Factsheet: Switzerland
Last update: 10 April 2014

Is there a national youth policy?

**YES**

Switzerland has a 2011 youth law and a 2008 youth policy strategy. A 2012 briefing was.

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**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

Switzerland has several definitions of youth. The Youth Law (2011) defines childhood and youth as kindergarten age to 30 years. The Youth Policy Strategy (2008) identifies youth promotion measures in cantons as being aimed at youth aged 16-25 years.

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**CANDIDACY AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>Upper House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MARRIAGEABLE AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Without Parental Consent</th>
<th>With Parental Consent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

- 0.8
  - 7 out of 170 countries.
  - Year: 2013
  - Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

**LITERACY RATES**

- Male (15-24) %
- Female (15-24) %

**NET ENROLMENT RATE**

- Secondary School:
  - Both sexes (15-24) %: 81.02%

**PREVALENCE OF HIV**

- Male (15-24) %
- Female (15-24) %

**TOBACCO USE**

- Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

**POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010**

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**CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- Minimum Age:
  - Male: 10
  - Female: 10

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**GDP PER CAPITA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>USD 84815.41</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>9.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>32.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Family, Generations and Society Domain of the Federal Social Insurance Office is responsible for youth affairs. Its main activities include coordination of the “Youth and Violence” prevention programme, provision of financial support to organisations working with young people, and as an organising partner of the annual Federal Youth Session.

The Youth Policy Strategy (2008) highlights that while the federal government has a role to play in youth policy, primary responsibility for implementation lies with the cantons and municipalities.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The Swiss National Youth Council (SNYC) is an umbrella organisation of 65 youth organisations. Their mission is “to generate possibilities for young people to participate in society as a whole and to develop into socially conscious, active citizens.”

The SNYC coordinates a series of projects including a training programme on physical and mental health, a project supporting migrant minors, and the “Youth Rep” scheme, which sends three young representatives to the UN. The SNYC also engages in political advocacy work on policy positions determined by members.

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to Budget Figures for Administrative Units 2014, CHF 2.2 million (USD 2.5 million) is allocated for Measures for the Protection of Youth, CHF 10.3 million (USD 11.8 million) for Encouragement for Children and Youth, and CHF 700,000 (USD 798,653) for Incentive Financing for Cantons for Children and Youth. Extensive devolution in Switzerland gives cantons control of tax revenues, and as such expenditure on youth in addition to federal funding varies by canton. According to the World Bank, Switzerland spent 15.94% of its government expenditure and 5.22% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

According to Budget Figures for Administrative Units 2014, CHF 13.2 million (USD 15.0 million) is allocated for youth programming.

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

Source: World Bank

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