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

COUNTRY SHEET

ON YOUTH POLICY

IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAV

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA



Last updated: 15.11.2010

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1. Context of national youth policy

As it is the case with most of the ex-communist countries and especially the countries of Ex Yugoslavia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had to re-compose the youth policy according to the new time and new needs. Old structures supported by the state and directly influenced by the communist party disappeared and only several organizations that had a leading role in supporting the youth policy and delivering youth work in the field survived the transition and continue to work (Red cross, Scouts, Theatre youth, Music youth...) Process of the transition within the society was very slow and this also affects development of national youth policy. Real efforts for establishing a national youth policy happened with the beginning of 21st century when process of establishing National Youth Strategy started. It is important to stress that parallel with processes of Euro accession the interest and enthusiasm for development of youth policy grow. As a part of the activities within one of the biggest projects financed by World Bank (Babylon youth centres) in 2002 a big survey took place: A baseline study on youth trends prepared and conducted by a team of researchers from the Philosophical faculty- Institute for Sociology (lead by Dr Antoanela Petkovska.)

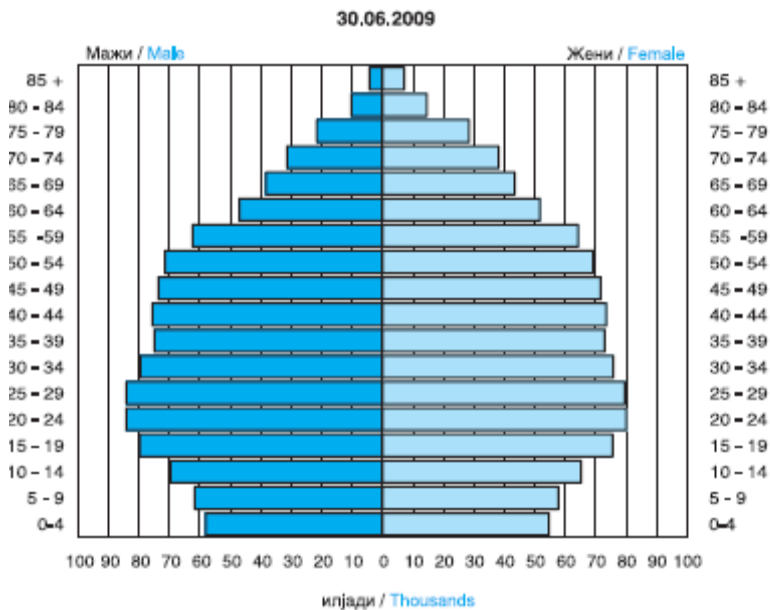
On the basis of this study wide consultative process started where main stakeholders were involved in process of drafting the National Youth Strategy. After a more than a year draft document was released and put in front of the government for adoption. The process of adoption took almost year and finally in the end of 2005 the National Youth Strategy was adopted by government.

Unfortunately the strategy as such was not effective without action plans. It took 3 more years for starting a process of preparation and adoption of an action plan. National Steering Committee for implementation of the National Youth Strategy that consisted both from government and youth NGOs was established. Committee came out with action plan proposal for 2009. Idea was that there would be action plans for each year. Unfortunately the action plan for 2009 is not fulfilled yet (end of 2010) that is mainly because of the financial crisis in the country. In the moment having in mind that obviously National Youth Strategy did not reach the needs and expectations of the young people, initiative of drafting a Law on Youth is taken. One of the reasons for this is certainly positive experience of the countries of European Union that have such a law. Having in mind that adoption of Law for Youth is part of the National Strategy for Adoption of the EU legislation expectations are that the process that already was initiated on the end of 2010 will continue in 2011 and result with preparation of the law for youth by end of 2011 or beginning of 2012.

2. Statistics on young people

POPULATION ESTIMATES

30.06.2008	30.06.2009		30.06.2009		30.06.2009		
	total	male	female	total	male	female	
	Total	2 046 898	1 026 022	1 020 876	2 050 671	1 027 810	1 022 861
0 - 4	112 825	58 140	54 685	112 671	58 082	54 589	
5 - 9	121 202	62 566	58 636	119 468	61 674	57 794	
10 - 14	139 813	72 075	67 738	134 704	69 572	65 132	
15 - 19	157 897	81 191	76 706	155 316	79 805	75 511	
20 - 24	165 069	84 618	80 451	164 286	84 228	80 058	
25 - 29	162 300	83 591	78 709	163 591	84 091	79 500	
30 - 34	153 804	78 523	75 281	155 188	79 510	75 678	
35 - 39	147 677	74 820	72 857	147 766	74 884	72 882	
40 - 44	149 467	75 835	73 632	149 078	75 603	73 475	
45 - 49	144 753	73 547	71 206	145 233	73 663	71 570	
50 - 54	139 803	71 017	68 786	140 607	71 440	69 167	
55 - 59	124 053	60 716	63 337	126 459	62 317	64 142	
60 - 64	93 375	44 623	48 752	98 640	47 035	51 605	
Over 65	234 191	104 600	129 591	237 068	105 762	131 306	
Unknown	669	160	509	596	144	452	



EMIGRATED CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA ACCORDING TO SEX, MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, BY MUNICIPALITIES, 2009

Marital status		Возраст / Age				Municipality of previous place of residence
разведен- разведена	непоз- нато	0 - 14	15 - 29	30 - 64	65 и повеќе	
divorced	unknown				65 and over	

Sources of data on population and households are the Censuses which were carried out in 1921, 1931, 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 1994 and 2002 according to unified methodologies and forms for all Census areas.

Estimated mid-year population figures are based on Census results and data on natural population increase, and since 1992 the estimations include the data on mechanical increase.

www.stat.gov.mk

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Agency of youth and sport

Frenklin Ruzvelt 34

1000 Skopje

Macedonia

www.ams.gov.mk

The main governmental body that is in charge of youth is Agency of Youth and Sport that is basically governmental body with its own budget and responsibilities. Although it is not on the rank of a ministry it is an independent structure that is not under any other particular governmental ministry and responds directly to the Prime Minister. It is important to mention that from 1998 to 2000 the Agency was functioning as an independent ministry but with the process of cutting the ministries it was transformed into an Agency. Although several years ago there were also some initiatives to be under some of the existing ministries (Ministry of education) AfS continued to work as an independent structure. This was really seriously taken into consideration exactly in the period when the National youth policy process took place and influenced by the lack of employed persons in the AfS that limited its human resources and capacity of institutions in general.

The Agency for Youth and Sport has three departments: the Department for Sports, the Department for Normative, Legal and Economic Issues, and the Department for Youth.

Department of youth

- Main tasks of the Youth Department are social development and social integration of youth via quality formal and non-formal education;
- Economic prosperity of the youth via youth entrepreneurship
- Improving of quality of life

- Active participation of the youth in public life and in decision making processes on local and national level

Youth Department is divided into two sub-departments-International cooperation and Youth policy and training

In the moment 6 people are employed in Youth Department

Director responsible of Youth Department is Melani Atanasova- email: melani@ams.gov.mk

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

Partially in scope of their activities and jurisdiction also the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Social Care and also Ministry of Culture have activities connected with youth.

www.vlada.mk

www.mon.gov.mk

www.mtsp.gov.mk

www.kultura.gov.mk

It is important to stress the role of the new established National Agency for Youth Educational Programs and Mobility that is charge of the European Commission programs such as Youth In Action(certainly most important for Youth) that are widely speeded among youth NGOs since The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is one of the leader in SEE by participation in the program. Beside the problems that occur in the pilot phase (in the moment activities are suspended and Agency is under investigation by Brussels) expectations are that from 2011 Agency will continue with the work and from 2012 entry ticket to be paid and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to become full program country of the Youth in Action.

www.na.org.mk

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

In the moment there is not such a commission. Only in some of the parliamentarian groups there is a lobby group for youth where initiative can be suggested and then supported within parliament.

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

In The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia there are 85 municipalities and only a few of them have serious focus on Youth and support youth activities mainly by supporting youth information centres.

The municipality of Skopje, the capital, has a structure within city administration

that provides support for NGOs including Youth NGO's and also Coordination Council of NGOs on city level is established.

There is also Association of Local Communities that was included in the process of adoption of the National Action Plan for implementation of the National Youth Strategy by nominating a member in the Steering Committee for implementation of the NYS.

In the moment there is a process of establishing a Councils of Youth, like independent counseling bodies within the municipal councils. Already structures have been established in three municipalities.

3.3.1 Youth councils

The non-governmental umbrella organization Youth Council of Macedonia (YCM), which Came out in 1990 from the Union of Socialist Youth, has gathered 12 national youth associations and by 2003 it had only a membership of 6 associations. Since 2001, YCM has not had any major activity, and it was not represented in international youth organizations and not active at all. Although it was never formally announced in practice Youth Council stopped to exist.

In the moment only relevant youth umbrella organization is SEGA coalition. It was involved in the process of drafting national youth strategy, preparation of the Action plan and now is leading in initiative for starting a process for preparation on Law of youth. (As part of this initiative recently a survey was prepared by team of experts engaged by SEGA Coalition in cooperation with Agency of Youth and Sport an supported by foreign donors.)

SEGA

Ivo Lola Ribar, 5

Prilep 7500

Macedonia

www.sega.org.mk

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Nowadays, the youth sector in The Formal Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a combination of associations such as: youth organizations, organizations of different fields with youth target group, student associations and student unions, junior members of political parties, and cultural and artistic youth associations.

In the framework of the research for the capacities of the youth organizations in the Former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, realized as a part of the project "Together for the Youth" in 2006, a sample of about 69 associations has been selected, including the junior members of the political parties that illustrate the combination of associations. In the latest Research on youth trends in The Former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (March-November 2010) 103 organizations were mapped as relevant to be involved but only 53 fulfilled the questioner and participated. More relevant information about their capacities, target groups, needs, budget etc... will follow as soon as the finalization of the results of the research are published.

4. Legislation

The National Youth Strategy (NYS) as the only specialized legislative youth document was adopted by the Government in December 2005. The National Youth Strategy of the The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia aims to improve the general position and satisfy the needs and interests of the young people in the country.

It was divided into eight thematic areas:

EDUCATION
YOUTH SELF-EMPLOYMENT, SUPPORT PRIOR TO EMPLOYMENT
LIFE QUALITY
HEALTH AND PREVENTION
YOUTH PARTICIPATION
YOUTH INFORMATION
CULTURE
LOCAL YOUTH WORK

<http://www.sega.org.mk/web/doc/National%20Youth%20Strategy-Macedonia.pdf>

National Action Plan for implementation of NYS for 2009 was adopted on the beginning of 2009. In practice by the end of 2010 the action plan is not implemented in practice yet.

5. National Programmes on youth

Beside the NYS there is also a regulation in certain areas that also tackle youth such as National Program for the Development of the Education in the Republic of Macedonia 2005-2015, National Program for employment, National Program for Culture...

<http://www.sega.org.mk/web/images/NSM/action%20plan%20for%20implementation%20of%20the%20national%20youth%20strategy%20of%20the%20republic%20of%20macedonia.pdf>

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level

Agency of Youth and Sport within its budget of Youth Department financed activities mainly by supporting projects with the open competition/announced public call. The 2009 budget was 17 million mkd –approximately 280000 euros.

Unfortunately because of the economic crisis in 2010 there was no budget for open public call for financing Youth NGOs with their projects. Also for 2011 no budget is foreseen. There is also a possibility some of the activities of the youth NGOs to be activated by the grants also organized through the system of open completion/ announced public call that are given by department for cooperation with NGOs that is part of the Secretariat of Government. They have budget for support of all NGOs in general. There is no data available how many youth NGOs applied and if some of them were successful and what was total amount received.

Regional level

In practice there is no system for financial supporting of youth activities on local level, although in some of the municipalities there is symbolic budget for granting resources to the civil sector each year. There is no data available how many youth NGOs applied and if some of them were successful and what was total amount received on local level also.

7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1 Council of Europe programmes or activities implemented in an important way for youth purposes

Agency of Youth and Sport disseminates the information on the Council of Europe programmes in the field of youth to relevant organisations and participated in its structures (CDEJ).

There is also an office of Council of Europe disseminates the information .

7.2 European Union programmes

The previous Youth and today Youth in Action program as a European Commission program on different level includes The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as part of the partner countries. With the establishment of the National Agency for Youth Educational Programs and Mobility that is also responsible agency for implementation of Youth in Action, expectations are that from 2012 FYROM will become full program country. The program had for several and still has with the intensity great impact for Macedonian youth NGOs that are using the program very successful and already dozen of projects are taking place in Macedonia(in actions available for the country) and respective number of Macedonian youth went abroad and participated in activities taking place in the frame of Youth in Action.

Having in mind the numbers of applications (especially successful ones) send to Brussels this the key program for international projects of Macedonian NGOs. Obviously role of Youth in Action will be important in the next period and guarantee for this beside the Agency are also several contact points that are working on promotion on Youth in Action and certainly good practise of the organizations already involved.

www.na.org.mk

8. Forthcoming events/conferences

As a main priority regarding national legislation certainly is adoption of Low for Youth that will closely define the role of youth in decision making processes, education, youth employment etc... Since this Low is part of the National strategy for adoption of the EU regulation it is planned that this Low for Youth should be adopted by end of 2011 beginning of 2012. In the moment process started with organization of several open discussions and conferences on the topic: Need of Low for Youth. Expectation is that this low will use good practice from the EU countries and certainly answer the specific needs of Macedonian youth.

It is important to be mentioned that three years ago for a first time European chapter for participation in local and regional live was translated in Macedonian and initiative for establishing a youth structures within municipalities started. Already several Youth Parliaments and Councils of Youth were established and this process is continuing in the next period. Most of these activities were initiated through projects of SEGA coalition.

Regarding regional cooperation as a part of Macedonian presidency of Council of Europe in the frame of so cold Ohrid Process regional conference took place in September 2010 in Ohrid with an aim of establishing a SEE Youth Council as an umbrella of youth organizations in the SEE region that will also include representative from governmental institutions.