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REVIEWS ON YOUTH POLICIES AND YOUTH WORK IN THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE & CAUCASUS

- REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA -



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1. Introduction

Republic of Moldova' commitment to the development of national youth policy is very strong as young people are considered the most evaluable human resource and great potential to move the country on. The needs, perspectives, and concerns of young people are at the top of present national policy, and there is a constant necessity to enhance the solidarity and co-operation between politics and civil society.

Since proclaiming its independence, the Republic of Moldova began facing a set of political, economic and social problems, which it had to resolve alone, relying on its own potential and resources. The process of state building and self-determination was going in a context of social and economic crisis, and radical transformation of the economic system. Lack of experience in resisting external "shocks", crises in the economy and social sector, as well as insufficient experience in implementing system reforms, unstable internal political situation, territorial disintegration of the country – all these predetermined the considerable "mistakes and costs" of the transition period. The young people have been the most vulnerable group in such a difficult period.

Republic of Moldova is a republic and a democracy based on the rule of law. Human rights and civic rights such as human dignity, freedom of conscience, freedom of expression and freedom of press, are inviolable basic rights and at the core of the constitution. These principles represent a very strong point in creating opportunities for development of young people.

The review is a part of country reviews on youth policies and youth work in the countries of South East Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus.

This review represents an evaluative study on youth and a synthesis of the framework of youth policy in Republic of Moldova, including the life spheres that affect young people development and social inclusion.

The main **goal** of the study is to present from an objective and factual position the situation of young people and level of development of youth policy in Moldova. This study is elaborated from a youth perspective.

The paper work is offering and additional insight into youth policy of Republic of Moldova and is based on several and different studies, researches, questionnaires and surveys carried out in Republic of Moldova having relevance to the youth aspect. It is based on a cross-sectoral approach of youth policy and understanding. The focus lies on youth policy definition, tools, structures, youth strategies, programmes, youth education and training, youth legislation, youth health. There is also stocked information on youth rights, participation, values, leisure time, housing and entrepreneurship.

In the elaboration work was examined official documents on educational, social and economic policies, analytical studies developed by national and international experts, data from statistic and sociological institutions' mapping system and the results of several sociological surveys.

Situation of the youth, the level of development youth policy and its cross-sectoral issues in Moldova are reflected on the basis of regulatory and legislative acts that regulate the functioning of the youth policy system: the policy documents developed by the central public authorities; the implementation reports of the Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper; reports on the achievement of the Millennium development goals in the Republic of Moldova; progress reports of the line ministry; analytical studies developed by experts in this area; and the statistical data published both by the line ministries and the National Bureau of Statistics.

A series of interviews with local youth leaders and managers of Youth Resource Centres, representatives of local youth services, young people and students had a great impetus in the process of the study elaboration.

Challenges. Although the youth is considered a priority for the country very few studies have been elaborated in youth field. There are data on youth reflected in National Statistics documents but this must be depicted from a range of other groups and analytical description. In the period 2000-2008 the UN Agencies elaborated some important studies on youth, mainly focused on social protection, health, migration, social exclusion, but there is a lack of such studies in recent two years. No data on leisure time, values and culture of youth is available. Information on these issues was collected due to the interviews and discussions with young people.

Significant data were taken from the International Country Review on National Youth Policy in Moldova elaborated by the experts of the Council of Europe and National Report on youth policy produced by the Republic of Moldova, at which I contributed myself in the period 2008-2009.

During the process of gathering datas and materials for the Review I was supported by Alexandru Cauia and Marcel Abras from National Council of Student Organisations, Eduard Mihalas, from National Youth Council, Olga Sainciuc, former Youth Socio Economic Empowerment Project of World Bank and UNICEF Moldova, Angela Ciocirlan, Director of Youth Resource Centre "Faclia", Viorel Babii, Programme Coordinator, National Youth Resource Centre, Dorina Andreev, Programme Coordinator, East European Foundation, Violeta Bunescu from UNAIDS Moldova, Elena Jidobin from UNFPA Moldova, Tatiana Dubitcaia, youth worker, Education and Youth Department, Balti city. Aliona Serbulenco, Head of Department, Ministry of Health, Ana Vasilachi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family.

2. Executive summary

The study provides a comprehensive approach of the situation and development of young people in Republic of Moldova.

Moldova is an independent state in South-Eastern Europe state bordering the Ukraine and Romania. Moldovans represents the country's largest ethnic group (76,1%), followed by Ukrainians(8,4%), Russians(5,8%), and smaller minorities such as the Gagauz (Turkish origin) and Bulgarians. Human development index - 0,733, life exapctancy-69,4 years, education index- 0,893. It is a Parliamentary Republic with a President elected every 4 years. The population is mostly rural.

According to the latest official statistics provided by the National Bureau of Statistics of Republic of Moldova the number of resident population of the Republic of Moldova at January 1st 2010 constituted 3563,7 thou. inhabitants, of which 1476,7 thou. (41,4%)- urban population and 2091,4 thou. (58,6%)- rural population. The distribution of population by sex represents: 51,9% (1850,2 thou) – women and 48,1% (1713,5thou.) – men. From the total number 21, 5 are children up to 18 years. The proportion of young people from the total number of population is rather significant. At 1st January 2008, Moldova had a population of young people aged 16-30 years circa 1.45 million.

Youth in the Republic of Moldova represent 26% of population.¹ They make up the group of population that shows special interest in promoting youth policy at national and local level. According to the legislation of the Republic of Moldova, youth represents persons aging 16-30, but the official statistics of the Republic of Moldova define young population as persons aging 15-29². Part of this category are: high schools students, university students, high school and university graduates, employed youth, qualified and non-qualified youth looking for a job, young families, etc.

The vulnerability of youth is maintained because of the continuous transition that the country is going through. Young persons are susceptible to a range of economic, physical and psychological risks.

At the national level **the aim of youth policy** is to ensure the social, economic, political and juridical social guarantees for the development of a multilateral developed personality. The main objectives in this area are to: 1) improve employment and self-employment prospects for young people; 2) increase the accessibility to educational and health services, as well as to those regarding healthy living and personal development; 3) develop human and institutional capacities

¹ Annual statistic report of the Republic of Moldova, Edition 2007

² In the Republic of Moldova there is no official data for the age category 16-30 years, therefore in National Youth Strategy will operate with the segment of population aging 15 -29 years. Meanwhile, people the policy focuses on in Moldova are also considerend aging 15-29 years.

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in working with the youth; 4) stimulate the involvement of young people in the decision-making process in the areas of social, economic, cultural and political development of the country, by creating local youth councils and other forms of participation; 5) facilitate access to information, to services and quality leisure time.

The legislative framework on which is developed the national youth policy is National Youth Law adopted in 1999, National Youth Strategy 2009-2014, Law on Volunteering adopted in September, 2010.

The main form of participation and associations of young people are youth local councils, youth NGOs, youth local initiatives, youth parliament, youth teams of peer to peer educators, youth volunteering groups, scout groups.

The youth in Moldova has access to different youth friendly services, such as youth health friendly clinics human rights ombudsman, social reintegration centres for youth offices for professional orientation, as well have opportunities to develop their abilities and extend their knowledge according to their needs in Youth Resources Centres, that are widespread all around the country, centres for information and consultancy for youth.

At the national level, the Ministry for Youth and Sport³ is the main responsible governmental institution for the promotion of youth policy, and has the legal power to elaborate, implement, monitor and evaluate state youth policy. At the local level there are Departments for Education, Youth and Sports responsible for the promotion of youth policy, being assisted by NGOs and youth councils.

Although all youth in Moldova is facing similar difficulties, they are not a homogeneous group. Because of demographic shifts in our country, young people express a wide range of views and values. Each of them has problems and specific needs. Regardless the place of residence, they seem to share many concerns and common preoccupations, including: access to information, high rate of unemployment among youth, lack of adequate income, access to social services, the uncertainty for the future etc.

A central part of people's lives is at work, and whether women and men have decent work has a significant impact on individual, family and community well-being. The absence of decent and productive work is the primary cause of poverty and social instability. The negative impact of several consecutive years of low economic growth rates is nevertheless visible in the labor market. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of people in vulnerable employment grew by more than 4 per cent annually.

³ The Ministry for Youth and Sport has been created in September, 2009, after Parliament elections by Decision of Alliance for European Integration formed by Liberal and Democrat Parties.

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In Moldova each fourth person is aged between 15 and 29 years. Recent opinion polls have established that, regardless of place of living, the most acute problems of young people are linked to low levels of income, unemployment and healthcare. Opportunities for employment are many, but non-attractive from the point of view of social packages for young people and low salary, and that is why many young people see no economic future in Moldova. Youth from villages and towns are affected by unemployment, but most hardly hit are young persons with disabilities. The lack of professional and economic opportunities compels many young people to leave the country. As a consequence the migration of young people abroad is alarming. A big part of young people have the goal to go abroad for a better life, for big salaries and for a bright future for their families.

The sources of young people dissatisfaction generate from the economic and social problems, therefore the young people are most disappointed with their income. Young people are most satisfied with: relationship with friends, mates, and neighbors (91%), families (78%), health (75,4).

Young people indicate that their important source of income come from their parents, and from relatives that work abroad. This group stresses that this is not their choice, but this is a pressure from the socio-economic condition. Young people from rural areas are not unsatisfied with their present life, but choose the option to remain in Moldova, although the opportunities are limited. This category has strong feelings for their native places, and they see their future only in Moldova. A little group, especially students and graduates, residents from urban area consider that in Moldova there are opportunities for employment and professional development. This group takes the responsibility for future development of the country and criticize those who go abroad. They say that due to day by day work a young person could live a good life in Moldova.

Asking the young people to identify the differences between present times and the past time in Soviet Union of their parents, youth acknowledge that the first big difference is the freedom of expression, freedom to vote by your own, freedom to move and to have your choice that in Soviet Union were prohibited. A key obligation in any society, and one central to political, economic and social development, is to provide a safe nurturing environment for young people.

The Government of Republic of Moldova is fully engaged with European youth agenda and is implementing different programmes and working plans to those similar already adopted by its European neighbors in the field of youth policy.

European integration is defined by Moldova as a fundamental development objective, which means the consistent implementation of common European values and standards, living standards and economic development models.

3. Situation of Youth

3.1 Definition of youth

According to the National Youth Law , the term “youth ” is applied to “young people, citizens of the Republic of Moldova, aged 16 to 30”, The Law also foresees as target categories: young families, foreign young residents of Moldova, youth NGOs. The official statistics of the Republic of Moldova define young population as persons aging 15-29.

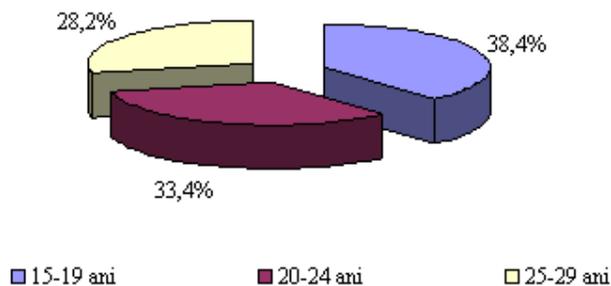
Part of youth category are: high schools students, university students, high school and university graduates, employed youth, qualified and non-qualified youth looking for a job, young families, etc. This age category represents active labour force, young people that have professional training, as a rule having a family. In such a way, the interest and problems of this category of youth relate to family wellbeing and employment.

3.2 Key figures on young people

According to the latest official statistics provided by the National Bureau of Statistics of Republic of Moldova the number of resident population of the Republic of Moldova at January 1st 2010 constituted 3563,7 thou. inhabitants. The proportion of young people from the total number of population is rather significant. At 1st January 2008, Moldova had a population of young people aged 16-30 years circa 1.45 million. It is less than one third of the country's population. More than half of total number of youth population is living in rural area (55, 3%).⁴

From total number of youth population, each third person is 20-24 years, 38,4% - is 15-19 years and the left part is 25-29 years.

Figura 1. Repartizarea tinerilor după grupe de vîrstă, anul 2008



⁴ National Bureau of Statistics, www.statistica.md

According to data provided by Statistics Office, at January 1st 2008⁵ from total population aged 15-24 circa 140 thou, persons were economically active, that constitutes 10,7% from total economic per country or 20,8% from total number of population from this age group. From total number of economic active youth 9% were students, 15,5% from total number of youth was not employed nor following an education phase.

Beginning with 2002 it is registered a continuous dynamic of decreasing the number of employed youth and increase the rate of unemployment.

Distribution of population aged 15 - 24 ani according to the economic involvement (thou. persons)

	active youth	Employed youth	Unemployed youth	Inactive youth
Total	139,9	124,3	15,6	532,6
Men	78,8	70,8	8,0	261,8
Women	61,1	53,5	7,6	270,8
Urban	65,8	56,9	8,9	234,6
Rural	74,1	67,4	6,7	298,1

Rates of activity, employment and unemployment for population aged 15 - 24 ani (%)

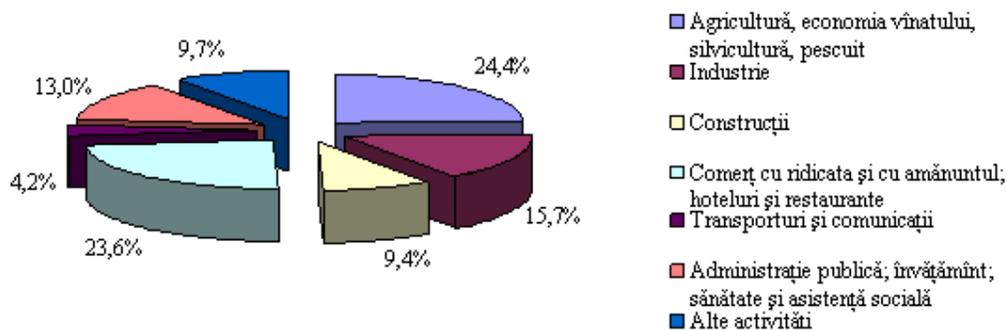
	Total	Women	Men	Urban	Rural
Rate of activity	20,8	18,4	23,1	21,9	19,9
Employment	18,5	16,1	20,8	18,9	18,1
Unemployment	11,2	12,4	10,2	13,5	9,1

Activity rate of men (23,1%) is superior compared to women(18,4%)and in rural area (21,9%) compared to urban area (19,9%).

The division of youth according to the field of activity is as follows: 24, 4 % -agriculture, forestry, 23,6% - commerce and services,15,7% - industrial sector, 13,0% - public administration, education, health and social assistance sectors, 9,4% - construction, 4,2% - transports and communication, 9,7% -other fields(IT, culture)

⁵ Young people in Moldova, 2008. National Bureau of Statistics
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Figura 2. Distribuția persoanelor tinere după activități



Population of the Republic of Moldova, thousands(as for 01.01.2008)	3572,7
Young population (15 – 29 years), thousand	925,5
Ratio in RM population, %	26
Young population (15 – 29 years) from urban regions, thousand	497,1
Ratio in RM population, %	33,7
Young population (15 – 29 years) from rural regions, thousand	428,4
Ratio in RM population, %	20,4
Young population (15 – 29 years) female, thousand	455,9
Ratio in RM population, %	24,6
Young male population (15 – 29 years), thousand	469,7
Ratio in RM population, %	27,3
Unemployed young population (15-29 years), thousands	27,8
Ration within unemployed, RM, %	40,9
Young population abroad (15 – 29 years), thousand	139,1
Ratio in RM population, %	42

Source: National Biro of Statistics

Towns present an attractive environment for youth in the Republic of Moldova. Youth ratio in urban locations 33, 7% comparing to 20, 4% ration in rural communities. Villages stay unattractive for youth, although 60% of the population lives in rural areas⁶.

Youth gender structure overall is – 49% young women and 51% young men, while overall situation in the country is opposite. With regard to age, most representative groups of youth are the ones aging (15-19 years) and (20-24 years) – 37% and 36%. About 40% of the young people representing this age category are involved in educational and professional training processes.

⁶ Ibidem

3.3 Living conditions and situation of young people

Generally, the living conditions and situation of young people is influenced in the medium and long term by the social and economic situation of youth and parents, expressed in: state child and youth policies; standard of living and quality of life; demographic evolution, immigration and emigration; employment and issues related to unemployment; issues from education, culture and health.

Although all youth in Moldova is facing similar difficulties, they are not a homogeneous group. According to a survey carried out by *Opinia Sociological Association* reveals that young people aged 16-30 years are oriented in their behaviour by personal convictions and advantages and on the second place by religious principles and law requirement. These factors indicate the trust of young people in personal motivation, capacities and attitudes that tends to be more important in comparison with the trust in moral and religious principles. Also, in the frame of the same survey, in the youth's vision the negative qualities are most predominating in their behaviour and attitudes as selfishness, aggressiveness, and violence. But they sustain that are sharing and positive qualities as perseverance and responsibility. The majority of young people consider as normal sexual relationships outside marriage – 70, 5%, concubine relationship- 66, 9%. Being asked at what degree they have Faith in God, they answered: yes 88, 2%, no - 6, 2%, I do not know - 5, 6%.⁷

The **religious affiliation** of 98% of the people from Moldova is Eastern Orthodox. The religious situation in Moldova is similar to that of Romania with its high level of religious affiliation with the Orthodox church. The high degree of religious affiliation is in line with the mostly traditional national culture and life style of the more than half of the population living in the countryside.

Moldova is a **multi-ethnic** state. The last Census (2004) indicates that more than three-quarters of the population are ethnic Romanian (76, 1), less than 10% are ethnic Ukrainians (8, 4) and 5,8% are Russians. The rest consists of some small minorities: Gagauz (4,4%), Bulgarians, Gypsy and Jewish. On order to assure equal opportunities for all, it has been created the National Bureau for Minorities. Local Youth Councils, Youth Initiative Groups, and Peer Educators. “I am more open, more confident now, I can assert myself”, “I used to say what adults wanted to hear from me before but now I say what is good for me and those around”, “I seemed to be all myself before I got involved and I have more friends now” these are some declaration of young people after experiencing the activities unfolded in the frame of youth councils, youth resource centers, participating in local community activities organized by local Youth NGOs, and being involved in youth projects at local and national level.

⁷ Opinia Survey.

Values

The main values that are shared by young people are registered in the human general values: harmonious family, healthy life style and love. Entertainment is on the last place. Young people consider that for succeeding in life, a young person must to have firstly higher education, second to come from a rich family and to work hard and third to have strong ambitions and luck.

In 2009, 26,800 marriages were registered, up 0.4 percent over the previous year, the marriage rate constituted 7.5 marriages per 1000 inhabitants. Most people, who were married in 2009, belong 20-24 years age group (35.9% men and 48.3% of women). The average age at first marriage was 26 years for men and 23 years for women. Marriages on average by the age of spouses are represented as follows: 18.9% of all marriages registered in rural areas, were completed by women aged under 20 years against 7.8% in urban areas. The proportion of divorced persons, who remarried, was 17.2% in men and 14.1% in women and the proportion of widows who remarried was 0.8% and 1.6% respectively. The medium age of mother at the first birth is 23, 3 age, natality rate is 11, 4 new born to the 1000 inhabitants. According to Household Budget Survey data, the average size of a household accounts for 2.6 persons. About 39,3 % of the total number of households have children under 18 years old, of which 52,9 have one child, 35,9% - two children and 11,2 – three or more children. Predominantly, young families have one child because of low incomes and big household consumption expenditures. The most of consumptions are meant to cover the needs with food products (40, 2%), dwelling maintenance (16,3%), clothes and shoes(12,7). The other expenditures are meant for medical care and health assistance (5,6%), transportation and communication(4,9%), equipping dwelling place(4,8%) and only 2 % for cultural services, newspapers and books.

Youth participation

Increased **youth participation** in Republic of Moldova has been accomplished through several participation projects. Now there are a lot of structures and forms of youth participation: youth councils, youth NGOs, Scout Groups, peer to peer educators promoted by District Directorates for Education, Youth and Sports. They carry out lessons for their peers' by providing them with knowledge in health and HIV/AIDS issues. Young people learn how take care of a healthy life style, to develop tolerance towards persons infected; acquire skills in preventing bad health behaviour and STI. It began in 2001 and now the National Network of Peer Educators counts around 3000 young persons.

Health

Health is a major concern for the Republic of Moldova. The right to health is enshrined in the Constitution of Moldova and guaranteed through free provisions by the State of basic health services. Access to family planning, information and services, as well as free of charge contraceptives for group at risk is institutionalized and provided through a network of 45 family planning cabinets, mainly located in district centres. The introduction of the Basic benefit Package of health services in 2003 and Compulsory Health Insurance in 2004 facilitated the free of charge access for pregnant women and children to health services and essential drugs. According to the Health reform process all young people after 18 years enrolled in secondary, vocational schools or university are provided with health insurance free of charge. Exclusion from health care services is more pronounced in rural areas, for larger households and for households whose head has lower educational status.

In each year in the hospitals are hospitalized over 100,000 young people, so that only in 2008 almost one fifth of a young man was admitted to the hospitals.

From January 1, 2009, HIV prevalence was 94.8 on 285.8 on the right bank and left bank of river Nistru, with an average prevalence of 121.6. In January 2010, the cumulative number of cases recorded was 5700, including 1.794 Transnistria.⁸ Absolute number of HIV cases detected increased from 360 in 2004 to 795 new cases in 2008, therefore the incidence grew twice to 19.3 in 2008 (including 63.8 in Transnistria) compared to 8.4 in 2004⁹. HIV prevalence among young people aged 15-24 years decreased from 16.1% in 2008 compared with growth trends in recent five years, including 21.2% in 2007 and 18.7 in 2006.¹⁰ Integrated indicator of knowledge of HIV increased significantly from 26.0% in 2006 to 40.8% in 2008, but younger people (38.3% in age group 15-19 years and 45.6% in the 20-24 age category) and young people in rural areas (34.9% versus 49.3% in rural areas to urban areas) have weaker knowledge.¹¹

Law on HIV / AIDS activities provides a legal framework in the area of information, education and communication in the general population and youth. Other initiatives in the area of youth prevention activities included the launch and development of peer network with 12 Youth Friendly Clinics, cumulative number of 239,000 beneficiaries of all services. Introduction of Life Skills course in schools as an object binding was piloted in 2005-2006, but the initiative was met with hostility and debate, which limited the status of voluntary / optional for students 12 years or older. 120,000 people have been touched by peer programs in 2009. Another example of peer interventions for children Dance4life initiative is addressed mainly to increase youth involvement in HIVprevention. PAS Center has developed a network of six centers for children's play, which offers

⁸ Preliminary data for 2009 provided by the National AIDS Center

⁹ National Center for Preventive Medicine. Bulletin of Information HIV / AIDS epidemic. PN Evaluation Targets for 2009

¹⁰ Government of Republic of Moldova. MDG Progress Report, 2009. Project.

¹¹ CAP on HIV / AIDS in 2008 Chisinau. Pre-packed Rolls Media LLC, 2008. Scutelnicuic O Condrat I Gutu L.

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psychological and social support for children infected or affected by HIV in Moldova.

Life expectancy at birth increased in 2009 compared to 2006 approximately one year. Thus life expectancy at birth in 2009 was 69,4 year, including 65,6 year –men,73,2 year-women. Yet in the past year has been a certain decrease in the life expectancy of men living in rural areas. Women live longer than men by 8.1 years. This discrepancy is due to higher levels of premature mortality of men. Due to different levels of mortality, life expectancy of urban residents was higher than those in rural areas and by 3.5 years to 3.2 years for men and women.

Peer Education in HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmissible Infections has an essential role in promoting **health care** for young people. Peer education is a part of volunteering activities. This is a group of young people that have been trained to organize interactive activities with children and young people.

Moldova experiences an extremely serious problem with migration of the population.

Migration of young people

Migration of young people represents a big problem for Republic of Moldova, that is continuously approached in public speeches, different strategic papers, policy notes etc. The main causes that determine the migration are: lack of jobs (65,4), difficulty to earn money for a decent living (64,9), poverty (63,4%), desire to live in a developed country(22,4%), corruption (22,2%), economic and political instability (11,5%).¹²The positive impact of migration is the money sent home by a member of the family that contributes to the increase of family income and welfare. The remittances are used for children education and health improvement. The negative impact at the personal level is the longing for parents or a close person(74,4%), lack of parental warmth(60,2%). Another negative consequence of migration is disintegration of families by divorce formal or non-formal, in the case one of spouses is spending a long time abroad.

Although a major part of youth that decide to go abroad take this decision for solving some problems, from the result of Opinia Social Survey in host countries they face a lot of difficulties: finding a job (38,3%), lack of social and medical protection (37 %), problems with police and expulsion (31,7%), bad command of host country language (28,3%), exploitation (24,3%), hostile attitude (22,0%), difficulties in adapting a new style of life (21,7%).

Most of the young people that emigrated before had problems with health and were unpaid for their work. Young people that worked abroad used their income for improving the life conditions: 54,8 % - for household products(computer, fridge, furniture), 31% - making repairs in flat, 14,5% - for buying a car or other means of transport, 10,6%- for buying a flat, house or building a house.

¹² Opinia

Young immigrants obtain new skills and professional qualifications, this contributing to adapting the labor force to the new economic conditions and translation to the labor market in Moldova. Also they had the possibility to travel, to learn a foreign language and to launch own business.

At the moment from the number of young people that intent to go abroad, 60% go for a temporary job, 10% for studies, 10% for travelling and 20 for a new place of living.¹³ The most negative impact of migration is the big number of abandoned children and young people left behind without parents' care. In 2009, as in previous years many people have emigrated from Moldova, compared with those who have immigrated. Gender differences are significant in that more women than men chose to emigrate, the number of immigrants who own a majority share of such women. According to the Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies, last year left the country to establish permanent residence abroad 6663 people. Most active migration ties with Ukraine and Russia remain (corresponding immigrants in 2952 and 1866), because this is caused by law costs for travel, free movement (no visa rules), knowledge of Russian language. The number of Moldovan citizens who emigrated in U.S. was 899 people, Israel - 278 Germany - 264. Most migrants, both women and men both belong to the age group 20-29 years and 30-39 years. Most immigrants, regardless of sex, have an average education level, high school. Immigrants with higher education constitute more than 15% of the total. Fairly relevant is the data regarding the number of young persons aging 15-29 years declared to be abroad in 2010 counting 139,1 thousands or 41,5% the total number of persons declared to be outside the country, of which 103,4 thousands young people are from rural area and only 35,7 thousands from urban area. The great difference between young people declared abroad from rural and urban areas can be explained by the fact that youth from urban areas is involved in professional training activities and human capital investment, youth from rural area lack real employment possibility as well as vocational education institutions and are motivated to leave to urban area seeking professional training, or to leave the country looking for a more attractive and better paid job.

Education

Education is a foundation for economic growth and social cohesion; poverty reduction efforts cannot succeed without equitable investments in human capital: knowledge, competencies and creative capacities. Education in Moldova has registered in last years several improvements as modern curricula, quality standards' of education, raise of interest of young people for life long learning and literacy among youth is continuously increasing.

The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova in Article 35 asserts the right to education and sets out the ways to enforce this right. The Law on Education in the Republic of Moldova, adopted in

¹³ Data provided by Opinia results.

1995, defines the state education policy and regulates the organization and functioning of the educational system. Article 6 from the Law on Education guarantees each individual's right to education, regardless of nationality, sex, age, social status and origin, political or religious affiliation and criminal record. At the same time, the State commits itself to ensure equal chances of access to State institutions of high, vocational, specialized secondary and higher education, depending on skills and capacities.

Educational institutions network in Moldova in 2010 counts: 1362- preschool institutions, 1512- general schools, 75- vocational schools (including 23 schools of trades and 6 schools under penitentiaries), 47-colleges, and 33-universities. In the 2009/2010 school year, 3029 educational institutions were functioning in the Republic of Moldova. Nowadays, in school educational process are involved 415462, in vocational schools 22161, in colleges 32249, and in universities 109892.¹⁴ The level of participation in the educational process depends of demographic processes. At the beginning of 2010 there were 1565,9 thou. persons under 30 years, by 11,4% fewer compared to 2001. In case of people aged between 3 and 23 years, a 19,2 decrease was registered and the number of people involved in the educational process (3-23 years old) decreased by 21,7%. If compared with the 2005/2006 school year, the number of pupils in primary education decreased by 17,4% and in the lower secondary education by 22,4%. The gross rate of primary education enrolment by areas shows significant disparities, with 102,4 % in the urban area compared with 88,9% in rural area. The level of school enrolment differs depending on the age category. The highest enrolment level is the age group 7-15 years- mandatory second school. The lowest level of school enrolment is specific for the 19-23 school ages. After the graduation of mandatory education, a lot of pupils of 16-18 years continue their formal education in general secondary education (60%), and every third pupil chooses the secondary specialized or vocational education. Young people aged 19-23 years show more interest towards higher education (84%). From gender point of view, girls are more interested in the secondary specialized schools or higher education and boys mainly interested in vocational schools.

The special education encompasses 35 institutions and is organized for children with special needs. The number of persons that attend these institutions decreased from 5,1 thou. pupils in 2000/2001 to 3,5 thou. pupils in 2009/2010.

Young people that choose a vocational education schools are interested in jobs such as cooks (15,8%), motor locksmiths(10,1), plasterers(7,8%), electric and gas installer(6,5%), computer operator(5%). The most popular specializations in secondary specialized education are medicine and economics. At university level there was noticed a great share of students in economic sciences, education sciences, law and engineering field. The number of doctoral students has not

¹⁴ National Bureau of Statistics 2010. Education in the Republic of Moldova 2009/2010.

be changed significantly in recent years, amounting to about 1,6 thousands people, or by 28,3 more than in 2000. The doctoral studies are mainly conducted in higher education institutions. The gender distribution of doctoral students reveals predominance of women.

Education in Republic of Moldova is indissolubly linked with living standards. Since 1990 the most affected social categories are people employed in agriculture and education, and families with many children are most affected by poverty. The statistical research shows that the general poverty rate is higher in rural areas than in large towns. The poverty risk goes up with the increase in the number of household members. Persons living in large households (five and more members) represent 17% of the total of population, while these households represent 25% of poor households. Education expenditures are the lowest among all expenditures categories; expenditures for foodstuffs have the largest share (44,4%)¹⁵

The phenomena of drop-outs is valid for Republic of Moldova, number of children who only sometimes or rarely attend school is far greater. There is a hidden form of non-attendance: under pressure from school and authorities, the child is sent to school by his or her parents from time to time, while these children are not counted as having abandoned school, they nevertheless miss a significant number of classes. In general, pupils have positive attitudes towards school. Most of them are attached to their classmates and friends and given that they spend a large amount of time at school they identify it as their "second home". Along with the positive feelings related to school, there is a range of less pleasant feelings. Stress is frequently associated with school. Pupils' greatest frustration is concerned with coming to school without having their homework done and being afraid to be called on. One in ten children sometimes misses classes because they failed to do their homework. There are also cases of pupils refused entry to school because they do not have a school uniform (eight per cent) or because they were late (ten per cent).

Young people leave the educational system of the following reasons: desire to work in the country (29%), lack of money for study (20%), personal or family problems (15%), difficulties in learning (14), going abroad for working (12%).¹⁶

It is generally accepted that the educational system is a crucial factor in the formation of gender values. The messages, teaching staff, school curriculum, textbooks and didactic materials contribute to the transmission and strengthening of behavioral rules, including those related to gender.

Another issue refers to the gender dimension of the curricula in general and of school textbooks in particular, which, in the opinion of various experts, are not gender-sensitive. Thus, an evaluation of the textbooks' illustrations reveals that the depiction of girls/women compared to that of boys/men

¹⁵ Baseline Study on Basic Education in Moldova, Chisinau, 2008. Ministry of Education and World Bank.

¹⁶ Entering of Young people in working area. Study, 2009. National Bureau of Statistics

is lower in the primary texts and much lower in the lower secondary textbooks.¹⁷

If we take into consideration that the enrolment rates characterize the access of genders to education, it can be stated that this aspect is not a current issue of the primary and secondary education in the Republic of Moldova. Most likely, the existing issues in basic education on the promotion of gender equality can be attributed to the quality aspect of education: indifference towards or disregard of gender issues, promotion of stereotypes on the gender relationships, and the lack of didactic materials on these issues.

The number of extra-school institutions, as art schools, music school has decreased substantially in rural areas, also in urban areas, but here appeared sport schools, private clubs, and various hobby groups.

Youth Employment

Traditionally, **youth unemployment** is higher among youth than any other occupational group. This is determined by the specific of youth professional employment that has major issues with their professional integration. The working age in Republic of Moldova is 16-58 years.

According the National Statistics data in 2009 the rate of activity of population aged 15 years and over constituted 42, 8% from general population with a rate of 46,2% for men and 39,7 for women. The rate of unemployment in 2009 constituted 6,4 % and employment rate 40,0%. The unemployed persons who are registered at National Agency for Labor Market benefit from a payment assistance.

After leaving the education system, the majority of young people (62% or 442,800 persons) in 2009 had a significant job. Young people in cities have succeeded to a greater extent to find a place of work, than in villages (75% vs. 54%). The gender distribution is less significant difference: 61% for men and 64% for women. The chance of finding a job after leaving the education system is based on the level of education. The education level is much higher share of people who had a job after leaving higher education system. In the second quarter of 2009, the total number of 377 600 young people (32%) had a job, 43 100 (4%) were unemployed and 747,100 (64%) were neither working nor seeking a job. The last category of youth, 20% (147,200 persons.) were working abroad. The activity rate for the age group 15-34 years recorded a value of 35.9% (compared with 43.1% total population aged 15 and over), the employment rate - 32.2% (43.1% for total employed population), unemployment rate - 10.2% (versus 6.1% for total population aged 15 and over). The main economic activities were agriculture working youth (27%), trade / hotel services (22%), public administration, health, social care (17%), and industry

¹⁷ Baseline Study on Basic Education in Moldova, Chisinau, 2008. Ministry of Education and World Bank.

(13%).¹⁸

The results of the Social Survey realized by *Sociological Association Opinia* reflect the following situation of young people. Young people say that the most important factor in choosing a job is the salary; a big salary (sufficient for a decent life) is the first condition in accessing a job. One from ten youngsters give priority to a stable, out of risk job, 7,8% consider that the job must create a medium for professional development, 4,9 – interesting, 2,7 - a pleasant atmosphere in the team work, 2,1 – allow the promotion, 1,6 – a job with internships opportunities, travelling abroad.

In youth opinion, in present times in order to obtain a job man should have a lot of relatives, informal relations (48,1%), In the same time they acknowledge that informal relations are not sufficient and a young person must possess competences and qualifications, as: professional training (45,9%), good command of foreign knowledge (45,6%), communication abilities(25,9), IT skills (23,8), knowledge of business affairs, accountability (9,6%), leadership abilities(6%), foreign studies (6,7%). 50,2% from interviewed persons want to have a own business, 24,9% want to work in state organization, 17,6 % in a private institution, 4,4% want to work in non-governmental organization.

Entrepreneurship and economic participation of young people

Although a lot of young persons intend to have own business, they confront major obstacles as lack of financial resources (73,2%), lack of social guarantees (42,8), high prices for renting a space (42,6%), lack of state support (35,8%), lack of possibilities to access preferential loans.

Youth participation in economic life is affected by the consequences of undermining economic situation of the country. Youth cope with a range of problems that create obstacles in using economic opportunities. To improve the situation, in June 2008 the Government has approved the National Program of Youth Economic Empowerment. The goal of this Program is to promote and facilitate youth involvement in entrepreneurship activity, by providing financial support. National Program of Youth Economic Empowerment is the one to develop youth entrepreneurship abilities based on knowledge and optimal resource management, to facilitate access to financial resources required for initiating and developing a business, to stimulate creation and development of new enterprises.

Youth represents the most valuable human resource for the economic development of the society; they represent 22% of all active population in the Republic of Moldova¹⁹. But, regrettably, this group modestly gets involved in economic activities. Traditionally, in countries with market economy persons of this age are more concerned with other activities (education, creating a family, house

¹⁸ National Bureau of Statistics, 2009.

¹⁹ National Bureau of Statistics. Labor force questionnaire
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activities, taking care of children, etc.), more useful from their point of view, than initiating and providing services.

The participation of young people in political life is fair in Moldova. Young men are members of patronages, trade unions, political parties, but women participate more actively than men to elections.

Juvenile Criminality

Juvenile criminality remains be one of problems of modern society. The situation of children in conflict with the law, particularly those arriving in prison, is a major concern in Moldova too. Experts have shown that even short-term detention of children negatively affects their further development. Finding them in detention stigmatizing them from family and community and restrict their opportunities for education. In addition, studies show that only very few Children who spend several years in prison adopted a new way of life when they reach freedom.

In Moldova, the offenses committed by children representing 6 percent of the total number of crimes recorded. Most bears an economic nature. Most offenders are male adolescents aged 16-17 years. Before detention, most of them left school; some were not sheltered or runaway. Many of them were victims of parental abuse or neglect, some have been abandoned.

In Moldova there are four detention isolators are detained children: Chisinau, Balti, Cahul and Rezina. They are insulated for adults and children stay in separate cells. In August 2008, these 40 children were detained insulation. Of them, 80% were illiterate or did not have knowledge elementary mathematics, chemistry, biology, history, etc.²⁰

In recent years, with the support of UNICEF, Moldova has made significant progress in reforming the juvenile justice system. In 2006, Moldovan legislation on children in conflict with the law was significantly amended. The new amendments had an immediate positive effect on both the nature of sentences imposed on children and on how children are treated cases during the trial.

Before all were reduced maximum period of detention and the length of time that children may be detained until sentencing. In addition, responsibility for criminal conduct against children accused of committing a crime has been transferred from police to prosecutors. Amendments to the legislation also gave the children in detention the right to review files. Thus, the justice system Moldova juvenile children became more friendly and closer to the standards of European and international. In the juvenile justice system reform began to be applied to the first alternative to detention such as mediation, probation and community service. It is very important that more people have knowledge about children's rights.

²⁰ UNICEF database, www.unicef.org.md

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Youth Rights

In each type of official voting the age of the right to vote is 18. People are free to vote and the voters receive a stamp in their paper additional identity card. Participation of young people in the life of their communities gives a sense of belonging and responsibility. In urban and rural area young people are involved in decision making process at school level via school councils and at administrative level via youth local councils, or as members of NGOs, local youth initiatives. There is an active involvement of students via student trade unions and student senates in the administrative bodies of vocational schools and universities. There is a big consolidated network of student trade unions and student senates in National Council of Student Organizations. The non-governmental sector in the field of youth in the Republic of Moldova was developed and strengthened based on the provisions of Law no.837 as of May 17, 1996 regarding NGOs and stipulations of chapter IV, art. 17, art.18 of Youth Law nr. 279 as of February 11, 1999. In present there are around 300 Youth NGOs registered at the national level and 1,500 local organisations. These associative structures' activities are very complex, being of an informational and cultural character, promoting healthy lifestyle, organizing free time activities, sport activities, etc. For children for making their voice better heard in decision-making process that directly concerns them, in Moldova there is an ombudsman for the Rights of the Child. If you think that one or more of your rights have been violated, you can contact the Child Rights Ombudsman and the Human Rights Center of Chisinau.

Military service

The conscription process is based on Republic of Moldova Law on Preparation of Citizens for Homeland Defense.²¹ The male citizens of the Republic of Moldova that have reached the age of 18 or would reach the same age during conscription period shall be conscripted to military service. The duration of the military service is as follows: a) for conscripts - 12 months; b) for short-term conscripts - 3 months. The short-term military service (3 months) is done by civil institutions of higher education graduates, who had not fulfilled their military duty before graduation, the first year after graduation

Leisure time

Organization of **leisure** time is a priority for youth, because majority of them have limited possibilities. When they are trying to organize their free time in a creative manner, young people cope with a range of difficulties: lack of space, organizational tools etc. Public institutions in small

²¹ <http://www.army.md/?action=show&cat=77&lang=2>

towns and villages do not provide many opportunities for creative activity. Even in big town these possibilities are limited because of lacking funds and institutional support. Although sports are still popular, the diversity of sports activities is poor in rural area. On the entire territory of the country activate around 50 youth centers that provide youth with integrated services, especially spaces for spending their free time efficient and in a creative manner: debate clubs, art rooms (design, painting, handcrafts), dance floor, internet rooms sport halls. In the opinion of young people, services offered to the young people must be, first of all , friendly(62%),accept them the way they are(56%), cheap(49,5), and/or free of charge(39,7) and only after that close to home(30,7) and confidential(22,7%)²².

Cultural and tourist mobility of youth, international cooperation and youth exchanges are poorly developed in Moldova, because of youth's and parents' economic incapability. Young people feel the need of studying and visiting the historical monuments of Moldova.

There are very few crafts workshops and artistic studios, quality of management and cultural events should be improved, youth access to the services provided by certain cultural, sport and associated services is limited. Local and national mass-media provides little information about leisure time opportunities, as well as about the chances of realizing youth interest and talents.

In Moldova there are 89 museums, 2940 public libraries, 76 lectures halls and places in performances, 1227 cultural houses, 14 cinemas, 4918 sport areas (stadiums, swimming pools, gymnastic and health improvement centers).

In overall per country there are institutions for extracurricular activities: 46 centers for technical creation (handcrafts), 9 centres for young technicians, 5 centres for young naturalists, 4 centers for young tourists, 108 music and art schools, 145 libraries for children, 85 sport schools fro children and teenagers.

The **social and economic inclusion of young people** and young families is directly related to the financial standing of families. The poorer the family is, the higher risk of social exclusion exists. Families face significant difficulties in buying a house or a flat. There is a need for new tools, mechanisms to help such families; although the allowances for child birth have been increased they are insufficient to provide family with enough support

²² Annual statistic report of the Republic of Moldova, Edition 2007

4. Youth policies and youth work

4.1 Institutions, actors and structures

The Parliament Committee for culture, education, research, youth, sport and mass media is the top legislative body promoting and defending in the Parliament the youth legislative initiatives (Laws, Strategies). Also is the body monitoring and evaluating the practical implementation of the legislation on youth policy.

The Ministry for Youth and Sport²³ has the legal power to elaborate, implement, monitor and evaluate state youth policy. The main tasks are: - the elaboration of legal framework in youth field - the implementation of national and international youth programmes - to monitor the developments in youth field - the assessment of youth programmes in all social spheres - the launching of projects in all youth sphere: information, human rights, health, intercultural learning etc - to support the activities of youth associations and NGOs and the allocation of annual grants and monitoring of the purposeful use of funds allocated for youth work from the state budget - the co-ordination of youth organisations - the counseling young people on all youth field aspects

The Collegium of the Ministry for Youth and Sports is a decisional body at the level of a ministry – that adopts a lot of regulation, instructions, projects, programmes for youth policy and work. The Collegium includes the top-level officials (deputy ministers, heads of departments) of the Ministry and ministries dealing more appropriate with youth issues, in this case Ministry for Education. In order to assure the co-management and transparency, in the ministerial Collegium two members are from civil society: Head of National Youth Council (CNTM) and Head of National Council of Student Organizations.

Regional Departments for Education, Youth and Sport are local actors that deliver the national youth policy. These Departments are coordinated by Local Public Administration that identifies local youth needs and give a specific budget for youth activities. Ministry for Youth and Sports give only recommendations to the Departments how to develop youth policy, this is not a part of youth governmental infrastructure. Ministry for Youth and Sports does not possess a own infrastructure for efficient delivering a national youth policy to local level, this challenge a lot of gaps in local youth policy, especially in rural areas.

²³ The Ministry for Youth and Sport has been created in September, 2009, after Parliament elections by Decision of Alliance for European Integration formed by Liberal and Democrat Parties.

Advisory Council of Youth is a non-formal group representing different youth organization, youth networks, youth workers and experts, youth councils and centers. The group recommends different ideas from the stage of youth initiatives till the stage of action implementation. The Minister consults this group in dealing with action plans, programmes, and projects.

According to *National Law on Youth*, the structures working for youth are **Youth Centres** that are public institutions functioning for creating opportunities for young people 'development after school programmes and **Centers for Information and Consultancy for youth** that are offering information, guidance needed for youth decisions regarding their life, provide trainings for building life management skills and for social and economic inclusion, all for free.

Non-governmental institutions that are dealing with youth issues are called social services for young people: Youth Health Clinics, Labour Centre for Youth, Centre for Training, Legal Clinic for Youth, Centre for Youth Business and Consultancy and other institutions.

The National Youth Resource Centre and the Network of Local Youth Centres represents pillars of youth policy at local level by providing young people with opportunities for self development, social and economic inclusion. The National Youth Resource centre was created with the mission to provide logistics, fundraising trainings for Youth Resource Centres and keep the network working.

The Social Reintegration Centres for Youth seek to cover the deficit of specialized social services meant for young people. The Centres provide social services graduates of professional schools, former residents of boarding schools, orphans or young people from vulnerable families. In the center young people have their basic needs met (housing, medical assistance, hygiene, food), training depending on the situation and access to the information. They benefit from psychological and pedagogical assistance, as well legal assistance.

Maternal Centres provide services for mothers with children at risk in crisis situation, for women-victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, especially for young mothers and women. The Centers is offering to the target group the possibility of gradually reintegration into the community, support for a longer period of time and assistance for establishing relations with social and professional environment.

The National Youth Council²⁴ is a representative forum of associative youth structure in Moldova in relation to governmental structure, national and international institutions. NYC (CNTM) is an umbrella organization with 41 youth NGOs members and 3 regional youth councils that represents 50 youth local organizations. NYC has an active role in promoting youth participation, provides capacity building for associated and non-associated youth, and is involved in improvement of legislative framework of youth policy in Republic of Moldova.

Youth Councils, Student organizations, youth parliament represent actors that have an active role in promoting youth rights, interests, and delivery of information to young people, organization of different social and cultural activities.

4.2 Context of youth policies and youth work

4.2.1 Youth policy

Definition of youth policy, brief history of youth policy, post-conflict situation, transition situation, local/national policies, initiatives towards development of youth policy, how do you deliver youth policy, how do you evaluate youth policy, three youth policies priorities for your country.

Youth policy is a **cross-sectoral policy** that consists in formal education, health, training, entrepreneurship and employment, non-formal education and leisure time, values and culture, social protection, family and housing system, youth rights and justice.

At the national level **the aim of youth policy** is to ensure the social, economic, political and juridical social guarantees for the development of a multilateral developed personality.

Youth policy includes **non-formal and informal education** that gives an added value to the young people education for their better social and economic inclusion. Due to non-formal education young people learn a lot of skills needed for life, obtain information required for an active participation in society.

Young people must learn how to be active citizens and find space for self-realization. In Moldova there is a legal basis for the development and implementation of youth policy. Youth Strategy,

²⁴ <http://www.cntm.md>

several action plans, programmes have been elaborated on the basis of legal framework. The State make all necessary steps to adjust the national youth policy to European youth policy, this means the integration of youth movement in European youth structures.

As benchmarks in evolution of youth policy in Moldova could be taken:

1. The Adoption of Law No.837, of May, 1996, regarding NGOs as a legal basis for the registration of youth NGOs
2. The Adoption of Youth Law No.279, of February 11, 1999, adopted as a step in the development of a legal basis for you policy
3. The registration of National Youth Council, 1999
4. The Children's and Youth's Parliament created in 1999.
5. Government Decision No.688 and 689, of June, 2003 defining youth issues at the local level as the responsibility of local public administration, through Regional (district) Departments for Education, Youth and Sports²⁵
6. Initiated the creation of Local Youth Councils and youth initiative groups in 2000.
7. National Youth Resource Center, National Youth Center for Youth Workers and Multimedia Center created in 2003-2005.
8. The Adoption of first National Youth Strategy, 2004
9. The National Network of Youth Resource Centers included 80 Local Youth Centres in 2006.
10. National Youth Strategy for 2009-2013 approved in February, 2009.²⁶
11. The Adoption of National Law on Volunteering, 2010

The main objectives in this area are to:

- 1) Improve employment and self-employment prospects for young people;
- 2) Increase the accessibility to educational and health services, as well as to those
 1. Regarding healthy living and personal development;
 - 3) Develop human and institutional capacities in working with the youth;
 - 4) Stimulate the involvement of young people in the decision-making process in the areas

²⁵ According to Republic of Moldova law on administrative-territorial organization No.764-XV of 27.12.2001 and amendments in 2008, there are 1681 localities, from which 4 municipalities (Chisinau, Balti, Bender, Tiraspol) and 1 municipality recognized autonomous territory Gagauzia and 37 rayons(districts) <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=312874>

²⁶ <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=331208>

of social, economic, cultural and political development of the country, by creating local youth councils and other forms of participation;

5) Facilitate access to information, to services and quality leisure time.

Government actions in the field of youth is guided by four key principles: (i) guaranteeing non-discrimination - every young person has equal rights regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, ethnic origin, social origin, political orientation, family, place of living or any other characteristic; (ii) ensuring equal opportunities - every young person, regardless of his/her background, will be offered the chance to develop his/her potential as an individual, as well as a citizen; (iii) respecting the youth as citizens - young persons are full citizens, with the same rights and obligations as any other group in society, including the right of expression, opinion and meeting; (iv) encouraging youth participation – young people are to be encouraged to exercise their rights in order to be able to fully participate in the life of society.

Youth Resource Centres provide a friendly environment for all young people, giving access to information and services, IT training, activities related to non-formal education (human rights, social inclusion, health etc), vocational trainings, leisure time activities (sport halls, art workshops, dance floor etc). The creation of youth Centres has established an excellent platform for youth development. The successful functioning and proper financial support of these Centres are examples of youth policy moving in a positive direction.²⁷ Parents in localities provided with community based centres express satisfaction at young people being involved in activities and having access to information, computer, internet, a centre is a way to protect their children from various harmful influences.

Open Theatre Forum organized by youth NGOs at local and national level is a tool for creating a connection between a group of people and their social, cultural, economic and historic context. The Theatre is a social intervention by setting up communication relationship among specific group members.

In 2000 it was launched a big **project for promoting the youth participation** and strengthening local capacities and empowering youth for conscious participation in community life. Such representatives structures have awakened thousands of young people and tens communities to life, providing them an opportunity to become active citizens.

Youth access to information represents a primary condition for the process of training an active and responsible citizen. Youth is no longer a regular information consumer but more often appear as information producers, by editing newspapers, informational leaflets and radio and television programs. Not less important is the informational activity at local level there where the problems

²⁷ International Review.

are well recognized. Newspapers and radio channels help youth freely express their opinions and to inform the entire society about their problems and aspirations. At present there exists a school newspapers' and radio channels' network.

Media projects for young people. Such projects foreseen the creation of newspapers and school radio stations for promoting the access to information, freely express their views, and bring the youth problems and successes to the attention of public opinion. Media Centre for Young people was created in 2003 to ensure networking of all media and multimedia projects. Youth Press in Moldova is mainly represented by school newspaper. There are young radio journalists that produce their own subjects and broadcast them. The local radios collaborate with National Radio Station in some projects. There are small grants programmes for accomplishment of local council's initiatives

Local Youth Council is a form of youth representation and empowerment for their participation in decision making process on local level. The mission of these councils is facilitation of dialogue among young people and different community actors for the development of youth policies. It was created the National Network of Local Youth Councils. Networks are the best way for creating the environment in favour of communication with central and local authorities, extend opportunities for dialogue, sharing experience.

Involvement of youth in design and implementation of youth policies on national level is an efficient method for promoting participation of young people. Members of non-governmental organizations are involved in consultation workshops. Governmental structures accept young people as equal partners in setting up and implementation of youth policies.

School is a area where young people have to experience the ways of participation. Youth representatives are now consulted in decision making process, carried out on the level of schools, young people participate in meeting of Teachers and Administration Board, implementation of different projects. Leisure activities are an important aspect of youth day by day life. Youth initiative groups and local youth organizations organize extracurricular activities: peer activities, Debate Clubs, cultural activities etc.

The sports hall and ground are another area for young people to carry out leisure time activities. This area provides all youth opportunities for affirmation on physical level, regardless their intellectual capacities, also the possibility to represent the community in competition with other teams.

In several localities there are **Cultural centres/Clubs**. The cultural houses provides young people with leisure time activities That is not functioning in each district as it should be, but there are good examples: big halls for dance and music performances, musical instruments, microphones. Here are organized celebration activities. Here the young people organize contests, discos.

Mostly, cultural houses are used for their big rooms.

Community actors have a big contribution to creation of social environment motivating their participation in the community. Private sector representatives, various economic agents (small business, shop, brewery, businessmen, forest plot are supporting youth participation. Among institutions supporting participation, young people mention a range of local and national non-governmental organizations. They often set partnerships with these organizations, receiving information and consultancy. The postal office, the church, the library, the police are institutions that support youth participation. Local Public Administration/Mayoralty in certain localities has improved its capacity to support youth activities, by including them in action plans designed by Mayoralty.

4.2.2 Youth work

The success of implementing youth policy depends on the quality of law frame and the standards in the field and human and institutional capacities of the responsible structures and implementation of youth policies at national and local levels.

In recent years youth work is focused on increasing youth participation, youth autonomy, promotion and improving non-formal education, building new skills and competences via trainings. The situation of Youth workers in the rural area is modest, because of lack of resources and condition to organize activities, low staff motivation, staff fluctuation.

At present, the title of youth worker, at county level is fulfilled by the youth and sports specialists within General Direction for Education or County Chairman Office.

At local level, the unit of youth specialist as a result of territorial and administrative reform has been liquidated within several municipalities. Only 98 of 950 municipalities have persons responsible for youth work. In these conditions, implementation of youth policies at local level becomes difficult. That is why it is recommended to create within all territorial and administrative units of first level, position of youth specialist.

International law frame in the field of youth²⁸ reflects basic principals for the creation of adequate conditions for youth participation in life of a democratic, open and solidarity society.

This international documents create a new approaching frame and cooperation in the filed of youth. They correspond to the requirements formulated by youth and persons responsible for youth policy.

²⁸ European Charter on youth participation at local and regional community life
White Charter of European Commission a new Launch for European Youth
European Youth Pact

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The youth workers joint by **Local Youth Councils** organize cultural and artistic activities. The pupils' councils make decisions on the organization of festivities, sports games and entertaining activities, but are not involved in decisions referring to the educational-instructive process.

Youth workers training has been exclusively confined to traditional approaches and oriented to individual needs. The alternative, school-based youth worker training needs to be promoted. This type of training is aimed at changing the youth worker style and culture, to promote effective youth activities by having youth and youth workers jointly look for solutions and work together on elaboration of action plans, organization of events and making curricula for youth trainings.

According to the National Youth Strategy will be developed coordinated measures that will serve the interests of youth workers and meanwhile will integrate them to exercise influence on social, economic, political and cultural life of the country. Will be created conditions and provided support to those institutions and persons that work with and for youth. Will be trained specialist having high qualification in the field of youth and provided possibility to train youth leaders.

4.2.3 Youth research

The main actors who are dealing with youth issues in research papers are:

1. Academy of Science in Moldova www.asm.md
2. Independent Service of Sociology and Information "Opinia" www.opinia.md
3. Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance, State University of Moldova www.usm.md
4. Public Institute "IDIS Viitorul" <http://www.viitorul.org/index.php?l=en>

In the period 2000-2008 the UN Agencies elaborated some important studies on youth, mainly focused on social protection, health, migration, social exclusion. But there is a lack of studies in recent two years. No data on leisure time, values and culture of youth is available. Information on these issues was collected due to the interviews and discussions with young people.

For getting a better understanding on youth and factual information, the Ministry for Youth is using the following tools:

1. Asking periodical reports from District Departments for Education Youth and Sports.
2. Dissemination of information via net with the network of Youth Resource Centres, Youth Councils, Youth National Council (yahoo group) and regular visits of stakeholders to the Ministry, or in the frame of common meetings or events.
3. Dissemination of youth papers works through networks
4. Regular district youth forums, and one national youth forum per year

5. TV programmes and radio programmes on youth issues

Research papers, surveys and studies in youth field are done by NGOs and Sociological Institutions, mainly on youth situation, youth unemployment, youth in period of transition, youth and social changes.

Given the importance of developing research and innovation area in ensuring the sustainable growth and competitiveness of the national economy, the country's leadership has adopted a series of legislative acts and strategic documents aimed at improving the created situation. These include those adopted with regard to the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, the state policy in research-development, the state policy for innovation and technological transfer, the approval of Strategic Priorities of research-development for 2004-2010, and the Strategy for development of the national system of protection and use of intellectual property objects until 2010.

Accurate and timely data and information need to be available to assure that good progress in policymaking continues. Moldova needs a good Youth Management Information System that would include youth statistics and results from various evaluation in the youth field and would allow for timely analyses to inform policy and decision making. Especially in times of economic crisis, policies have to focus on the main priorities.

There is also need of investigating and evaluating continuously the situation of youth in Moldova. Investments that are planned to be done for creation of national centre for research and youth investigations will be recovered by promoting policies that address youth being more efficient and adjusted according to youth needs.

4.3 Legislation and provision of youth work

The official documents of the Republic of Moldova, where the issues of the educational system are regulated, fully comply with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal declaration of human Rights and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Concordant with international documents. It is a trend to adjust the national youth legislation to the standards that have been defined in European documents.

National Youth Strategy and the new project of Youth Law –represents a new quality stage in the promotion of youth policy in Moldova. By setting up these documents were taken into account young people's needs and interests and were involved in the elaboration and consultation process.

In 1999 in order to give a new breath to development of young people, a special national Law was elaborated. This Youth Law No.279-XIV, adopted on February 11, 1999 represents framework

legislation for youth policy in Moldova. It has been the beginning of the youth policy development. But as time challenges, global problems have a total new face compared to 1999 and young people face totally other problems, have several needs and youth policy in general has another aim, the Ministry for Youth and Sports elaborated during 2010 a new Youth Law. The new Law on Youth contains explicit provisions on ensuring the general access to quality education for all youth, regardless of sex, social origin, maternal language, ethnicity, religious options or disabilities. Also, it relates to making youth policy efficient and more attractive to youth for involving them in elaboration and implementation and creating a youth-friendly services and environment. We should make the development of youth policy a reality through practice and explicitly must be legally regulated, especially according to national and local needs and specificity, including youth services operational regulations, quality standards norms, youth worker job descriptions, tool kits, working methods in youth work, etc.

The **new Draft of Youth Law** was elaborated, worked out and consulted with all youth policy stakeholders from local to national level. The draft of the New Youth Law declares as youth- young people aged 14 to 30 compared with young people aged 16 to 30 from old Youth Law (according to the European standards and documents). New articles have been included in regard to the state budget for youth, the development of information and social services for young people, the national recognition and widespread of non-formal education.

The existing youth Law as well the new draft has defined a set of basic principles for youth policy and work in Moldova, as follows:

1. Respect and promotion of human rights
2. Participation of young people in development, promotion and implementation of policies and programmes oriented towards the development of all aspects of young people's life
3. Free access of each young person to information and social services
4. Creation of adequate conditions for harmonious development and full affirmation of youngsters.

The Youth Law clearly determines social state conditions that the State guarantees for the youth development, such as the right to study, the right to social protection, the rights to participate in the public life, access to job opportunities, the right to personal development. The Law foresees the obligation of local public administration to develop youth policy in its area and to create social services for young people. Each district should have a budget for youth activities, but because of different social and economic problems that is facing in overall the country only some districts being supported by the donors organize youth activities. The Law expresses social concern for the need to create socio-economic, legal, political, cultural, organizational conditions under which

young people may realize their personal potential and thereby benefit their society.

Regulation of Youth Centres and Local Youth Councils consists in: a set of instructions for good functioning of Youth Centre and a Youth Council, the management scheme, the general role, aim and objectives, the quality standards of functioning, rights and obligations.

Also this year in 2010 was approved the National Law on Volunteering. The Law was elaborated in partnership with the Coalition for the promotion of Law on Volunteering and volunteering activities. This Law gives a legal platform to volunteering activities including new tools for Republic of Moldova: the Contract for volunteering and the Volunteer Book. The Law creates a legal opportunity for young people to accumulate work experience for their future career, also to get transferable credits according to the field the volunteer activates in.

4.4 Strategies, Programmes, Action Plans in youth work and non-formal education/learning

The National Youth Strategy for 2009-2013²⁹ foresees the development of youth capacities to be aware and make use of their rights and responsibilities, to adopt an institutional frame responsible for enhancing youth participation in all life spheres, as well to create a favourable environment for the development of young people. The Strategy establishes the following priorities:

- 1) Access of young people to information and service
- 2) Enhance the participation of young people in public life and active citizenship
- 3) Create opportunities for young people's employment
- 4) Development of human and institutional capacities in the youth field.³⁰

Basic principles that have been applied to the development of the document planning youth policy were the following:

- Assuring non-discrimination – every young person has equal rights regardless of race, color, sex, age, confession, ethnic origin, social origin, family, place of living or any other characteristic;
- Assuring equal opportunity – every young person, regardless of background, sex, religion will be provided the opportunity to fully develop his/her potential as an individual, as well as a citizen;
- Respecting for youth as citizens– youth are full citizens, having same rights and

²⁹ National Youth Strategy for 2009 – 2015 was developed with technical assistance of World Bank via Project „Capacity development for the implementation of youth policy in the Republic of Moldova” and financial support on behalf of UNICEF Moldova.

³⁰ Law No.25 of 03.02.2009 regarding National Youth Strategy for 2009-2013.

- responsibilities as any other social groups, including the right to freedom of expression, opinion and meeting;
- Encouraging youth participation – youth have to be supported in exercising their rights to fully participate in social life.
- Collaboration – inter-sector approach to youth needs and resolution methods.

Based on the Youth law nr. 279-XIV of February 11th, 1999, Youth strategy addresses all youth aging 16 to 30 that live in Moldova. Meanwhile, Strategy addresses young families (families where none of the spouses reached the age of 30 and the child (children), as well as parents and people working with youth (youth workers, teachers, educators, psychologists, animators, youth leaders, social assistants etc.) Also, some actions can be directed to younger people because teenagers have same features with youth and they face almost same problems, and the official data from the Republic of Moldova present youth aging 15-29.

The National Annual Youth Programme is elaborated in common with youth policy stakeholders- National Youth Council, Student Network, youth and student organizations, international organization that deals with youth policy, local youth councils. This Programme consists of activities for/with young people arranged according to a time line all around the year, having indicators and expected results. In 2010 the Annual Youth Programme has as main objectives: improvement and adjustment of youth legislation to European standards, enhance the youth participation and self-affirmation in social, economic and cultural life, consolidation of co-management system in dealing with youth policy, development of economic and social-inclusion opportunities for young people.

Non formal education remains to be a spontaneous process and is not yet adjusted to the needs of youth. Non formal education is extremely important for providing access to continuous education. Therefore, non formal education completes formal and extracurricular education. Recent past years, non formal education programs are promoted by non governmental organizations and youth centers, cultural institutions, but the number of young people involved is limited.

Non formal education strategy provides a conceptual law frame and standards for developing and extending non formal education services at national level according to the good practices and existing international experience. It contributes to rising awareness, mobilization and orientation of governmental and non governmental organizations, donating and local community to establish partnership and sustainable cooperation in developing the system of non formal educational institutions' network an integrated services focused on the need of children and youth. Non formal education services will motivate the creation of youth participation opportunities within the life of

the community.

Approval and implementation of the Strategy will contribute to the diversity of youth activities regarding non-formal education and will increase the interest of youth participation within created services. Expanding expression possibilities for youth on educational level will contribute to the promotion of youth both on national and international levels.

Traditionally non-formal education in the Republic of Moldova is done through non-governmental organizations, cultural institutions, creation centers, youth centers. These institutions conduct complementary activities to formal education process aiming to develop youth creativity in science, arts, technology, sports, tourism, etc as well as useful and pleasurable organization of leisure time.

The quality of educational services and leisure time suffer because of lacking financial resources, decreased motivation of teaching staff that work with youth, lack of methodic assistance services, poor material endowment and very little equipment needed for the activity of clubs, creative workshops etc. The Republic of Moldova did not provide enough training to the specialists working with children and youth at the level of initial training.

Development and promotion of a national system for high quality non-formal education, focused on youth needs will constitute the main goal for creating and developing all non-formal education services.

- The experts group on human rights www.credo.md
- The network on HIV prevention www.aids.md
- The network of NGOs in social sphere www.reteasocial.md
- The network of peer to peer educators www.youth.md, www.cnrt.md
- Coalition for non discrimination in Moldova www.nediscriminare.md

Youth information points at national and regional level are: Centres of Youth Resources, National Centre for Youth Employment, Centres for children and youth rights, Youth friendly clinics, Centres of business consultancy, Business incubators, Centres for human rights, Youth media centres, Youth video centres.

National Program “Houses for young families” On 12, November through Government Decision no. 1259 has approved the National Program „Regarding the houses for young specialist, graduates of university and post university education institutions employed in public institutions from rural areas. *The aim of this Programme is to fulfill the necessities of young specialists employed in rural areas, as well the supporting young people with free of charge houses, which will become own property after the 5 years working in a public institutions.* The beneficiaries of this

Programme are graduates of pedagogical, social assistance, cultural, medical faculties

National Program of Youth Economic Empowerment The Government developed a Complex program for economic youth habilitation. The aim of this program is to facilitate youth access to financial resources, their involvement in entrepreneurship and developing abilities with regard to this. This program is implemented in rural area and includes offering reimbursable Country Sheet on Youth Policy – Moldova 16 commercial loans up to 300 thousands lei which constitute 40% of the entire sum of loan. Therefore, it is foreseen to launch 1000 enterprises in the country. **National Program for HIV/AIDS and STI Prevention and control for the period of 2006–2010** The national policy on HIV/AIDS is implemented through the *National Program for HIV/AIDS and STI Prevention and control for the period of 2006–2010*, which determines national strategies in preventing and overlooking epidemics and treatment. The program presents an integrated plurisectorial plan and was developed as a result of a consultation based on consensus between main participants in this area, including the government, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and persons with HIV and was approved through the Governmental Decision of September 2005. The need of implementing an HIV/AIDS prevention and control policy is dictated by statistics referring to incidence of cause amongst youth aging 15–24, this representing a key age category in HIV statistic reports, compared to the total number of newly revealed cases of HIV along several years (representing one quarter of them).

There are some important youth events that are organized and celebrated annually. **The National Voluntaries' Week** is organized annually in April at national and local level and involve together young people and public persons, politicians in ecological activities.

Annually on 5th December is organized **the National Voluntaries Festival**, in the frame of which are nominated the persons which are actively involved in promoting voluntary activities in Moldova. The public persons, NGOs members, individuals are awarded with prizes, and receive special certificates which confirm their engagement in voluntary activities. The event is organized in Chisinau, capital of Moldova and gathers 2000 persons.

The **National Youth Days** are organized annually in November on the occasion of National Youth Day that is celebrated in the second Sunday of November. During a week a lot of social cultural events are organized from local level to national level. As usually National Youth Forums and Youth Festivals are organized within this week. As well a big event of the year is Youth National Award. This is a competition of the best young people that have remarkable results in the following fields: science, techniques, literature and arts and of young people that have an active role in development of youth policy, human rights and democracy.

4.5 Strategies in cross-sectorial policies

As youth policy is a cross- sectoral policy there are several ministries that are dealing with issues regarding youth situation and development. Thus, **the Ministry for Economy** is in charge with **National Programme of Economic Empowerment of Young People**, **Ministry of Health** is responsible for providing national youth friendly healthcare services, **Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family** has the responsibility to deliver programmes for youth social care and protection, as well social inclusion policy for youth. **The National Agency for Employment** is in charge with providing young people with information and training for a better economic inclusion- for finding a job and some key knowledge and competences for this. **Ministry of Construction and Regional Development** is dealing with National Program “**Houses for Young People**”. The Ministry for Education has the mandate to deliver educational programmes and create adequate conditions for children and youth intellectual and physical development. The **Ministry of Interior** provides prevention programmes for children and at-risk groups of youth, and delivers programmes for the social inclusion of delinquent youth. **Ministry for Culture** support creation centers where children and youth acquire artistic skills.

The National Development Strategy (NDS) is the main medium-term strategic planning document which defines the developmental objectives and will guide the social and economic change process over the period 2008-2011. One of the priority of the Strategy are human development, mainly youth investment for its social care, health protection and creating economic opportunities. The Strategy 2008-2011 acknowledges the essential role of education in reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable economic growth. The NDS stresses the importance of equitable access to quality education for ensuring equal chances for a decent life, adequate employment opportunities, participation in social life, higher social cohesion, and competitive human capital of the Republic of Moldova, stipulates the improvement of the quality of education and increased access as shown by the indicators of access to education, developed by international bodies.

The elaboration and adoption of **National Strategy Education for All**³¹ in 2001 with the support of World Bank has been launched a several reforms in educational curricula, school system for implementing new principles as quality in delivering education, friendly and sensitive education for each child, social inclusion, child health, gender equality, participation of community in development of education. It challenged a elaboration of various programmes in the field: Moldovan Educational System Modernization Program (government decision No. 863 dated 16

³¹ www.edu.md

August 2005); “Education for Everybody” National strategy (government decision No. 410 as of 2003) SALT Program that foresees the endowment of schools with IT knowledge and technical ; Youth Strategy (government decision No. 1541 as of 22. 12. 2003). National Strategy “Education for All”, this document provides a frame favouring application of the rights of the children and youth, insuring social inclusion of all youth, with special emphasis on disadvantaged ones.

Law on HIV/Aids Prevention provides for equal rights for children and young people affected by HIV/ Aids to education and prevention programs: “The children and young people affected by HIV/Aids have rights equal to their fellows, benefit from legal and social assistance, access to education and prevention programs, as well as to the treatment and care services required due to their status”.

Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and STI determines the main strategies for prevention, monitoring and treatment of HIV/AIDS and STI. According to National Health Policy Ministry of Health formulates health policy and provides strategic planning health system at different levels, creating an appropriate regulatory environment and ensure correspondence between policy objectives, organizing, financing and managing the health system;

Strategy regarding the social inclusion of people with special needs 2010-2013 that sets a the normative frame for adjusting the social, economic and cultural services to special needs of people.

National Programme for ensuring gender equality- provide a platform for development of job and business opportunities especially for women and youth, enhancing the system of services for protection and assistance to the victims of domestic violence and trafficking etc. Article 13 “Equal Access to Education” of the Law on Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Men and women from the Chapter IV “Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Men and women to Education and health” stipulates that educational institutions shall ensure gender equality a) through access to education and/or training; b) during the educational and/or training process, including during the evaluation of the acquired knowledge; c) during didactic and scientific-didactic activity; d) through the development of didactic materials and curricula in accordance with the gender equality principle, by including gender education in the educational system; f) through education of girls and boys in the spirit of partnership and mutual respect. (2) Educational institutions cannot establish admission principles based on direct or indirect restrictions for gender reasons, except for the situations stipulated herein.

The Government proceeded with the countrywide introduction of the mandatory health insurance

on January 1, 2004. The Government's program, which is based on the 1998 Mandatory Health Insurance Law, foresees that the entire population will be covered by the mandatory health insurance.

The Program to Develop an Integrated System of Social Services. The Program would deliver care on an out-patient basis to people living at home, or in small-scale community group homes. The Program emphasizes the integration of fragmented services, a referral system to regional and central care, and elimination of gaps in coverage. The concept is to deliver preventive and early intervention services so that conditions do not worsen and become more expensive to address.

Implementation of this policy will be made in the implementation of other policies, programs and strategies, such as the **Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction National Program "Moldovan Village"** program, the national control and prevention of **HIV / AIDS national strategy reproductive health, National concept of youth friendly services**. Mainstay of the National Health Policy is to ensure the fair and adequate access to health services for all citizens of Moldova.

Solidarity multidimensional, particularly in terms of financial contributions and risk distribution, serves as the mechanism for ensuring social justice. Trade unions, employers, youth NGOs, other NGOs and community groups are actively participating in creating favourable conditions for successful implementation of Government programmes and Strategies. Involving the media in increasing public awareness of youth problems is of paramount importance, especially in raising to each citizen on responsibility for their own position, health, job etc.

All the Strategies mentioned above are meant to enhance social cohesion and inclusion vulnerable in order to prevent youth crisis and combat social exclusion by creating equal opportunities for all young people in a developed society.

4.6 European and International dimension

Donor coordination and partnership is key bolstering Moldova's reforms. Only through cooperation, can we really make a difference in Moldova's future (please rephrase in more neutral terms) Moldova is a member of the Council of Europe. The Ministry of Youth and Sports through its representatives is member of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCY) Correspondents network. That is why the

authorities are oriented to meeting European criteria in many spheres, including its youth policy.³² In 2007 Republic of Moldova invited Council of Europe to review National Youth Policy for sharing European experience and contribute through recommendations to the improvement of youth policy in Moldova. The International Review is a valuable work for governmental institutions in dealing up with youth issues by guiding the direction, right track for the effective elaboration and implementation of youth policy.

Moldova is also member state of United Nations (UN), Central European Initiative (CEI), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe(OSCE), the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC), the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (OECD).

Since 1992, Republic of Moldova is a member of UN. Moldova is also a country member of Eastern Partnership launched by European Commission in May, 2009 aiming to improve the political and economic trade-relations of post-soviet countries, promotion of human rights, rule of law and democracy, sustainable development and good governance.

The international expertise provided by donors have has largely contributed to the setting up of normative framework in youth field. Setting up and approval of Youth National Strategy and National Action Plan was carried out with the technical support of UNICEF and World Bank.

Collaboration of the UN Agencies, World Bank, Council of Europe and European Commission and other international structures are very significant factor for governmental structures working with youth for setting up policies and provision of financial support to performance of planned actions. The activity of national body responsible for youth, donors and youth organizations favour the development of youth policy and motivate young people to participate in this process. These organizations by youth programmes have had substantial contribution to capacity building of human resources and institutional development. Due to different training programmes, workshops persons in charge with educational activity and youth work from municipalities obtained a lot of skills and qualifications.

Since Republic of Moldova became a member of the UN in March, 2002 , our country has received strong support from all United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

UNDP cooperation has been focused on strengthening good governance, accelerating human development, development of civil society and private sector, promotion of gender equality and

³² International Review of Youth Policy in Moldova. Council of Europe. October 2009

enhance of the access to information.

UNICEF- as well other UN agencies provide support to specialized programmes addressing young people in Moldova, at the same time promoting complex approach of the issue on the level of policies, capacity development and service creation.

Due to UNICEF Programmes are promoted the rights of the children, youth, and women. Participation projects have been an environment in favour of children and young people's exercise of their own rights. The lobby activity carried out by UNICEF has been an important element in provision of national legislation to international standards on the Adoption of Youth Law. UNICEF made a tremendous commitment to the creation and development of youth resource centers and youth local councils, as well implemented a lot of projects based on health care of young people. WB in partnership with UNICEF supported a big project "Social and Economic Empowerment of Young people" for increasing the capacity of young people to launch and develop own businesses and improve the participation of young people in public life.

Moldova is fully engaged in achieving the goals and pre-requisites for European integration. The country Moldova is already open to both EU and Council of Europe initiatives related to youth policy.³³

The international organizations considered in Moldova as development partners and donors (especially World Bank, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, East European Foundation, International Organization for Migration) have a real successful contribution and take an active part in development and implementation of youth policy in Moldova. The international organizations give a substantial financial support for many youth projects. National Youth Strategy for 2009 – 2015 was developed with technical assistance of World Bank „Capacity development for the implementation of youth policy in the Republic of Moldova”.

UNAIDS has an active role in developing projects for reducing the HIV/AIDS and ITS as well gives support for improving quality standards of medical services. East European Foundation implements projects for developing local youth initiatives for supporting rural areas and youth living in. International Organization for Migration organizes different activities and develops projects for reducing youth illegal migration. Each project is implemented through governmental and non-governmental partnership that has a real strong impact on youth policy development in Moldova.

³³ International Review of Youth Policy in Moldova. Council of Europe. October 2009

Youth in action. The period of Programme implementation of Youth will unfold in the period 2007-2013. The Programme is supported and promoted by Ministry of Education and Youth, National Youth Council, Salto-Youth Centre in Moldova and by network of multipliers. Generally the multipliers work in several directions:

- organising informational and promotional meetings in the EECA Regions about the possibilities of international cooperation within Youth in Action Programme along with SALTO EECA Resources and Tools, especially with the young people, youth workers, youth organisations' representatives, trainers and local youth policy makers;
- supporting the knowledge about YiA Programme, contact making between organisations from Programme and EECA countries as well as sharing good practices by answering enquiry e-mails, phone calls and doing direct meetings with the youth groups and local youth institutions;
- promoting individual multiplier (and multiplier's organisation) activities as well as other activities in the frames of YiA Programme in the Region through SALTO EECA bimonthly Newsletter, SALTO EECA Forum and SALTO EECA "Youth in 7" Magazine;

The Partial Agreement on the Youth Card of the Council of Europe and the membership in ERYICA are under the agenda of the Ministry of Education and Youth.

The major priority for us (for Moldovan government?) is: to adjust Moldavian youth policy to European standards through youth participation at national and local level. For this reasons all the projects in youth field are in line with the National Youth Strategy, National Action Plan and Action Plan for the implementation of the Agenda 2020. Effective policies in the field of youth would be an advantage for the entire society. It will contribute to existing social problems solving, like: worsening health conditions and continued risky behaviour within certain large social groups; brain drain, illegal migration and human trafficking; human rights etc.

4.7 Budget/Funding

The problems caused by poverty are aggravated by the fact that during the past ten years the educational system of the Republic of the Moldova has faced a critical lack of money. The GDP of the Republic of Moldova is relatively small, and therefore the budget for youth activities of Ministry for Youth and Sport is also small. The budget available for youth action plan in 2010 represents 1, 800000 million (MDL). A rather good part of youth activities done by Ministry for Youth and Sport are supported by donors. But there are special budgets allocated for Programme "Economic Empowerment of Young people" and Social Programme "Houses for Young people". Local Public

Administration, municipalities have their own resources allocated for youth activities at local level.

Therefore, the youth financing system needs to be fundamentally streamlined, especially at rural and regional level. The new financing mechanism must be based on indicators related to youth, in accordance with the principle 'the money follows the youth'. This mechanism will also offer opportunities for public authorities to encourage youth workers and youth service institutions to produce good results in ensuring access to non-formal education, information, including pupils and youth with special requirements, and improving the quality of delivering service process.

The analysis of public expenditures reveals that a great part of them are oriented towards the maintenance of buildings and payments of current utilities fees and less for the development of human potential.

5. Trends, needs, challenges and expectations

Looking to the future I see young people from Moldova enjoying the liberty, democracy, protected human rights, full access to information and social services, confident and friendly youth services, free mobility, diversity of opportunities in spending free time and opportunities to get a well paid job.

But today's challenges as economic crisis, globalisation process, lack of work possibilities, health problems derived from drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, all these need to be faced through a lot of actions and policies.

The country has to improve the social and economic conditions for youth in the context of general improvement in the economic situation in Moldova. Only through this the country will be able to meet the current global challenges: complete the economic and social modernization, establish a knowledge-based economy, and create a basis for its future economic growth.

According to Moldova's political agenda, the Republic is oriented to develop closer ties with European Union. This aim has to be achieved by development of human resources- youth resources, educate the youth for the national and European market demand, provide young people with life management skills via non-formal education, create new jobs at home.

Young people hope that their community in the future will provide them with more opportunities, friendly services and areas for self development.

There is a need for more oriented actions on building up information systems for young people, a serious appraisal of the role of non-formal education in the learning pathways of young people and focus on creation opportunities for development of youth business. To establish a Centre for training and teaching youth working staff (a system of training), youth curricula are imperative needed, also to continue the process of development of youth resource centres. The need to streamline the youth work at regional level, mainly by consolidation networks of youth NGOs, youth councils, youth centres, youth information services and to encourage local communities to support local youth councils by developing systems of communication.

Young people will be offered the opportunity to express freely their opinion on the problems they face and to be listened by administrative institutions, directly or with the help of a representative body, as well as to participate in formulating youth policies. The Government should implement this by: (i) consolidating the social partnership with civil society, especially youth associations; (ii)

encouraging dialogue and the inter-ministerial cooperation on youth problems; (iii) consolidating European and international cooperation in youth problems and related areas; (iv) creating an adequate legal framework on the basis of European practices.

To **ensure the access to information and services**, the following measures must be accomplished: (i) undertaking studies regarding the youth situation and, based on such studies, revising youth policy; (ii) ensuring the access of the young to information regarding the rights and opportunities in all spheres of activity (education, healthcare, social protection, leisure time etc.) by creating a national network of youth service Centers; (iii) the development of a promotion program through the mass-media (TV, radio, written and electronic press) of social messages pertaining to healthy life style and youth development; (iv) ensuring quality services for the youth within the framework of healthcare, educational and social assistance institutions; (v) the development of policies for supporting young families, searching for possibilities to ensure them with dwelling premises, child care facilities, consultations for young mothers, etc.; (vi) the promotion of special programs for groups of disadvantaged youth and youth at risk , in order to prevent and fight against their social exclusion.

In order to **reduce unemployment** amongst young people, there will be a series of measures, including: (i) vocational training of unemployed youth, review and modernization of the youth vocational training system, youth support in rural areas through the development of private.

One of the basic principles of state policy will be **the active participation of the youth in the life of the community**. To achieve this, the Government should promote young people as equal and dynamic partners in the political, economic and social life of the country, will create a mechanism for permanent inter- sector consultations (education, healthcare, social protection, police, army, local public authorities) with the participation of civil society and foreign donors for the accomplishment of the strategy and action plans in the field of youth. The Government should create conditions for cooperation of youth and youth associations with governmental bodies and local public authorities, will promote voluntary services as a form of youth participation and social integration, will support development of youth networks and associations throughout the country.

There is a need to build up favourable conditions for organizations and persons working with and for the youth will be created. The education of youth specialists must be facilitated and providing voluntary youth leaders with training. The Ministry of Youth and Sports should integrate the national, regional and local youth administrations and programs and create a link

between them and the activities of non- governmental organizations. The youth situation will be permanently monitored and evaluated on the basis of a National Youth Research Center.

In order to utilize the leisure time of the young, local authorities and civil society organizations (mayoralities, schools, the church) should be encouraged to use existing resources to meet the interests and needs of the young, should stimulate the private sector to offer support and consolidate the technical-material basis for organizing leisure time activities at the local level, should ensure proper conditions for the development of international contacts between young people and should support talented young people in various areas of human activities.

The State in partnership with civil society should strength the capacity of local public and private (NGOs/CBOs) youth-serving providers and decision makers to reach out to the most vulnerable young women/girls and men/boys and to address their needs and interests in a participatory and integrated manner;

Also through a public - private partnership should be increased the number of viable micro-enterprises own by youth (18-30) who initially faced both a lack of business development skills and exclusion from credit due to lack of material assets for collateral. For instance, youth employment could be created through “green projects,” such as planting tree belts, working on erosion control, and participating in natural disaster management projects. The skills training could be provided to help youth receive information about the labor market, on risks facing migrants, and in even in areas such as sexually transmitted diseases, alcoholism and drug abuse, and conflict resolution.

To absorb youth, the Government could support programmes that invests in youth education and skills training and mobilizes them for sports and for suitable public works.

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www.worldbank.md

www.unaids.md

Annexes

Country Profile in 2010

Full name of the country	Republic of Moldova
Government type	Republican
Capital city	Chisinau
Region	Eastern Europe
Currency	Leu (MDL)
Surface area	33846 (square kilometers)
Population (01.01.2010)	3563,7 thou.
Population density	107.4 (per square kilometer)
Urban population	1476,7 thou. (41,4%)
Rural population	2091,4 thou. (58,6%)-
Gender Ratio	51,9% (1850,2 thou) – women and 48,1% (1713,5thou.) – men
Youth population (01.01.2009)	1.45 million.
Number of marriages	26781
New born (2009)	40803
Number of divorces(2009)	11884
Life expectancy	67,95 years
Employment rate (% , Ratio between employment to the total population aged 15 years and over)	42.3
Informal employment (% of employment population)	33.9
Unemployment rate (% of labour force)	7.1
Compulsory education (up to...)	16
Legally employed	16
Marriage without parental consent	16
Minimum voting age	18
Driving license	18
	1 EUR - 16.3308 MDL
Exchange rates (Oct/10)	1 http://www.statistica.md/SDDS/NSDP/USD - 11,76 MDL

The data is provided except the territory on the left side of the river Nistru and municipality
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