

**MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION
AND SPORT**

**Polish Youth Strategy
for the years 2003- 2012**

WARSAW – AUGUST 2003

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1. Introduction

The Polish youth policy is expressed in many legal regulations referring to young people, included in the Constitution of the Polish Republic and laws referring to education, social care, state defence, employment and fighting unemployment, life conditions of children in the family, medical care, preventing crime, drug addiction and alcoholism, and many others. The extension of legal regulations and also the fact that youth issues are dealt by many state and self-governmental institutions as well as non-governmental organizations has resulted in a necessity to define the conditions for the coordination of these activities. This has become the basic reason for creating the *Polish Youth Strategy*.

In the year 1995 the General Assembly of the United Nations approved a set of recommendations, which have become for many countries an impetus for taking up works on national youth policies. The strategies for youth of European countries derive their inspiration from the 98 (6) Resolution of the Council of Europe issued on April 16th 1998 and the *White Paper – A New Impetus for European Youth* published in the year 2001 by the European Commission.

The youth policy in European countries is recognized as an interdepartmental, integrated policy towards young people and deriving from their needs. The objective of a youth policy is the creation of appropriate living conditions for young people, enabling them the participation in public life, share in social, cultural and political life on equal grounds with other social groups.

The basis for conducting youth policy, integrated with other state policies (policy on education, employment, society and family, etc.) is the guaranteeing of appropriate financial funds for its realization, as well as preparing adequate legal solutions. Youth policy ought to be coherent with national action plans towards children, which refer to the Children's Rights Convention. European strategies addressed at young people refer to such areas of state functioning as – the participation of youth in public life, social care, labour market, international cooperation, prevention of social marginalization, medical care, formal and informal education, information. The choice of priorities among these issues depends on the needs and possibilities of particular countries.

The state strategy for youth is to allow young people the realization of their life plans – both group and individual ones, and to help them in finding their own place in society. It should be positioned within the framework of the intergenerational dialogue, but it should also recognize the specific needs of young people. In particular, the state should take care of youth deriving from the so called risk groups.

When formulating the objectives of youth policy it was assumed that it refers to the social group aged between 15 – 25 years. This group includes teenagers and young adults, pupils and students, those employed and unemployed, people, who have

already set up families, also single mothers, healthy people and persons with various types of disabilities, youngsters, which have broken the law or require rehabilitative or preventive measures, people of various material status, living in the city and rural areas, actively or passively taking part in public life. The differentiation of youth results in the fact that its needs and expectations towards state policy are not homogeneous, whereas the state aid crucial in some spheres should be addressed precisely.

In Poland there are 6 440 700 people aged between 15-24¹ years, which accounts for 16.8% of the whole population. The Polish youth policy is expressed in many legal regulations referring to youth. However, there exists a need to create conditions for the coordination of the activities performed by the government, institutions for youth, and non-governmental organizations including youth organizations. These activities must be realized on a national, regional and local level. Due to these measures, it is expected that the situation of the young generation will be improved, particularly as the participation in the labour market, activity in social and public life are concerned.

The equalizing of developmental opportunities of the young generation is the major objective of the state youth strategy. Also a fundamental meaning is seen in creating conditions for the self-fulfilment of youth and inspiring its social activity. Moreover, an important objective of the strategy ought to become the applying of the best possible way of using opportunities resulting from the Polish accession to the European Union.

The state youth strategy formulated in this document is a result of a compromise between: the conclusions included in the diagnosis prepared by the Expert Team of the Polish Ministry of National Education and Sport, the tasks in which the country is faced in the process of the EU accession, the postulates of youth circles consulting the project and the existing economic, social and political conditions.

II. Diagnosis and challenges resulting from it

The inspiration for beginning works on the *Polish Youth Strategy* were the consultations of the *White Paper* of the European Commission – *New Impetus for European Youth* carried out by the Polish Ministry of National Education and Sport in the year 2002. During discussions, the spheres of life in which the government ought to take up measures for youth were defined. Education, employment, participation of young people in public life were pointed to.

The Minister of National Education and Sport appointed a team of experts. The major task of this team was to supplement the existing effects of works with youth with a diagnosis based on studies conducted by various institutions in the country. Hence, the source document titled *The White Paper of Polish Youth* was created. In the

¹ The Strategy refers to youth aged 15-25. The Central Statistical Office does not dispose of data on this age group. The quoted data refers to the group aged 15-24.

future it will be updated on a current basis. It will be a source document for all undertakings and projects realized within the framework of the *Strategy*.

The team of experts, in course of consultations with youth and representatives of governmental administration, defined the spheres of state functioning, which ought to become the areas covered by the *Strategy*. Eventually, 5 key issues were selected, which have become the framework of the *Polish Youth Strategy*. They are as follows:

1. Youth education

The basic strategic objective of the state is striving at a higher and higher quality and accessibility of education. The coefficient of scholarization in secondary schools educating youth aged 15-18 years, amounted to 90.1% in the school year 2000/2001. As compared with countries of the European Union, the coefficients of scholarization in Poland referring to particular age groups are quite high. The highest growth of scholarization coefficients takes part in the case of higher education schools.

An improvement in the quality of education is needed in rural and vocational schools. This refers both to the teaching conditions as well as the degree of school equipping. In general education high schools 90.6% of pupils are learning the English language, in vocational high schools – 54.6%, and in basic vocational schools only 12%. Therefore, in basic vocational schools measures popularizing the teaching of foreign languages, particularly English, ought to be taken. A duty, which has been assigned to the state as regards education, is preparing youth for adult life, and particularly for professional life. There exists a need to relate education with the demands of the labour market and awakening the youth's motivation to life-long learning and preparing oneself for life in the changing world.

Measures aiming at increasing the possibilities of access to higher levels of education for youth from rural areas, creating conditions for lifelong learning and long-distance learning² have already been taken.

According to the data of the Central Statistical Office, the possibilities of taking part in sport activities in schools are not satisfactory. There is a lack of sport premises, which could be used by pupils. The supporting of youth's intellectual development ought to be accompanied by care of physical development. Therefore, the sport infrastructure ought to be developed in the whole country. The Polish Ministry of Education and Sport realizes measures related with this field³.

2 . Employment

² Strategy for the Development of Life-long Learning to the year 2010. MNES 2003

³ Strategy for Sport Development in Poland to the year 2012, Objectives and actions. MNES 2003

The level of unemployment in the group of youth is high. In the years 1999-2002, for the age group 15-24, it was twice as high as the level of unemployment for the entire population (including in the age group 18-19 over three times as high).

It is required from the state that it implements the policy of employing young people not only addressed to graduates, but also to the whole youth population.

It is recommended that particular attention ought to be paid to youth existing outside the educational and labour system, as well as youth being permanently unemployed.

One of the problems of young people is the lack of faith in any improvement of the situation on the labour market, which decreases the level of youth's activity, e.g. in creating own job positions, and also increases migration or passive attitudes. It is important, that besides "aid" programs, own business initiatives should be promoted, new job vacancies ought to be created, employers and employees should be encouraged to apply flexible forms of youth employment, and forms enabling acquiring new experiences on the labour market ought to be supported.

There is also a need to prepare youth to participate in the European labour market. It is crucial to define an employment policy for the next 10 years and to design programs for combating youth unemployment, which would take into account its differentiated situation (pupils, high school graduates, students, youth from rural areas, disabled young people, youth from neglected regions and poor environment). Education, especially vocational education, ought to be linked with the demands of the labour market. It is expected that the program "*First job*" modified by the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Social Policy will become an effective tool in combating unemployment among young people.

3. Youth participation in public life

Building a civil society means creating conditions for the participation of its citizens in its life. The possibility of expressing opinions, making decisions by young people in matters which concern them or the society in which they live in, are an important element in the process of creating active citizenship attitudes. Youth ought to be encouraged to participate in the decision making process on various levels of social and state management, particularly including local communities. The creation of possibilities of regular consultations with youth on important social problems is the task for state administration and local self-governments. This refers to youth, which is both associated in organizations or not. In the year 1999, 23.1% young people aged 12-19 years old belonged to any organization. Of which, 29.8% belonged to sport organizations, 15.1% took part in artistic activities, 12.1% in self-educational activities, 10.9% belonged to scouting associations (Polish Scouting Association, Scouting of the Polish Republic), 8.8% belonged to pupil councils and school self-governments, 7.4% to religious organizations, 5.1% to hobby clubs, 6.0% to ecological organizations, 3.5% to tourist organizations, and 0.5% to fan clubs. There exists a need to create conditions for youth participation in social and public life. The

interest of young people in belonging to sport organizations ought to be taken advantage of and general sport should be developed.

For effective participation in the decision making process, the access to information and the ability to use modern communication technologies are very important. Apart from the existing Eurodesk⁴ portal, a national youth information network ought to be developed.

4. Leisure, culture, sport, tourism

The organization of youth's leisure time ought to result from the diagnosis of the needs announced by youth, teachers and parents. Data referring to youth participation in social and public life indirectly point to a too low level of making use of leisure time in order to create possibilities of intellectual, physical and emotional development of this social group. In the year 1999, 21.2% of youth did not leave their homes for summer vacation. Measures ought to be taken in order to increase access to recreation facilities in places of habitation or to forms of travel.

The transition from the existing method of organizing leisure time to the commonly known and accepted in Europe model of animating youth leisure time, is a subsequent challenge for Poland. It is related with the necessity to expand the group of addressees of extracurricular and extra-school activities (particularly as culture and tourism are concerned) to include youth with social problems.

In youth tourism, trends differentiating the society are being reflected. The commercialization of holidays and tourism is taking place. Organizations and institutions, which organize summer and winter holidays for youth and also family tourism ought to be supported.

The existing data referring to the participation of youth in cultural life shows that rural areas more than cities lack an appropriate infrastructure, an offer compatible with the needs. The commercialization of culture is growing, while at the same time there are no system solutions in the cultural policy addressed to young people. It seems necessary to level the cultural competences of rural, neglected and disabled youth. Moreover, the promotion of talents and youth creativity cannot be forgotten.

As it results from statistical data, young people are most inclined to choose sport activities in their spare time. Considering that sport is one of the elements of education, it is necessary to develop the organization of youth's leisure time through sport. Young sportsmen are exposed to illegal activities of people, who deprave the idea of sport (doping, trade of young competitors). Systems solutions ought to be developed in order to prevent such behaviour.

5. Health and prevention

⁴ Eurodesk – European youth information network, which Poland joined in the year 2003 – www.eurodesk.org

The health condition of Polish youth does not differ from the average health condition of a young European. However, the system of medical care of a pupil and student requires constant improvements.

A subsequent important task is the promotion of a healthy lifestyle among youth, free from addictions. In Poland the age limit, when young people reach for their first cigarette or glass of alcohol is lowering. The number of youngsters abusing alcohol is increasing, as well as the number of young people, especially girls and young women who smoke cigarettes. The threat of drugs is also growing (almost one in three students has tried drugs). There is a weak awareness among young people of the danger of AIDS, and it is necessary to carry out an appropriate sexual education.

Health prevention ought to be closely linked with the state's support of developing physical education and sport.

III. OPEN METHOD OF COORDINATION

The activities in the above mentioned areas ought to be realized by using an effective method, which would allow the realization of strategic objectives. For the needs of youth policy, European Union countries decided to apply the open method of coordination. This method assumes that the state administration, nongovernmental organizations, including youth organizations, institutions functioning in the youth field and young people themselves cooperate with each other. Ideas and experiences are exchanged on a regular basis and the directions of actions are defined together. It is important to conduct regular studies identifying the needs of youth circles when carrying out works for youth and using the open method of coordination. The open method of coordination should be also applied when implementing the *Polish Youth Strategy*. It will ensure a better realization of the set objectives and a more rational expenditure of financial resources.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLISH YOUTH STRATEGY

As it has been assumed during the conducted consultations, the *Polish Youth Strategy* refers to the above mentioned areas of everyday life. As a result of carrying out a variety of activities for young people, it is expected that in the next ten years, young people, who due to health or social reasons must be supported by the state, will have equal chances when entering adult life. The intellectual potential, acquired qualifications and experiences of youth will be appropriately made use of in a civil society based on knowledge. The implementation of the *Strategy* is to enable young people to lead a satisfying professional, social and personal life. It is also to ensure such conditions, in which each young person can be independent and ready to overcome life difficulties. The aim of the *Strategy* is combating social exclusion, raising pro-health awareness and preventing social marginalization. The realization of the strategic objectives is to result in raising the level of youth participation in culture.

New opportunities are being opened for young people as a result of Poland's accession to the European Union. The aim of the ***Polish Youth Strategy*** is to fully take advantage of these possibilities.

The success of realizing the strategic objectives largely depends on the manner, in which the measures for the benefit of youth will be undertaken. It is necessary to prepare adults working with youth for the realization of these actions.

The strategic objectives of the youth policy result from the diagnosis submitted by the expert team appointed by the Minister of National Education and Sport, discussions lead with representatives of governmental administration, youth organizations and the analysis of youth policies of European Union countries and candidate countries. The recommendations resulting from documents of the Council of Europe and the European Union were the grounds on which the ***Polish Youth Strategy*** has been created.

1 strategic objective

CREATING AND EQUALIZING OPPORTUNITIES OF DEVELOPMENT, SELF-REALIZATION OF THE YOUNG GENERATION

The objective of the ***Polish Youth Strategy*** is the creation of conditions, which will enable young people from various backgrounds the same starting point for adult life. As it results from the diagnosis carried out by the expert team, the state should take particular care of youth from rural areas, disabled young people, youth living in areas which are particularly threatened by unemployment, young people from environments endangered by social marginalization. The most important issue related with equalizing chances is the education of the young generation. Young people, who acquire appropriate education, may compete on the labour market.

Methods of realizing the objective:

- 1) completing the reforms of the education system in such a way that it provides the possibility of general access to all interested in learning and raising qualifications, particularly as regards:
 - youth from rural areas,
 - disabled young people,
 - youth graduating vocational schools,

No.	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Preparing a program supporting education of disabled youth	2004	Ministry of National Education and Sport (MNES)

2.	Creating legal grounds for proper organization of long distance learning	in process	MNES
3.	Preparing new solutions of educating youth from OHP (Voluntary Work Services)	2003	MNES

2) equalizing educational chances of youth as regards access to education:

- raising the scholarization coefficient,
- disseminating access to foreign language learning,
- disseminating IT education,
- developing the system of lifelong learning,
- disseminating long-distance learning,

No.	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Extending the educational offer of foreign language learning within the framework of leisure time of young people from various social backgrounds	2003-2004	MNES, non-governmental organizations, foundations working for youth, self-governmental units
2.	Promoting educational projects enabling the participation of youth from various backgrounds within the framework of commissioning state projects to units not belonging to the sector of public finances (particularly in the field of youth vacations)	2003-2004	MNES, nongovernmental organizations, self-governmental units
3.	Developing a national governmental program for the Roma population including support for youth continuing education after graduating secondary school	2003/2004	Ministry of Interior and Administration (MIA), MNES
4.	Developing the program of equalizing educational chances of youth from rural areas (titled „Janko Muzykant“)	2004	MNES
5.	Preparing and implementing integrated procedures and methods for evaluating the value of learning results – system of	2005-2008	MNES

	confirming qualifications in non-formal education		
6.	Equipping all general education secondary schools with computer classrooms, modernization of local network in schools with computer classrooms and linking to the internet those secondary schools which are still not linked,; establishing in libraries, by the end of the year 2004, ⁵ multimedia and internet information centres	in process	MNES
7.	Equipping profile secondary schools, and vocational secondary schools with computer classrooms, modernization of local network and linking to the internet those schools which are still not linked; establishing in libraries, by the end of the year 2004, ⁶ multimedia and internet information centres	in process	MNES
8.	Establishing in all secondary school libraries multimedia information centres ⁷	in process	MNES
9.	Broadband internet for school – providing all schools with a broadband access to the internet, including funds for using it, in an amount covering the needs resulting from teaching and extracurricular activities ⁸	in process	MNES, units of local self governments, Telecommunication and Post Regulation Office (as an element of cooperation with operators)
10.	Building an educational resources base: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thematic educational portals, • electronic virtual libraries, • servers with educational materials (first results in the year 2003), • designing multimedia educational applications⁹ 	in process	MNES
11	Long distance learning – supporting	2003-2004	MNES

⁵ Action Program of the Ministry of National Education and Sport for the years 2002 – 2010

⁶ Action Program of the Ministry of National Education and Sport for the years 2002 – 2010

⁷ Action Program of the Ministry of National Education and Sport for the years 2002 – 2010

⁸ Strategy for implementing information technology in Poland - ePoland

⁹ Action Program of the Ministry of National Education and Sport for the years 2002 – 2010

	programs enabling the equalizing of educational chances of youth irrespectively of their background in order to decrease unemployment and changing occupation and enhancing vocational skills ¹⁰		
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- 3) strengthening the connections between youth education (particularly vocational) and the needs of the labour market, the system of counselling as regards educational path choices and career counselling,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Preparing the concept of enabling all pupils the availability and access to services in the field of school counselling	2003	MNES
2.	Creating a nationwide network of youth career centres conducting vocational guidance, and acting as an employment agency for youth	2004	Ministry of Economy, Labour and Social Policy (MELSP), OHP (Voluntary Work Services), MNES
3.	Regular support for the development of a nationwide network of career centres, including centres for disabled youth, conducted by academic schools	2003	MNES
4.	Implementing and disseminating the system of forecasting labour demand according to qualifications in Poland	2005	Government Centre for Strategic Studies, MELSP, MNES, Central Statistical Office

- 4) preparing in cooperation with nongovernmental organizations, including youth organizations, programs preventing youth unemployment, taking into consideration its differentiated situation (pupils, graduates, students, youth from rural areas, disabled young people, youth from neglected regions and poor environments, youth outside the education and labour system),

No	Actions	Beginning of	Executors
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¹⁰ Strategy for implementing information technology in Poland - ePoland

		execution	
1.	Formulating the objectives of the youth employment policy for the next 10 years in the National Action Plan for Employment (under preparation)	2003	MELSP
2.	Promotion and support of entrepreneurship	in process	MELSP, local self-governments, nongovernmental organizations
3.	Constant improvement and extending of the program <i>First Job</i> onto the entire youth population	2003	MELSP
4.	Regular dissemination of programs for vocational activation and promotion of entrepreneurship in rural areas	2003-2004	MELSP, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, OHP, local self-governments
5.	Disseminating programs for the vocational activation of disabled youth	2004	MNES, employers, local self-governments
6.	Disseminating flexible forms of employing young people	2003	MELSP,
7.	Supporting various forms of acquiring experiences on the labour market	2003-2004	MELSP
8.	Developing a system of monitoring individual career paths of young people	2004	MELSP
9.	Creating an available information system on the situation on the labour market and effective programs for youth	2003-2004	MELSP, MNES

5) creating conditions for the independence of young people in the sphere of living conditions,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Disseminating the system of students' credits and regular improvement of the functioning forms of material support for youth	2004 - 2005	MNES, MELSP
2.	Preparing the concept supporting families set up by young people, coherent with the state family policy	2005-2006	MELSP, foundations, nongovernmental organizations, local self-governments
3.	Undertaking system solutions equalizing the life start of youth raised in problem families and foster homes	2003	MELSP, foundations, local self-

			governments
4.	Preventing the repetition of undesirable social attitudes by young people, such as passivity, in solving their own life problems (habit of depending on social aid funds, etc.)	2003	MELSP, MNES, nongovernmental organizations, local self-governments

2 strategic objective

CREATING CHANCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OWN ACTIVITY OF THE YOUNG GENERATION

Youth participation in public and social life is necessary for the development of a citizenship country. Youth public activity is also the key for later professional activity of young people. Youth organizations and existing non-formal youth groups ought to be supported. The state should play an aiding role for youth groups, allowing them for their own activity – the state should be an animator of actions, and not their organizer. Creating chances for the development of own activity refers to young people, for whom the state should enable equal chances, as well as to youth, which does not need such support from the state.

Methods of realizing the objective:

1) defining the role of youth organizations in the educational system,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Preparing legal grounds for the functioning of a national youth council	2003	MNES, youth organizations
2.	Preparing legal regulations supporting the functioning of youth organizations and informal groups	2003	MNES, youth organizations
3.	Developing a system of cooperation between nongovernmental organizations, self-governments, schools or educational and youth centres and institutions	2003- 2004	MNES, nongovernmental organizations, local self-governments
4.	Developing a concept of support for helping youth organizations to maintain their facilities	2003-2004	MNES

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2) supporting youth participation in public and social life, by:

- creating the conditions for the functioning of youth representations on different state administrative levels,
- supporting pupils' self-governments and other forms of active education for co-creating a civil society,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Preparing legal grounds for the functioning of youth representations on a national, regional and local level	2003- 2004	MNES, youth organizations, local self-governments
2.	Preparing a program of actions supporting educating towards a civil society	2004	MNES, local self-governments
3.	Undertaking measures aimed at defining the issues of supporting youth participation in public and social life as a separate state commissioned project	2003	MNES
4.	Creating conditions for realizing activities by community self-governments aimed at promoting the idea of local self-government among youth (law on community self-governments)	2003-2004	MNES, MIA, community self-governments

3) development of youth voluntary service,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Creating a database on Polish and international youth voluntary service	2004	MNES
2.	Popularizing international forms of youth voluntary service	2003	MNES, Youth Program, „Polish-German Youth Cooperation“

4) development of international youth exchange and cooperation programs,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
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1.	Creating a system of instruments and rules enabling preferential financing and co-financing of international exchange for poor young people and pupil groups of different social status	2003-2004	MNES
2.	Constant improvement of the system of financing of international youth exchange and cooperation programs	2003– 2004	MNES, Youth Program, „Polish-German Youth Cooperation”
3.	Developing a program promoting the culture of youth from national minority groups living in Poland	2004	MNES, MIA, Ministry of Culture (MC), local self-governments, nongovernmental organizations
4.	Introducing a supplement to the diploma	2004	MNES

5) supporting the idea of youth tourism (national and international),

No	Actions	Beginning for execution	Executors
1.	Preparing the concept of supporting tourism organized for youth and by youth organizations	2004	MELSP
2.	Preparing a program for raising the quality of facilities for national youth tourism	2004	MELSP
3.	Preparing an information guide on tourist bases available for disabled youth	2003	MELSP, Polish Fund for Disabled Persons

6) popularising active recreation and new forms of organizing leisure time, aiming at a model of animating leisure time and not organizing it,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Developing a concept of animating youth's leisure time	2003-2004	MNES, MC
2	Developing a concept of organizing summer holidays for children from various backgrounds	2003- 2004	MNES, MELSP, voivodes,

3 strategic objective

PREVENTING MARGINALIZATION OF THE YOUNG GENERATION

Young people more and more often reach for various stimulants. The number of those who have never drunk or smoked is decreasing, whereas the number of those who have had anything to deal with drugs is growing. Institutional aid addressed to disabled young people is too often limited to financial support. Many social problems young people face are conducive to the marginalization of youth. In recent years, new pathological phenomena have appeared, such as: cross-border crime, related with the sex and drug business, and other business activity. The share of youth in groups spreading hatred and aggression has increased.

Methods of realizing the objective:

1) rebuilding the system of extracurricular, extra-school activities and prevention realized in school, defining the role of school in the educational process and health care of a pupil and student,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Creating instruments allowing for the extension of pedagogical and psychological counselling with diagnosis of developmental resources	2003- 2004	MNES
2.	Creating an effective system of planning and monitoring of public funds allocated for preventive programs	2004	MNES, Ministry of Health (MH) MC
3.	Preparing an offer for making appropriate use of the empty school base (less pupils due to the drop in the birth rate) and human resources (teachers) in the direction of putting stress on leisure time of children and youth (school as a local educational and cultural centre)	2004	MNES, MC, local self-governments

2) promotion of a healthy life style,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Improving the functioning system of youth health care	2003-2004	MH, National

			Health Fund
2.	Regular evaluation and extension of the offer of programs promoting pro-healthy behaviours among youth	2003-2004	MNES, MH

3) complementing the range of activities of extra-school education centres, cultural institutions (adding to their statutes the obligation to join educational and cultural activity with preventative programs),

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Developing the concept of supporting centres realizing preventive programs	2004	MNES, National Council for Extra-School Education Centres
2.	Preparing new, attractive educational programs „Through sport and for sport” ¹¹	2004-2005	MNES

4) supporting cultural programs focused on:

- everyday culture (preventing barbarization), culture of tolerance, cooperation, empathy,
- development and equalizing of cultural competences of youth, including young people from neglected groups,
- intergenerational, inter-environmental, interregional and international integration,
- preparing for the participation in culture,
- development of talents and youth creativity,

No	Action	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Reformulating and implementing according to new rules the Interdepartmental Cultural Education Program	2004	MC, MNES and other ministries
2.	Launching the program <i>Artistic Patronage</i> supporting youth cultural education in schools, educational centres and cultural institutions,	2004	MNES, MC
3.	Developing a program helping youth to acquire skills of leisure time management	2003-2004	MNES, MC

¹¹ Strategy for Sport Development in Poland to the year 2012, Objectives and actions. MNES 2003

5) creating conditions for juvenile delinquents for their „returning” to life in the society,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Preparing the concept of rehabilitation activities for juvenile delinquents	2005 - 2006	Ministry of Justice (MJ), MNES, MIA

4 strategic objective

DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL YOUTH COOPERATION

Poland's accession to the European Union creates new possibilities for young people, both as regards access to education, culture and the labour market. It is necessary to create such conditions so that these possibilities are appropriately made use of.

Methods of realizing the objective:

- 1) preparing Polish youth and its tutors for intercultural contacts:
- popularizing foreign language learning,
 - disseminating principles of tolerance and respect for otherness,
 - popularizing knowledge about European culture and other cultures,
 - popularizing European programs for youth,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Supporting international youth cooperation	2003	MNES
2.	Preparing the project of the concept of developing and financing the cooperation and exchange of youth from European Union countries with youth from Central and Eastern European countries (not EU members)	2003-2004	MNES
3.	Supporting activities aimed at the participation of Polish youth in the European Youth Forum	2003- 2004	MNES

5 strategic objective

BUILDING A SYSTEM OF YOUTH INFORMATION

The open method of coordination, which was chosen for the realization of the Polish Youth Strategy, requires the creation of a good information network, which would be available for young people, their parents and teachers.

Methods of realizing the objective:

1) building a national database on:

- the Polish education system, particularly systemizing educational statistics,
- cultural infrastructure for youth; youth participation in culture; cultural needs and the degree of satisfying these needs (map of cultural poverty); effective cultural programs,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Designing a system of acquiring and preparing information about the education system	2004	MNES
2.	Building a national system of youth information compatible with „Eurodesk”	2004 -2005	MNES, Ministry of Scientific Research and Information Technology (MSI), Youth Program
3.	Regular extension of the accessibility to the European youth information program „Eurodesk”	2004	MNES, Youth Program

2) creating a strong centre for youth research and solving youth problems,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Applying the open method of coordination for the realization of the Polish Youth Strategy	2003	MNES
2.	Appointing the Ministry of National Education and Sport the interdepartmental coordinator of the Polish Youth Strategy	2003	MNES
3.	Preparing the concept of creating the National Plan for Youth Studies	2004	MNES

6 strategic objective

EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF ADULTS WORKING WITH YOUTH

Introducing changes to the education and vocational training of adults working with youth is a necessary condition for realizing the objectives of the *Polish Youth Strategy*.

Methods of realizing the objective:

1) changes in the system of teacher's education and vocational training:

- training teachers of foreign languages,
- introducing an obligatory module on working with a disabled pupil,
- providing teachers with computer science education,
- preparing teachers for using information technology,
- preparing teachers and youth workers to play the role of culture animators,

No	Actions	Beginning of execution	Executors
1.	Preparing a regulation on the standards of teacher training taking into account the need of training teachers in the field of: foreign languages, application of modern information and communication technologies, voice production, and also other educational areas	2003	MNES
2.	Regular encouraging teacher training centres to expand the offer of training in accordance with educational needs of the environment	2003	MNES
3.	Preparing a regulation on teacher training centres and a regulation on the accreditation of these centres including also long-distance learning courses	2003- 2004	MNES
4.	Training teachers to work with a computer and use computer science and the internet in teaching	constant work	MNES, local self-governments
5.	Preparing materials, including long-distance courses and educational computer programs for the self-learning of teachers ¹²	constant work	MNES
6.	Introducing the requirement of preparing newly employed teachers in accordance with the standard of training teachers in	2003	MNES

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	the field of information technology and computer science ¹³		
7.	Introducing the requirement of preparing all teachers employed in schools in accordance with the standard of training teachers in the field of information technology and computer science ¹⁴	2006	MNES
8.	Creating conditions for using the internet in teaching subjects other than computer science ¹⁵	constant work	MNES
9.	Preparing rules of standardisation and accreditation for long-distance learning courses ¹⁶	2004	MNES

V. POSSIBILITIES OF FUNDING

The **Strategy** covers programs addressed to youth and realized by different ministries. Due to the lack of detailed data on the amount of resources allocated for these programs, the financial forecast is based on estimated figures deriving from various expertises. According to these estimations, in Poland for actions defined in this document, the sum of circa 2 billion PLN is allocated, which accounts for ca 1% of the total expenses of the state budget for the year 2003.

It is assumed, that in the years 2004 – 2005, funds from the state budget for the realization of actions described in the **Strategy** will run at a similar level as in the year 2003. In the next years the amount of financial resources for the realization of actions of the **Strategy** will depend on the means of the state budget.

A significant source of financing youth programs are also funds of the local self-government. The level of financial resources allocated by units of local self-government for the realization of actions resulting from the **Strategy**, will depend on their budget means.

Additionally, actions in the field of sport and culture may be co-financed with special funds from extras of games being the state's monopoly, as well as from advertising of alcohol drinks.

Youth health care is executed within the framework of the general health insurance, according to principles defined in the Law of January 23rd, 2003 on general insurance in the National Health Fund (Law Journal No 45, pos. 391, with amendments).

The majority of actions defined in the **Strategy** will be able to find financial support in resources from the funds of the European Union Structural Funds.

The Sector Operational Program of Human Resources Development assumes that the education sector will receive support from the European Social Fund within the

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¹⁴ Strategy for implementing information technology in Poland - ePoland

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¹⁶ Strategy for implementing information technology in Poland - ePoland

framework of the realization of two actions included in the second priority ***Development of a knowledge based society***. These actions refer to:

- 1) equalizing educational chances of pupils for better access to the labour market,
- 2) education for information society,
- 3) development of vocational counselling and guidance,
- 4) improving the quality of education,
- 5) development of the education and vocational training system of school and academic teachers.

The Integrated Operational Programme for Regional Development, supplied also by the European Social Fund, which will be implemented on regional level, will allow, among others, for the funding of:

- 1) investments and renovation of the educational infrastructure,
- 2) organisation of training, courses, internships, vocational trainings aiming at raising qualifications or complementing the education level of habitants, particularly those from rural and restructuralised areas.

The European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund and funds from the state budget included in the Plan for the Development of Rural Areas and the Sector Operational Programme „Reconstruction and modernization of the food sector and development of rural areas“ will enable the funding of such actions as:

- 1) disseminating the system of structural pensions as an instrument of stimulating generational changes in agriculture (PDRA),
- 2) disseminating the program of enabling the start of young farmers (SOP).

Assuming that the actions of the ***Polish Youth Strategy*** are continued after the year 2012, it can be said that there will be a possibility of using financial resources from structural funds in successive financial periods of the European Union.