Among the EU – 27	19.5	20.6	20.6	20.5

¹ According to Eurostat data, May 2010

Bulgaria	15.4	23.1	22.9	22.5
Czech Republic	15.9	19.4	19.4	19.4
Poland	19.7	23.6	23.4	23.5
Belgium	21.4	24.3	23.9	23.8
Spain	37.6	40.1	40.2	40.5
France	23.8	22.9	22.6	22.6
Slovakia	25.6	33.9	34.6	35.1
Italy	24.6	27.6	29.1	29.2
Portugal	19.4	21.8	22.1	22.1

Source: Eurostat

- Young people in Bulgaria are among the latest to enter the labour market, as compared to other EU countries.

Youngest age at which more than 50% participate in the labor market in 2000-2007

Country	2000 r.	2007 r.
Among the EU – 27	20	20
Bulgaria	23	22
Czech Republic	20	21
Poland	21	22
Hungary	22	23
Latvia	21	22
Slovakia	19	21
Lithuania	20	20
Romania	21	23
Germany	19	19
Austria	19	17
Netherlands	16	16
United Kingdom	17	17
Denmark	16	15

- In most cases young people have no practical experience in their acquired degree qualification after completing their education and find it hard to enter the labor market.
- Young people without experience are at a disadvantage in a context of increased labor supply and global financial crisis. Young people with low education and qualifications are among the first affected by the deteriorating economic conditions.
- It is necessary to make efforts towards a smooth transition of young people from the school bench to the labor market through the expansion of training and practice in the real sector.
- Often young people feel a lack of information necessary for job placement.
- It is not yet common practice for employers to invest in the education and training of young employees.
- Many young people are discouraged by the pay and working conditions offered.
- Young people are becoming a potential resource for employment in the informal sector of the economy. Insufficient professional skills and lack of practice in a real working environment, and impossibility to choose a career from the earliest age leads some of the school graduates to start “the first job possible”, mostly in the field of services and trade without requirements to the working conditions.
- Labor productivity and adaptability of young people are still low.

4. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- The percentage of self-employed young people aged 15-24 is 3.4% which is below the EU average and much lower than in Greece (7.8%) and Romania (11.3%). The group of self-employed in Bulgaria among 25-29 year rose to 5.7%, but is still below the average for EU-27 (8.7%) and far below that in Romania (11.4%) and Greece (14.9%).
- Professional status of young employed people by age groups in % for 2007¹.

Country	15-24r.			25-29r.		
	Hired	Employed in family	Self-employed	Hired	Employed in family	Self-employed
Among the EU	93.3	2.7	4.0	89.8	1.6	8.7

¹ According to Eurostat data, Youth in Europe. Statistical Portrait, 2009, p. 117.

Bulgaria	94.2	2.3	3.4	93.3	1.1	5.7
Czech Republic	92.8	0.6	6.6	89.9	0.2	9.9
Poland	85.8	8.7	4.5	86.4	3.5	10.1
Hungary	96.4	0.8	2.7	93.4	0.5	6.1
Slovakia	94.4	0.3	5.3	88.1	0.0	11.9
Romania	60.9	27.8	11.3	77.2	11.4	11.4
Cyprus	91.1	1.7	7.2	88.3	0.6	11.0
Greece	76.1	16.2	7.8	77.8	7.3	14.9
Italy	85.2	3.4	11.4	79.6	2.0	18.5

Source: Eurostat¹ *Statistical Portrait, released in late 2009.*

- For nearly two-thirds of young Bulgarians under 30 the main motivating factors for starting an independent business are: the perspective to make money, avoiding unemployment and the desire to be “my own boss”. Only about 50% of them say they are driven by the need for new challenges, unlike their counterparts in other EU countries where this is the dominant factor².
- The majority of young people in Bulgaria are willing to develop their own business, despite strong competition.
- Young people need support both at the start and in developing their own business.
- Despite best practices and patterns from a project "Education of young people in entrepreneurial skills to create a competitive small and medium businesses" and "Establishment and Development Centers to promote entrepreneurship in higher education in Bulgaria"³ entrepreneurial culture among young people is still underdeveloped.
- Despite the successful models and best practices in project "JOBS – Job Opportunities through Business Support"⁴, project "Promotion of innovation activity among young people in Bulgaria - Technostart" and project "Creating Competitive Start-ups -

² According to Eurostat data, Youth in Europe. Statistical Portrait, 2009, p. 133.

³ The projects "Education of young people in entrepreneurial skills to create a competitive small and medium businesses" and "Establishment and Development of Centers to promote entrepreneurship in higher education in Bulgaria" were implemented by the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism.

⁴ Project "JOBS Job Opportunities through Business Support" is implemented as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the United Nations Development Programme in partnership with the JOBS business centers.

Project 100"¹, the access to information, advisory services and financing for setting-up and development of entrepreneurial initiatives of young people is still limited.

5. ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SERVICES

- Despite the massive influx of information technology in everyday life and work, access to information for young people is still limited.
- Public services in support of young people are not of the necessary quality and do not reach all those in need, especially young Roma and young people in small towns. Despite the sustainable development of the network of Youth Information and Counseling Centers (YICC), it is necessary to improve their capacity and quality of services offered by them.
- The share of young Bulgarians using a computer every day is still low – 57% of all 16-24 year-olds (average for the EU – 73%) and 42% of all 25-34 year-olds (compared to EU average – 64%)².
- Less than half (49%) of young Bulgarians aged 16-24 and just over one third (36%) of young people aged 25-34 use internet services on a daily basis (the average for EU is respectively 66% and 57%).³

6. CIVIL ACTIVITY⁴

- Youth organizations are no longer perceived as a forum for civic expression of the “new” young people - five years ago, 7% of youth were related to some civic organization, while in recent years they decreased. Only 2.2% of young people are members of a political organization.
- Young people are showing considerable interest in sport clubs and fan clubs of professional teams.

¹ Project "Promotion of innovation activity among young people in Bulgaria - Technostart" and Project "Creating a competitive start-ups - Project 100" are implemented by the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism in cooperation with the United Nations development and JOBS Business Centers

² According to Eurostat data, Youth in Europe. Statistical Portrait, 2009, p. 140.

³ According to Eurostat data, Youth in Europe. Statistical Portrait, 2009, p. 142.

⁴ According to data from nationally representative surveys of the "Median" and National Centre for the Study of Public Opinion (NPOC) in 2009 and 2010.

- Recently, very attractive to young people become the dance clubs where young people go, on the one hand, to exercise, and on the other – to have fun and find an environment for social interaction.
- Young people prefer to express themselves in an informal environment – gatherings with friends, sporting events, Internet clubs, Internet forums and chat rooms.
- The share of young people not interested in politics is growing every year. Today it is 61%, in 2001 – 42% and in 1998 – 32%.
- State and municipal authorities do not provide effective mechanisms for taking into account the opinion of the young people in making political and social decisions that concern them.
- The perception of civic initiative among young people is "something pointless and a waste of time", which is a serious threat to the democratic mechanisms in the future.
- On the other hand they are active on issues of particular importance to youth such as environmental and human rights issues that affect their sense of justice.
- The dialogue with young people at national, regional, district and local level on matters affecting them is not structured yet, unlike the established European models of representation through national, regional and local youth councils.
- Between 2003-2009 there has been seen a significant increase in the state and municipal support for youth organizations according to data for the implementation of state and municipal budgets, the objectives outlined in the Resolution of the Council of the European Union on renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field, the European Commission White Book and the recommendations of the Council of Europe, are not yet completely achieved.

7. YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

- While the willingness of young people to participate in voluntary activities increases, the opportunities for volunteer activities are still limited.
- The value of volunteering is still not widely known by young people.
- The mechanisms for public support of youth volunteering are not developed as an important expression of solidarity and active citizenship and a form of informal learning.
- The rights of young volunteers, particularly minors, are in need of legal protection.

8. HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

- In the last few years there are worrying trends. However, for many young people a healthy lifestyle – proper nutrition, sport and etc., becomes a supreme value.
- The existing system of health education is not sufficient to form skills for coping with life's problems and stimulate young people to change to healthy lifestyles.
- Needs for developing in depth knowledge in areas such as sexual and reproductive health, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, prevention of adverse behavioral risk factors, increase.
- The share of young people consuming alcohol, especially among young people aged 15 to 24 years, is increasing. In 2010 52% of young people aged 15-24 consumed alcohol. There is an increase by 12% compared to 2009¹.
- 31% of young people aged 15-24 smoke daily. Young people in Bulgaria represent the highest proportion of smokers in Europe².
- The use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by the young people does not decrease. In 2005, consumers were only 1% (now they are 3%). Most of the users of psychoactive substances are young people aged 19-24³.
- In 2010, the share of young people who have used, at least once in their lifetime, hard drug slightly increased compared to the previous two years – from 1.5% to 2.3%.¹
- Compared to other European countries, however, Bulgaria and the Mediterranean countries like Greece, Cyprus and Malta supported the lowest levels of consumption of drugs by young people².
- The spread of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases increases.
- In the age group 15-19 years newly registered cases of HIV/AIDS were 14% and in the group 20-25 years are 50%³.
- It is confirmed that after leaving school, a great part of the young people cease practicing their sport and their everyday life is characterized by low physical activity and inadequate care to maintain good form.

¹ According to data from a nationally representative survey of National Centre for the Study of Public Opinion (NPOC), 2010.

² According to the EU Youth Report, 2009, p.72

³ According to data from a nationally representative survey of National Centre for the Study of Public Opinion (NPOC), 2010.

¹ According to data from a nationally representative survey of National Centre for the Study of Public Opinion (NPOC), 2010.

² According to the EU Youth Report, 2009, p.77

³ According to Eurostat data, Youth in Europe. Statistical Portrait, 2009, p. 60.

9. YOUNG FAMILIES

- It is growing the average age at first marriage⁴.
- Studies show that more young people do not consider marriage as a necessity. If until recently women more declare themselves in favor of marriage, now the majority of men and women ignore the institution of marriage equally.
- The number of births outside marriage, and young women, who are single parents, increases.
- The number of divorces in adolescence increases.
- Bulgarian youths (15-30) continue to live longer at their parents' home as compared with their counterparts in other EU countries. According to 2007 data, the average age at which young women leave their home is 28 years and for young men – just before 32 years⁵.
- The main reason for continuous coexistence with parents stated by young Bulgarians is the lack of financial capacity to rent or buy their own home¹.
- Young people, particularly young women, encounter difficulties reconciling work and private life.
- Combining motherhood and young women's career, although enshrined in the Bulgarian legislation, is does not fully realized due to, on the one hand, the lack of appropriate attitudes among young men and women, and on the other, lack of flexible management of human resources by employers.

10. SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- By the age of 18 young people at risk are covered by the Law on Child Protection.
- In recent years, legislative practice in Member States of the European Union (Germany, Netherlands, UK) is oriented towards integration between measures of child protection and social services for young people to effectively manage the risk of social exclusion.
- Existing legal basis allows for good working practices in case of a child at risk, according to which social services in a specialized institution or residential one may be

⁴ According to National Statistical Institute and Eurostat (“Youth in Europe. Statistical Portrait 2009”).

⁵ According to Eurostat data, Youth in Europe. Statistical Portrait, 2009, p. 29.

¹ According to the 2007 Eurobarometer survey (Survey # 202).

used after the age of 18 until the age of 20, if young person is in education. Also, Art. 144 of the Family Code provides a legal option for young students to receive financial support from their parents until the age of 25. When they are deprived of parental care, state and society should take measures for protection.

- In many EU Member States, the special measures for protection of children at risk can be extended, according to needs, to a greater age (21 – Malta, Poland, 22 – Greece, 23 – Cyprus, 24 – Lithuania, Portugal, 25 – Belgium, Germany, Slovakia, 26 years old – Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, 27 – Luxembourg)².
- There is still limited access for young people at risk (from 18 to 29 years) to targeted and quality social services in the community, especially in small towns.

11. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

- From the age of 14 the young person becomes criminally liable for his/her crimes.
- Cases of antisocial and illegal activities of young people from lower age groups are becoming more frequent.
- Each year over 17,500 young people aged 14-29 are condemned by the Bulgarian courts, which represent 57.7 percent of the total number of convicted persons. Convicted offenders aged 14-17, were 10.3%, those between 18-24 were 30.1% and aged 25-29 were 17.3% of the total number of persons convicted in 2007 (NSI data 2008).
- About two thirds of young people convicted each year of school and / or do not work.
- Remains high rate of relapse, especially the penitentiary recidivism among young offenders.
- Statistics in recent years shows alarming trends of increasing number of juvenile offenders and the share of young people under 29 years among the prison population and among drivers of motor vehicles, causing road accidents.
- Very low levels of trust and respect to law enforcement and judicial authorities among young people prevent their active participation in crime prevention.

² According to Eurostat data, Youth in Europe. Statistical Portrait, 2009, p. 17.

12. YOUNG PEOPLE IN SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL AREAS

- The age structure in small towns and rural areas is strongly deformed and can not provide both population reproduction and the reproduction of labor potential.
- In small towns and rural areas are concentrated most of the youth of Roma and Turkish ethnic origin.
- Access to formal and non-formal education, vocational education and training, information and advice to young people in small towns and rural areas is limited.
- Attractive opportunities for economic activity and employability of young people in small towns and rural areas are reduced.

13. MANAGEMENT OF YOUTH POLICY

- It is necessary the active involvement of municipalities in the planning and implementation of policies for young people, as well as closer cooperation between the different sectoral authorities in planning, implementation and evaluation of youth policies at central and district level.
- Public support for the provision of quality services supporting the development of young people, especially leisure services is limited to the growing needs of young people.
- There is a lack of integration between a child and youth policy.
- The participation of young people in the management of youth policy at national, regional, district and municipal level is not sufficiently effective.

III. VISION

To improve the quality of life of young people and the conditions for success of every young person through sustainable mechanisms for investing in the young people as a significant social capital and to mobilize the potential of young people in the development of Bulgaria and the European Union.

IV. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE

1.1. Strategic objective: Creating a prosperous, encouraging and supportive environment for quality professional development of the young people in Bulgaria.

1.2. Operational objectives

1.2.1 Operational objective: Creating new jobs and growth in the labor market, encouraging inclusion and career development of the young people.

Task 1. Improving the quality of secondary and higher education and informal learning and encourage lifelong learning in accordance with the needs of the labor market by:

- provision of apprenticeships and traineeships;
- encouragement of the employers to provide opportunities for training of the young workers;
- increasing the effectiveness of links between educational and training institutions and businesses to facilitate the transition from education to employment;
- promotion of the research interests of students through participation in various projects;
- access to vocational education and training for disadvantaged young people - young people with special educational needs, young people at social risk or school drop-outs;
- facilitating access to higher education by further developing both the mechanisms of student support and credit and the existing system to provide student scholarships;
- promotion the cooperation and opportunities for meetings between employers, vocational schools, training centers and academic community.

Task 2. Creating a favorable environment for professional development and career development of the young Bulgarian professionals in the state and municipal administration by:

- Creating opportunities for internships in the state and municipal administration for schools' students.
- Organization of centralized recruitment for junior experts in public administration as a modern practice for transparent and effective attraction of young people to work in state institutions.

Task 3. Promoting the career development of young people in public administration. To create a “fast track” for growth of young civil servants showed exceptional qualities in the performance of their duties.

Task 4. Expanding the access to guidance services, thereby providing support for young people to solve problems related to career choices and professional development with regard to individual qualities of the individual and the relationship between these skills and employment opportunities through the Operational Programme “Development of Human resources” under the European Social Fund.

Task 5. Encouraging the participation of employers who support the professional integration of young people and increase productivity and adaptability of young people by:

- Offering job trainings and integrated trainings;
- Developing strategies for human resources management with special measures for young workers;
- Introducing new and innovative models of work organization in enterprises;
- Encouraging and assisting territorial mobility of young people – hiring people from different regions, incentives for employers relating to the provision of transportation to work and others;
- Promote and support professional mobility of young people – individual career plans, job rotation, retraining opportunities and more.

1.2.2 Operational objective: Promoting the economic activity of young people.

Task 1. Supporting and creating favorable environment for enterprises, coupled with the provision of jobs for young people.

Task 2. Counseling of the enterprising young people to develop their own business.

Task 3. Encouraging the young people with outstanding achievements in innovation and promoting their success.

Task 4. Supporting young people with appropriate education and innovative business ideas in order to start their own high-tech business or create technology companies.

Task 5. Developing of a network of business centers and business incubators to provide services to support for young entrepreneurs.

Task 6. Supporting the specialized enterprises and cooperatives of young people at risk - young people with disabilities and other youth in social risk (people receiving social assistance, representatives of vulnerable ethnic minorities, persons leaving institutions to provide social services, individuals suffering from various addictions, former prisoners and

others), representatives of various communities engaged in social enterprises, cooperatives and specialized businesses.

Task 7. Promoting the social entrepreneurship among the young people.

1.2.3 Operational objective: Active involvement of young people in building a market economy.

Task 1. Expanding young people's access to mediation services for employment through information and consultation on options for motivational training and qualification, elaboration of individual action plans, and referral to appropriate vacancies, including programs and measures for employment and training.

Task 2. Providing a group and an individual motivation training packages of services to motivate and encourage the employment of unemployed and discouraged young people.

Task 3. Providing opportunities to acquire work experience for unemployed youths who have completed primary, secondary or higher education in order to facilitate the transition between education and employment by means of the Operational Programme "Development of Human resources" under the European Social Fund.

Task 4. Equipping and adapting jobs for young people with disabilities.

Task 5. Creating new jobs in the social economy sector and promote voluntary and community initiatives that generate employment for young people from vulnerable groups.

Task 6. Supporting the creation of social enterprises, coupled with the provision of jobs for the young people at risk.

1.2.4 Operational objective: Reconciliation of professional and private lives of young people.

Task 1. Developing flexible forms of employment for young people - sharing one job, working part time, job rotation, work flexible hours, promoting distance working, etc..

Task 2. Creating the conditions for balance between work and private life.

Task 3. Continuing the systematic policy of gender equality in the labor market, in economic, social and family life.

1.3. Expected results

- Reducing the proportion of early school leavers to 11%.
- Increasing the proportion of young people with higher education to 36%.

- Increasing the employment rate of young people aged 15-24, including young people with disabilities.
- Increasing the employment rate of young people aged 25-29 years, including youth with disabilities.
- Reducing the rate of unemployment among young people aged 15-24, including young people with disabilities.
- Reducing the unemployment rate for young people aged 25-29 years, including youth with disabilities.
- Increasing the share of self among economically active people aged 25-29 years, including youth with disabilities.
- Expanding the network of business centers and business incubators that offer support services to young entrepreneurs.
- Increasing the proportion of successful young entrepreneurs are realized.
- Increasing the youth participation in initiatives and career development.

2. IMPROVING THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND QUALITY SERVICES

2.1. Strategic objective: Facilitating the access to quality services for special support of the full personal and social development of young people in accordance with the needs and interests.

2.2. Operational objectives

2.2.1 Operational objective: Forming of policies aimed at young people.

Task 1. Public support and supply of quality information services, providing up to date, systematic and accessible information that meets a wide range of interests and needs of young people.

Task 2. Organizing national, regional, provincial and municipal campaigns aimed at young people.

Task 3. Familiarizing the young people with the public institutions and their rights as part of the local community and as citizens of Bulgaria and the European Union.

Task 4. Encouraging and supporting the development of EURODESK as active European information network that contributes to the exchange and dissemination of free information and consultation of a wide range of young people, youth workers and youth organizations.

Task 5. Development of a National Youth Information System.

2.2.2. Operational objective: Providing access to development services based on youth work, individual approach and assessment of specific needs and characteristics of adolescence.

Task 1. Public support and offering consulting services in support of personal and social development of young people, including the development of life skills.

Task 2. Public support and offering technical assistance for family planning and development of sustainable family patterns among young people, including the development of skills for good and responsible parenthood.

Task 3. Public support and provision of services for the organization of the leisure time of young people.

Task 4. Encouraging and supporting the public-private partnerships and social entrepreneurship in the provision of development services for young people.

Task 5. Ensuring the quality of the public supported services for the development of the young people.

Task 6. Developing the network of Youth Information and Consulting Center (YICC) by:

- enhancing the capacity of Youth Information and Consulting Center (YICC) to continue to serve their communities;
- improving the quality of services;
- expanding the range of those served by young people and the services offered.

Task 7. Improving the young people's access to the Internet and digital content in public libraries in Bulgaria.

Task 8. Network expansion and capacity development for service providers for the development of the young people – professional consultants, companies, cooperatives, non-profit, community centers, cultural institutions, sports organizations, social tourism, municipalities, business centers, business incubators and others.

2.2.3 Operational objective: Stimulation of the informal learning among the young people.

Task 1. Expanding the opportunities for informal learning for young people through public support and providing services for the expansion of knowledge, experience and skills of young people for their adherence to the values of civil society, science, culture, art, healthy lifestyles, traffic safety road and to prevent nuisance.

Task 2. Promoting the forms of informal learning.

Task 3. Facilitating access to the program "Youth in Action" for the young people, particularly those living in small towns and rural areas.

Task 4. Promoting and encouraging the use of EUROPASS and YOUTHPASS by the young people as tools for self-knowledge and skills, including skills acquired in an informal environment.

2.2.4. Operational objective: Development of the talent, creative skills and cultural expression of young people.

Task 1. Improving the ability of social and creative skills of young people according to their interests and encourage the initiative, creativity and youthful appearance by:

- supporting the young debutants in various arts and cultural industries;
- promoting the contribution of youth work for the realization of creative abilities of the young people.

Task 3. Development of the Bulgarian musical youth movement in accordance with European standards.

Task 4. Supporting the development of young Bulgarian artists and their participation in the European and global cultural exchange.

2.3. Expecting results

- Extending the range and improving the quality and accessibility of services to support the development of young people.
- Increasing the proportion of young people (aged 15-24) who have access to digital content in public libraries.
- Establishment of European models in youth work.
- Increasing the number of performances by young artists.
- Increasing the proportion of young people in science.

3. PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

3.1. Strategic objective: Promoting healthy lifestyles among young people.

3.2. Operational objectives

3.2.1 Operational objective: Prevention of the factors creating a health risk to young people.

Task 1. Encouraging and supporting cooperation between youth workers, health professionals, youth and sports organizations to promote healthy lifestyles among young people.

Task 2. Ensuring the effective implementation of the EU Guidelines for physical activity by the young people, especially among young people with disabilities.

3.2.2 Operational objective: Improving the sexual culture of young people.

Task 1. Developing and disseminating health information tailored to the needs of young people by mobilizing the youth information networks.

Task 2. Creating and implementing new forms of health education in schools and promoting health education in community centers, youth centers, sports and youth organizations, including the development of approaches of "peer education" in order to develop knowledge, attitudes and skills for healthy lifestyles, safe behavior and avoiding risky health practices.

Task 3. Improving the young people's access to appropriate quality services and to up to date scientific information on sexual and reproductive health education, prevention of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

3.2.3 Operational objective: Promoting physical activity and sport among young people.

Task 1. Creating learning opportunities for young people on matters of health, sport and physical activity.

Task 2. Implementing programmes for promotion children's and youth sports and tourism.

Task 3. Motivation and information campaigns to raise the sports culture of young people.

3.3. Expected results

- Increasing the number of young people practicing sports activities.
- Increased the level of awareness and the skills and knowledge for a healthy lifestyle.
- Increasing active citizenship and involvement of young people in prevention activities of dependencies.

4. PREVENTION OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF YOUNG DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE

4.1. Strategic objective: Preventing the social exclusion of disadvantaged young people – young people in institutions, young people with disabilities, young people leaving institutions, young people suffering from various addictions, former prisoners and other groups of young people at risk.

4.2. Operational objectives

4.2.1 Operational objective: Integration of youth policy measures to protect children.

Task 1. Development of social services (including the type of support, accompaniment, mentoring), suitable for young people aged 18 to 25 years at risk, especially for the integration of measures for child protection.

4.2.2 Operational objective: Providing social services for young disadvantaged people.

Task 1. Promoting the cooperation between social workers, youth workers and youth leaders to involve the young people in social risk.

Task 2. Supporting social adaptation and increasing the employability of disadvantaged young people.

Task 3. Improving the quality of social services for young people in institutions and bringing them into public and providing support for their full integration in all spheres of social life.

4.2.3. Operational objective: Limiting the transmission of intergenerational social exclusion.

Task 1. Promoting the awareness of young people to social inclusion policies.

4.3. Expecting results

- Increasing programs targeted measures on social assistance and social services for young people aged 18 to 25 years in social risk under the Social Assistance Act.
- Developed social services (including the type of support, accompaniment, mentoring), suitable for young people aged 18 to 25 years at risk, especially for integration measures for child protection.
- Orientation of social services for young people in institutions to prepare them for decommissioning and their integration into the community.
- Increasing young people drawn from specialized institutions and effectively integrated into the community.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

5.1. Strategic objective: Developing the volunteering among young people as a force for personal development, mobility, learning, competitiveness, social cohesion, solidarity between generations and the formation of citizenship.

5.2. Operational objectives

5.2.1 Operational objective: Creating more volunteer opportunities for young people, especially cross-border mobility through better use of funds from the EC program "Youth in Action".

Task 1. Joining and ensuring the implementation of the European Convention for promoting the long term transnational voluntary service for young people of the Council of Europe.

Task 2. Encouraging and supporting the participation of Bulgarian young people in the international youth volunteering.

5.2.2 Operational goal: Ensuring the rights of young volunteers.

Task 1. Legal regulation of the status of young volunteers. Protection from contract activities that have or may have harmful or dangerous impact on their psychic and health.

Task 2. Providing appropriate trainings and qualification for young volunteers associated with the operations carried out by young people volunteering.

5.2.3 Operational goal: Promotion of volunteering.

Task 1. Verification and validation of trainings, experiences and skills acquired by young people from the volunteering.

Task 2. Establishment and maintenance of good management practices for recruiting young volunteers, trainings, promotion, monitoring and evaluation, and recognition of their achievements.

Task 3. Introduction of "voluntary license" as an official document certifying the circumstances related to volunteering for young people.

Task 4. Legal regulation of the status of voluntary organizations.

Task 5. Establishing standards for youth volunteering and public control for the protection of young volunteers.

Task 6. Promoting youth volunteering in the state and municipalities.

5.3 Expected results:

- Implementation of European standards laid down in the European Convention for promoting long term transnational voluntary service.
- Increased number of Bulgarian youths participating in international youth volunteering.
- Increasing the number of volunteers in Bulgaria.
- Created effective mechanisms guaranteeing the rights of young volunteers.
- Recognition of skills acquired through volunteering as an important form of informal education.

6. RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

6.1. Strategic objective: Providing opportunities for meaningful participation of young people in civic life and their adherence to basic democratic values and standards.

6.2. Operational objectives.

6.2.1 Operational objective: Promotion of self-organization of young people.

Task 1. Encouraging and supporting the development of youth organizations from the state, municipalities, businesses and society.

Task 2. Improving the legal framework for youth organizations.

Task 3. Recognizing the contribution of fugitive initiatives young people.

Task 4. Promoting and replicating the good practices of youth civic activity.

Task 5. Creating the conditions for support and implementation of youth initiatives and youth campaigns.

6.2.2 Operational objectives: Promoting civic education and training.

Task 1. Promoting and training on protection of human rights, especially on children's rights, discrimination, gender equality, labor rights of young people.

Task 2. Training of youth leaders.

6.2.3 Operational objectives: Ensuring the effective representation of the interests of young people in the formation, implementation and evaluation of sectoral policies at national, regional, district and municipal level.

Task 1. Mobilization of young people's participation in governance at local, regional and national level and civil control over the municipal and state authorities, including through campaigns to restore trust of young people in the administration.

Task 2. Encouraging the creation and development of youth representation through:

- establishing of guarantees for democratic device, representation, and publicity;
- supporting the youth representation from the state and municipalities;
- ensuring representation of young people at national, regional, district and municipal level in making, implementation and evaluation of decisions concerning young people.

Task 3. Encouraging participation of young people and their organizations in the protection, enhancement and management of natural resources.

Task 4. Organizing campaigns and initiatives on current issues in the implementation of the European Union, Council of Europe and the United Nations in relation to young people.

6.3. Expected results

- Increasing the participation of the young people in national, local and European elections.
- Strengthening the youth participation in solving youth problems.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL AREAS

7.1. Strategic objective: Create an attractive environment for young people in small towns and rural areas.

7.2. Operational objectives.

7.2.1 Operational objective: Ensuring effective access to education, training and information to young people in small towns and rural areas.

Task 1. Encouraging and supporting centers as centers for information, informal education, cultural expression and civic participation in small towns and rural areas.

Task 2. Electronic integration of young people in small towns and rural areas.

Task 3. Introduction of mobile forms of social and youth work for young people from small towns, remote and inaccessible areas.

7.2.2 Operational objective: Mobilization of young people's participation in managing local development.

Task 1. Promoting the participation of young people and youth organizations in the local action groups.

Task 2. Encourage initiatives of young people and their organizations in small towns and rural areas.

7.2.3 Operational objective: Increase economic activity and creating opportunities for professional development of young people in small towns and rural areas.

Task 1. Promoting micro and small enterprises by young people for employment growth in small towns and rural areas.

7.3. Expected results:

- Improving employability and social integration of young people in small towns and rural areas.
- Establishment of youth areas, clubs and youth spaces in the country.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF INTERCULTURAL AND INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

8.1. Strategic objective: Create a supportive and encouraging environment for Bulgarian youth to fully participate in international youth and intercultural communication.

8.2. Operational objectives.

8.2.1. Operational objective: Promoting the interethnic and intercultural understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

Task 1. Encouraging and supporting youth mobility in Europe.

Task 2. Encouraging and supporting the understanding of different ethnic communities and cultures to promote tolerance, understanding and interaction between communities.

8.2.2. Operational objective: Encouraging and promoting the participation of Bulgarian youth in the international and European youth movements.

Task 1. Promoting the European cooperation in youth field.

Task 2. Encouraging and supporting the inclusion of young people's citizenship and learning of European languages and cultures.

Task 3. Building skills in a multicultural and multinational environment.

8.3. Expected results:

- Increased activity and young people's participation in international educational programs.

- Increasing activity and participation of young people in European and international projects and initiatives.
- Increased activity of young people under the "Youth in Action".

9. INCREASING THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CRIME PREVENTION

9.1. Strategic objective: Promoting the active participation of young people in crime prevention, especially in the prevention of offenses committed by young people.

9.2. Operational objectives.

9.2.1. Operational objective: Involving local authorities, youth organizations and media in the prevention of offenses committed by youth.

Task 1. Organizing informational and educational campaigns for the prevention of offenses committed by young people.

Task 2. Initiation of legislative changes through which to introduce effective measures for prevention and impact on young offenders, and procedures to ensure their rights and comply with their age characteristics.

Task 4. Expanding and improving services for social reintegration of young offenders, particularly community-based services.

Task 5. Selecting and training of specialists in all types of institutions and organizations for the development of attitudes, knowledge and skills to assist and support young people with behavioral problems and young offenders.

Task 6. Introduction of team approach and institutional interaction based on clear goals help, common professional language and mutual understanding of the competencies, forms, and equipment when working with young offenders.

Task 7. Targeting sports programmes for the prevention of juvenile delinquency in specialized institutions for young offenders and re-socialization of young people who have committed an offense.

Task 8. Organizing programmes to prevent so-called acts of "hooliganism sport" with the active participation of youth organizations, fan clubs and sports organizations.

Task 9. Mobilization of local communities, especially youth and sports organizations in the prevention of child and juvenile delinquency and social reintegration of offenders.

9.2.2. Operational objective: Building trust between young people and law enforcement.

Task 1. Improving the access to justice and quality legal assistance for young offenders.

Task 2. Encouraging the active participation of young people, youth leaders and youth workers and youth organizations in prevention programmes and campaigns.

9.2.3. Operational objective: Developing of a culture of road safety among young people.

Task 1. Organizing road safety programs in schools.

Task 2. Organizing road safety programs in the centers for youth communication.

9.3 Expected Results

- Availability of stable and working models for the prevention of juvenile delinquency.
- Reducing the number of road traffic accidents (RTA) with the participation of young people.
- Reducing the number of offenses committed by young people.

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

1. PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

Basic principles for implementation of the national strategy are:

- Participation of young people.
- Legality.
- Transparency.
- Responsiveness.
- Equality.
- Integration of policies for children and youth.
- Multisectoral approach.
- Decentralization policies for youth development.
- Coordination of the national youth policy to the policy for young people carried out by and within the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

2. MODERN INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

2.1. The role of the National Assembly

The National Assembly adopts Annual Youth Report, which contains the achieved results of the National Youth Strategy 2010-2020.

By adoption of Youth Law the basic principles for planning and management of the national policy on youth development will be determined through:

- management of the National Youth Policy by clearly definition of the powers of public authorities;
- representation and participation of young people in social and public life;
- promotion of youth volunteering;
- definition of the term “youth”;
- definition of “youth organization”.

2.2. The role of the Council of Ministers

Council of Ministers through the adoption of the National Youth Strategy shares the national strategic goals and policy priorities for youth development in Bulgaria for a period of ten years.

For achieving the objectives of the National Youth Strategy, the Council of Ministers will adopt an annual action plan by which the state youth policy will be programmed and will be ensured with resources.

The Council of Ministers imports to the National Assembly the respective annual report's for the implementation of national strategy.

2.3. The role of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science:

- coordinate the establishment and implementation of the National Youth Strategy and the respective annual action plan;
- coordinate the preparation of the Annual Youth Report;
- develop draft legislation related to youth policy;
- interact with youth organizations in the implementation of national youth policy;
- interact with other state and local authorities in the implementation of national youth policy;
- develop programs for youth activities;
- act as national coordinating body under the European Convention for promoting transnational long term voluntary service for young people to the Council of Europe, after the entry into force of the Convention for the Republic of Bulgaria.

2.4. The role of the National Centre "European Youth Programmes and Initiatives"

The National Centre "European Youth Programmes and Initiatives" – the administrator of the program "Youth in Action", encourage, advise, organize and coordinate the participation of Bulgarian young people and their organizations in European, international and national youth programs, projects and initiatives.

2.5. Multisectoral approach in development policies of youth in Bulgaria

The wide ranges of issues affecting young people have a multi-sectoral approach to youth policy. Youth policy can not make progress without the successful collaboration with other sectors. For its part, youth policies can contribute to achieving the results in areas such as education, employment, gender equality, health, competitiveness, etc.

Multisectoral approach should be developed at national, regional, district and municipal level by including targeted activities to support the development of young people, providing

an effective contribution by young people in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of sectoral policies and coordination between them.

2.6. The role of the governors

Regional governors in accordance with the European Charter on youth participation in the life of municipalities and regions, respectively, with the National Youth Strategy 2010-2020 and Annual Action Plan submit to the Ministry of Education and Science information on the implementation of measures aimed at young people in the region. Thus ensure the coordination, coherence, accountability, openness and transparency in planning and programming of youth policy in the region.

The District governors may enter into cooperative agreements with other neighboring areas for more effective implementation of joint activities under the Annual Action Plan.

Regional governors work closely with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science and with young people when considering issues related to youth policy.

Regional governors work closely with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science and with young people when considering issues related to youth policy.

2.7. The role of municipalities

The activity of mayors and municipal councils in implementing the National Youth Strategy will provide a higher degree of responsiveness to the needs of young people, according to the principles of the European Charter on youth participation in the life of communities and regions.

Mayors of municipalities shall ensure accountability, openness and transparency of municipal policies for youth development.

Municipal councils and mayors of municipalities shall cooperate with the regional structures of the central government bodies and ensure young people's participation in the formulation, implementation and reporting of municipal policies for youth development.

2.8. The role of youth organizations

Youth organizations provide youth participation and representation in the formulation and implementation of youth policies. Youth organizations are working closely with central, regional and local authorities.

2.9. Youth agency

In the implementation of Recommendation Rec (2006) 1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Member States on the role of national youth councils in the development of youth policies and standards established by the European Charter on youth participation in the life of local and regional adopted by the Congress of Local and regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the representation of the interests of young people in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies could be structured through youth councils.

Youth councils coordinate the interests of young people in different areas - education, culture, sports, ecology, health, labor and social policy, informal learning, free time and community development through:

- participation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of youth policy;
- advocacy campaigns;
- international youth communication;
- cooperation with local and state authorities and administration.

It is necessary to ensure representativeness, openness and accountability in the activities of youth councils.

3. RESOURCE SECURITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

3.1. Role of youth work in Bulgaria

Youth workers are needed resource for the implementation of the Strategy. These are professionals trained to provide special support for personal, social and economic development and stimulate young people to participate fully in society, consistent with the characteristics of adolescence. They act as professional advisors of young people responding to the needs and interests and are available in youth, treatment and counseling centers, schools and others, helping, advising and directing youth in solving various problems.

Especially significant is the role of youth workers for the provision of special support for personal, social and economic development and empowerment of young people to participate fully in society, consistent with the characteristics of adolescence.

For the development of youth work in line with the European portfolio of youth worker recommended by the Council of Europe, it is necessary to:

- analysis the economic and social impact of youth work.
- promote the mobility of youth workers in the country and Europe.
- introduce the European instruments (Europass, EQF, ECVET) to validate the knowledge and skills acquired by youth workers in the various forms of formal and informal learning.

3.2. Funding for youth activities

- Improving the skills of youth organizations, youth groups and service providers for young people to attract external financial resources for development, financing and project management.
- Provision of funds from the state budget for national youth programs.
- Provision of funds from municipal budgets for youth programs and activities.
- Provision of support for measures to develop young people in Bulgaria through the program “Youth in Action” (2007-2013) of the European Commission.
- Provision of support for targeted activities for youth development through funding from the EU funds within the Operational Programmes – “Development of Human resources”, “Administrative Capacity”, “Competitiveness of Bulgarian Economy”, “Regional Development” and through the development of rural areas.

3.4. National Youth Information System

By developing the National Youth Information System administrated by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, reliable information about the needs of young people and for planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of youth policies at national, regional, district and municipal level will be provided.

The state and local authorities provide information necessary for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science for the maintenance of the system.

National Youth Information System is generally available through the website of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science.