Israel

Is there a national youth policy?

NO

Israel has no national youth policy, but plans to create one. A 2009 briefing is available.

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

A EUROMED study (2009) states that while there is no official definition of youth in Israel, when the term is employed it often refers to those aged 13 to 18 years. 18 years is the age of conscription into the military for both females and males.

CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>Upper House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18 **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18 **</td>
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</tbody>
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Minimum marriageable age increased from 17 to 18 in November 2013. Family courts able to recognise marriage for 16 and above in special cases. Civil unions/partnerships legal. Source: The Times of Israel (4 November 2013), UNSD, ILGA.

VOTING AGE

18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: Israel Capacity and Guardianship Law 5722 (1962)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

12

Minimum Age


SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.75

18 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

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Both sexes (15-24) %

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Year: No data.

Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

98.07%

Secondary School

Both sexes %

96.61% 99.61%

Male %  Female %

Year: 2011

Source: UNESCO

PREVALENCE OF HIV

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Male (15-24) %

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Year: No data.

Source: World Bank

TOBACCO USE

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Both sexes (13-15) %

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Year: No data.

Source: WHO

POLICY & LEGISLATION

A planning document (2008) by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and a EUROMED study (2009) state that Israel has no national youth policy but plans to create one. And that efforts to establish a youth law - guaranteeing a dedicated budget for youth issues - have been inconclusive. The MoE planning document (2008) states that previous work on youth policy has focused on specific issues, such as preventing the use of drugs and alcohol by the Anti Drug Authority, preventing dropouts by the Ministry of Education, and preparing youth for military service by the Ministry of Defense. The MoE states that a national youth policy should cover all areas of life, determine the development, planning, budgeting and operation procedures of youth services, and detail the responsibilities of different ministries.

BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or
Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

YES

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

YES

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

UNCLEAR

No documentation on youth spending in Israel could be found online. According to the World Bank, Israel spent 13.46% of its government expenditure and 5.64% of its GDP on education provision in 2011.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

YES

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

Source: World Bank
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

Visit our library for further reading:
Documents about Israel

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

A report (2008) by the Ministry of Education’s (MoE) Social and Youth Administration unit states that Israel does not have a national level organisation with overall responsibility for establishing a complete and integrated view of youth policy or for coordinating the work different services working with young people. The same report states, however that at least 11 different ministries are involved in developing youth related programs and services. A study on youth policy in Israel (2009) reports that the MoE has a “Youth and Non-Formal Education Department”.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

Israel’s National Student and Youth Council is an elected body representing 700,000 young people. The council was established in 1993 and operates under the Ministry of Education. The Council is an umbrella organisation for all Israeli regional youth councils and student councils. According to their official Facebook page, the council participates in decision making in a range of ministries and bodies dealing with youth matters, including the Knesset (the legislative branch of the Israeli government), the Ministry of Education, and the Israeli Police.

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