Factsheet: Macedonia

Last update: 31 July 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

Macedonia’s national youth strategy (2005) defines youth as aged between 15 and 24 years, however also notes that “in light of the consequences of the socio-economic crisis” in Macedonia, those aged 24 to 30 years should also be considered.

Macedonia has a youth strategy and an action plan. A 2010 briefing and 2011 review have details.

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SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The aim of Macedonia’s National Youth Strategy (2005) is to “improve the general position and satisfy the needs and interests of the young people in the country”. To this end, the strategy focuses on four “action priorities” in the areas of education, employment, quality of life and participation.

The strategy is valid for 19 years, and the Agency for Youth and Sports, as well as “youth coordination associations”, are responsible for its implementation through actions plans, such as the one created in 2009. This plan lists objectives, estimated results, indicators, timetables and assigns responsibility to respective departments.

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PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Agency for Youth and Sports is responsible for activities relating to young people in Macedonia. As indicated in the National Youth Strategy (2005), the agency, along with representatives of youth coordination associations, is responsible for the implementation of the youth strategy. It is also mandated to form a National Management Committee with equal number of representatives from youth and relevant ministries, for the purpose of consultation and providing strategic direction on issues relating to youth.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

Two prominent national youth representation structures exist in Macedonia. The National Youth Council of Macedonia (NYCM) is a nationwide youth umbrella organization. NYCM was established in June 2013 to promote and advocate for youth rights.

The Coalition of Youth Organizations (SEGA) is a national organisation of youth groups and NGOs. It was established in 2004 “in order to contribute to the development and implementation” of the National Youth Strategy (2005) and is a co-author of the 2009 action plan alongside the Agency for Youth and Sports.

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to a 2011 youth policy review on Macedonia, the budget of the youth department within the Agency for Youth and Sports for 2009 was MKD 17.0 million (USD 380,739). More recent budget figures for the ministry could not be located. According to the World Bank, Macedonia spent 15.62% of its government expenditure and 3.50% of its GDP on education provision in 2002.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of GDP</th>
<th>% of Gov. Expenditure</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2013</td>
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Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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