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The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Turkey was founded in 2011 and is the central government authority for youth. The ministry plans, implements and monitors all youth services except for formal education. It organizes a wide range of youth activities, such as youth centres and camps, as well as an annual youth week. As part of its strategic plan (2013), the ministry also carries out studies on young people and seeks to develop mechanisms for the participation of youth in all areas of social life.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

Despite earlier commitments of the previous governmental authority for Youth and Sports to promote youth councils and the participation in decision-making, Turkey does not yet have a national youth council. The national youth policy (2013) recognizes this as a major shortcoming of the Turkish youth sector and supports “the participation of non-governmental organizations in the field of youth in policy-making processes.” An article by the European Youth Forum (2014), reports two initiatives – one by the ministry, one by civil society – to establish a youth council.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

According to the 2012 activity report of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, 13% of the Ministry’s TRY 80.8 million (USD 38.1 million) expenditure, or TRY 10.6 million (USD 5 million), was spent on youth services for 18.9 million young people. The strategic plan (2013-2017) foresees an expenditure of TRY 786.6 million (USD 371.4 million) for these four years. According to the World Bank, Turkey spent 8.55% of its government expenditure and 2.86% of its GDP on education provision in 2006.