

The
European and
International
Policy Agendas
on Children,
Youth and
Children's Rights

A Belgian
EU Presidency-Youth
Note



Foreword

Dear reader,

In recent years, various policy agendas on children, youth and children's rights have been adopted at European and international levels. For this reason the Belgian Presidency - Youth is making a document available to the EU Member States which provides an overview of these agendas. This overview must above all be transparent. To this end the document has been demarcated in four ways in terms of content:

1. Firstly, focus is placed on those agendas that are primarily oriented towards children, youth and/or children's rights.
2. Secondly, the analysis is restricted to policy agendas that aim to influence government policy.
3. Thirdly, the policy agendas scrutinised are those of the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.
4. Finally, the state of play concerns those policies to be taken into consideration by the EU Member States internally, thus excluding EU external policy from its ambit.

It is important for EU Member States to take note of the entry into force of the new provisions on the rights of the child in the Treaty on the EU (consolidated version of 2008, Art. 3.3(2)) and the specific provision on the rights of the child contained in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Art.24). Both entered into force on 1 December 2009 - 20 years after the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 20 November 1989), which was ratified by all EU Member States and all UN Member States, with the exception of the USA and Somalia.

That is why the significance of embedding these provisions into the EU's legal order is not to be underestimated. The main EU policy document on children's rights thus far has been the Communication from the European Commission of 4 July 2006 entitled "Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child" [COM (2006) 367 final]. Competence for youth matters has been embedded into the EU's legal order for even longer. In this context reference can be made to Article 6 of the consolidated version of the Treaty on the functioning of the EU.

The Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018) stipulates that the following general initiative should be considered in all the fields of action identified: *"including, where appropriate, a children's policy dimension, having regard to their rights and protection taking into account that the life and future prospects of young people are significantly determined by the opportunities, support and protection received during childhood"*. However, it should be noted that the European and international agendas on policy in respect of children, youth and children's rights are not always entirely clear to the Youth Council. Therefore, these (European and international) agendas need to be clarified. With this publication we make a contribution to this.

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Note:

European and International Policy Agendas on Children, Youth and Children's Rights: State of Play

This Presidency document describes the state of play of the European and international policy agendas on children, youth and children's rights.

The object of this overview is demarcated in four ways. First, the focus is on those agendas where a policy towards children, youth and/or children's rights is a primary rather than a subsidiary objective. Secondly, the analysis is restricted to agendas which aim to influence government policies. Thirdly, the document concerns those policies to be taken into consideration by the European Union Member States internally, thus excluding EU external policy from its ambit. Finally, the policy agendas scrutinized are those of the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.¹

The focus of this Presidency document is to portray the main policy document, i.e. the document that sets out the bases for relevant organisation's current and future policy on children (children's rights) or youth. Common to the different policy agendas analyzed – and inherent to the concept of “policy” – is their non-binding character. At European Union level, the main policy documents are a Communication from the European Commission (on children's rights) and a Resolution of the Council of Youth Ministers (on youth). The resolutions and decisions of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly are equally non-binding towards Member States.

It must be stressed that the scope of this document is limited, because only those agendas where children and youth are the main focus are included in the analysis. Such a restriction obscures the fact that a significant level of attention has been directed at children and youth issues for quite some time in other policy areas, such as poverty (e.g. at European Union level) and education (e.g. within UNESCO). In other words, by only paying attention to “horizontal policy”, the initiatives taken at the various “vertical policy levels” with respect to children, youth and children's rights remain hidden. There is therefore a risk of an unbalanced assessment of the “real” attention being given to the interests and rights of chil-

dren and youth within the three organizations. The personal field of application of the policy agendas is based on the criterion of age. At all three levels, children are coherently defined as human beings “below the age of eighteen years”, in accordance with Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. With respect to youth, the age limit varies among the three organizations. The concept of “youth” is respectively defined as comprising young people from 13 to 30 years (European Union), from 10-12 to 30 years (Council of Europe) and from 15 to 24 years (United Nations).

The discussion of the different policy agendas on children, youth and children's rights follows a similar structure:

- Legal basis
- Decision-making body
- Main policy document
 - Institution responsible for (monitoring) implementation
 - Time frame
 - Objectives of the policy agenda on children/youth
 - Agenda – Thematic priorities
 - Approaches, methods and instruments
 - References to policies on children (children's rights)/youth respectively

Where relevant, a succinct historical overview is included.

Children's rights are often divided into three groups, namely rights to protection, provision² and participation. In the assessment of the thematic priorities of each policy agenda, this classification of children's rights on the basis of the three Ps may function as a general framework of reference.

¹ Not included are, for instance, the initiatives of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

² The term “provision rights” inappropriately suggests that the obligations relating to social, economic and cultural rights are only about provision. It has, however, been broadly acknowledged that economic, social and cultural rights imply obligations to respect, to protect and to fulfill. The obligation to fulfill then consists of sub-obligations to facilitate, to promote and to provide.

Europe
Union

1. European Union

The European Union is an economic and political partnership between 27 European countries, with a central objective of providing peace, prosperity and freedom for its citizens in a fairer, safer world. The Union is founded on the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and the principles common to the Member States.³ European Union action must respect the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and should not encroach on the jurisdiction of the Member States.

1.1. EU policy agenda on children and youth: a renewed social agenda

In July 2008, the European Commission adopted a Communication on a “**Renewed social agenda**: Opportunities, access and solidarity in 21st century Europe.”⁴

1.1.1. OBJECTIVES

The renewed social agenda aims to ensure that European policies respond effectively to current societal changes, caused inter alia by technological advances, globalization and an ageing population. Three interconnected goals are set: creating opportunities, providing access, and demonstrating solidarity. Opportunities are generated through providing more and better jobs and improving mobility. To be able to make use of these opportunities, individuals need access to good quality education, social protection and health care services. Those individuals and regions that cannot cope with the accelerating social changes can count on the solidarity of the rest of European society.

1.1.2. AGENDA – THEMATIC PRIORITIES

One of the seven priorities of the renewed social agenda is “**Children and Youth – Tomorrow’s Europe**.”⁵ Children and youth are thus considered together here. The following initiatives are listed as part of the renewed social agenda:

- A Communication from the Commission on “Improving competences for the 21st Century: An Agenda for European Cooperation on Schools.”⁶
- A Green Paper on “Migration and Mobility: challenges and opportunities for EU education systems.”⁷
- A Communication from the Commission on developing the open method of coordination on youth: “An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering. A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities.”⁸ (see below)
- “Develop a more comprehensive approach to child poverty, based on quantitative targets ..., inspired by the European strategy on inclusion and social protection.”

1.1.3. APPROACHES, METHODS AND INSTRUMENTS

For the implementation of the renewed social agenda, the following instruments are identified: EU legislation; social dialogue; open methods of coordination; EU funding; partnership, dialogue and communication; and ensuring that all EU policies promote opportunities, access and solidarity.

1.2. EU policy agenda on children (children’s rights)

1.2.1. LEGAL BASIS

Article 24 of the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union** of 2000/2007 is devoted exclusively to children’s rights, and reads as follows:⁹

- Children shall have the right to such protection and care as is necessary for their well-being. They may express their views freely. Such views shall be taken into consideration on matters which concern them in accordance with their age and maturity.
- In all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions, the child’s best interests must be a primary consideration.
- Every child shall have the right to maintain

on a regular basis a personal relationship and direct contact with both his or her parents, unless that is contrary to his or her interests.

Article 32 of the Charter prohibits the employment of children. The Charter of Fundamental Rights became binding (gained treaty-level status) after the entry into force of the **Consolidated Version of the Treaty on European Union** (Treaty of Lisbon) on 1 December 2009. The Treaty of Lisbon put an end to the many years of debate on whether the European Union had any competence in the field of children's rights. Pursuant to Article 3 (3), paragraph 2, the European Union "shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and *protection of the rights of the child*."¹⁰

1.2.2. DECISION-MAKING BODY

EU Member States develop their own national policies on children and children's rights. At European Union level, decision-making in relation to children (children's rights) is in principle linked to the substantive field in which measures are taken, such as asylum and migration or education. Nonetheless, the Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2008) includes two explicit references to children. The European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, are competent to adopt measures for "combating trafficking in persons, in particular women and children"¹¹ and to establish minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions in the area of, among others, "trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of women and children."¹²

1.2.3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In its Communication on Strategic Objectives 2005-2009, the European Commission recognized children's rights as a main area of concern: "A particular priority must be effective protection of the rights of children, both against economic exploitation and all forms of abuse, with the Union acting as a beacon to the rest of the world."¹³ In March 2006, the European Council asked the Member States "to take necessary measures to rapidly and significantly reduce child poverty, giving all children equal opportunities, regardless of their social background."¹⁴

1.2.4. MAIN POLICY DOCUMENT

In July 2006, the European Commission issued the Communication "**Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child**".¹⁵ The communication was accompanied by an impact assessment¹⁶ and a preliminary inventory of European Union action affecting children's rights.¹⁷

• Institution responsible for implementation

Within the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice, Unit C1 "Fundamental Rights and the Rights of the Child" of Directorate C "Fundamental Rights and Union Citizenship" is responsible for children's rights. Within the Commission, there are various other structures to support the development of a children's rights policy, such as a Commission Inter-Service Group on Children's Rights, an Inter-Institutional Group, and the Commissioners Group on Fundamental Rights, Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunities.¹⁸

The European Forum on the Rights of the Child is a permanent group for the promotion of children's rights, which was established after the adoption of the 2006 Communication. The Forum is composed of a variety of members, namely Member States' representatives, Ombudspersons for children, and representatives of the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Council of Europe, UNICEF and NGOs. The task of the Forum is "to advise and assist the Commission and other European Institutions, in particular as regards mainstreaming of children's rights, and exchange information and good practice".

• Time frame

The Communication "Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child" was adopted on 4 July 2006. The actions proposed were to be carried out between 2006 and 2008, or "from 2007 onwards".

• Objectives

The 2006 Communication proposes to establish a comprehensive EU strategy to promote and protect the rights of the child and to sustain Member States' initiatives in this respect.

• Agenda – Thematic priorities

Seven specific objectives of the EU Strategy on Children's Rights were identified. Under each objective, various concrete actions are listed.

The seven objectives are:

- Capitalising on existing activities while addressing urgent needs
- Identifying priorities for future EU action
- Mainstreaming children's rights in EU actions
 - "The process will take into account work carried out under the Council of Europe Programme "Building a Europe for and with Children (2006-2008)"
- Establishing efficient coordination and consultation mechanisms
- Enhancing capacity and expertise on children's rights
- Communicating more effectively on children's rights
- Promoting the rights of the child in external relations¹⁹

• Approaches, methods and instruments

With respect to the means of implementation, the Commission guarantees the necessary human and financial resources. Sufficient attention will be paid to possible synergies, and every year a progress report is to be presented. In November 2009, a "state of play" report on the implementation of the European Union's Strategy on the Rights of the Child was drawn up.²⁰ A new Communication from the Commission on the EU Strategy is currently being drafted and is expected by November 2010.²¹

• References to youth (policies)

The 2006 Communication does not contain references to young people or youth policies.

1.3. EU policy agenda on youth

1.3.1. LEGAL BASIS

The **Treaty on European Union**, signed in Maastricht on 7 February 1992, included "youth" as a new policy area. Article 126(2) of the chapter "Education, vocational training and youth" of the EC Treaty (Maastricht consolidated version) stated that Community action shall be aimed at "encouraging the development of youth exchanges and of exchanges of socio-educational instructors."

Article 32 of the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union** of 2000/2007 differentiates between the rights of children and the rights of young people: whereas the employment of children is prohibited (see

above), "the minimum age of admission to employment may not be lower than the minimum school-leaving age, without prejudice to such rules as may be more favourable to young people and except for limited derogations." Young people must have "working conditions appropriate to their age and be protected against economic exploitation and any work likely to harm their safety, health or physical, mental, moral or social development or to interfere with their education."

The **Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**, which entered into force on 1 December 2009, enshrines EU competence in the field of youth in Article 6, which states that:

The Union shall have competence to carry out actions to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the Member States. The areas of such action shall, at European level, be:
(e) education, vocational training, youth and sport.

Article 165(2) of Title XII on "Education, Vocational Training, Youth and Sport" specifies that Union action shall be aimed at "encouraging the development of youth exchanges and of exchanges of socio-educational instructors", as already included in the Maastricht Treaty. However, it is added that Union action shall also aim at "encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe."²²

1.3.2. DECISION-MAKING BODY

Youth policies are in the first place developed at national level by the different EU Member States. At European Union level, a framework for co-operation has been established. The main decisions in this respect are taken by the Council of Youth Ministers. The meetings of the Council are prepared by the Working Party on Youth, which brings together representatives from the ministries of youth of the EU Member States.

1.3.3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Until 2001, the activities of the European Union in the youth field consisted mainly of the implementation of specific programmes. In 2001, the European Commission issued the White Paper entitled "A New Impetus for European Youth," which incorporated the results of a wide-ranging consultation exercise within the EU.²³ The White Paper proposed a new framework for European cooperation

in the youth field, based on two approaches: first, the application of the open method of coordination in the specific field of youth, and secondly, taking more account of the “youth” dimension in the development of other relevant policies, such as education, lifelong learning, mobility, employment and social integration, and combating racism and xenophobia. For the application of the open method of coordination, the European Commission suggested four thematic priority themes: participation, information, voluntary service among young people, and a greater understanding and knowledge of youth. In its Resolution of 27 June 2002, the Council of the European Union endorsed the Commission’s White Paper.²⁴ Common objectives on participation by and information for young people were adopted by the Council in 2003.²⁵

In 2004, the European Commission likewise proposed common objectives for a greater understanding and knowledge of youth²⁶ and for voluntary activities among young people.²⁷ In the years thereafter, the Council of the European Union issued various resolutions on the implementation of these common objectives.²⁸

In March 2005, the European Council adopted the **European Youth Pact** as an instrument to contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon goals of boosting jobs and growth. The Pact focused on three areas: employment, integration and social advancement; education, training and mobility; and reconciliation of working life and family life.²⁹ Among the measures to reconcile working life and family life, the improvement of child care facilities is explicitly mentioned. In November 2005, the European framework for cooperation in the youth field was updated to take the European Youth Pact into account.³⁰ This framework for cooperation was set to expire in 2009.

The Youth in Action programme 2007-2013 targets young people between 13 and 30 years. It promotes mobility, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people.

The **renewed social agenda**, which targets children and youth together as a priority, is discussed above.

In April 2009, the Commission presented a Communication entitled “**An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering. A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities.**”³¹ The Communication proposes a strategy for future youth policies in Europe, and invites Member States and the Commission to cooperate in the youth field through a renewed

open method of coordination. Adopting a cross-sectoral approach, the strategy seeks to empower young people to deal with a number of current challenges. On the basis of extensive consultation, the following challenges were identified as primordialy important: education, employment, social inclusion and health.

The EU’s vision for young people is based on two approaches: investing in youth, which means “putting in place greater resources to develop policy areas that affect young people in their daily life and improve their well-being” and empowering youth, which refers to “promoting the potential of young people for the renewal of society and to contribute to EU values and goals.” Particular attention should be paid to youth with fewer opportunities.

Based on the information provided in the 2009 EU Youth Report,³² the new long-term strategy contains three overarching and interconnected goals that are closely related to those of the renewed social agenda. Under each goal, two to three fields of action are suggested. Each field of action contains a short-term objective and a list of possible actions which can be undertaken by the Member States and the Commission within their respective spheres of competence. Every three years an assessment is to be carried out.

Hereinafter, the three central goals and their respective fields of action are listed, and references to children in the Communication are highlighted.

Goal 1: Creating more opportunities for youth in education and employment

- Field of action 1: Education
- Field of action 2: Employment
- Field of action 3: Creativity and Entrepreneurship

Goal 2: Improving access and full participation of young people in society

- Field of action 4: Health and sport
- Field of action 5: Participation

Goal 3: Fostering mutual solidarity between society and young people

- Field of action 6: Social inclusion
“Addressing youth at risk of poverty and social exclusion involves a wide range of policy fields and requires integrated action. In this context, child, family and youth policies are closely linked and this Communication is complementary to the Commission Communication ‘Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child’.”
- Field of action 7: Volunteering
- Field of action 8: Youth and the World

Adopting a cross-sectoral approach, it is noted that youth policies can contribute to delivering results in areas such as “child and family policy, education, gender equality, employment, housing and healthcare.”

1.3.4.

MAIN POLICY DOCUMENT

On 27 November 2009, the Council of Youth Ministers adopted a **Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)**. The Resolution is based on the Commission’s Communication of April 2009 “An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering.”

• Institution responsible for monitoring implementation

The European Commission’s Directorate-General for Education and Culture comprises two youth units within Directorate E, Youth and Sport. Unit E1 is in charge of youth policy aspects, whereas Unit E2 is responsible for the management of the Youth in Action Programme.

• Time frame

The renewed framework aims to cover the period 2010 – 2018.

• Objectives

The two overall objectives of the renewed framework of European cooperation in the youth field are: more and equal opportunities for all young people in education and in the labour market, and active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity of all young people.

• Agenda – Thematic priorities

The eight fields of action in which initiatives should be taken are:

- Education and training
- Employment and entrepreneurship
- Health and well-being
- Participation
- Voluntary activities
- Social inclusion
- Youth and the world
- Creativity and culture

• Approaches, methods and instruments

To achieve the aforementioned central objectives, a dual approach is proposed: specific initiatives in the youth field, “i.e. policies and actions specifically targeted at young people”,

and mainstreaming initiatives, “i.e. initiatives to enable a cross-sectoral approach where due account is taken of youth issues when formulating, implementing and evaluating policies and actions in other policy fields which have a significant impact on the lives of young people.”

European cooperation in the youth field is to be grounded in the international system of human rights. The following principles should be respected: promoting gender equality and combating discrimination; taking account of the diversity among young people; and “recognising all young people as a resource to society, and upholding the right of young people to participate in the development of policies affecting them by means of a continued structured dialogue with young people and youth organizations.”

Up to 2018, European cooperation in the youth field should be conducted by means of a renewed open method of coordination, and should be evidence-based, relevant and specific. The Resolution states that “[t]he success of the open method of coordination in the youth field depends on the political commitment of Member States and on effective working methods at national and EU level.” With respect to European cooperation, the working methods are based on a division of the period 2010-2018 in three work cycles. The first cycle covers the years from 2010 to 2012. For each cycle, several priorities for European cooperation will be selected which contribute to the aforementioned fields of action. These priorities for European cooperation “will be designed to allow for cooperation between all the Member States or for closer cooperation between a more limited number of Member States (clusters), in accordance with national priorities.”

For the effective implementation of the framework of cooperation, the following instruments are proposed:

- *Knowledge building and evidence-based youth policy:* Better knowledge and understanding of the living conditions, values and attitudes of young women and men should be gathered and shared with other relevant policy fields.
- *Mutual learning:* It offers the opportunity to identify and learn from good practices in different Member States.
- *Progress reporting:* The EU Youth Report is drawn up at the end of each work cycle, on the basis of national reports drawn up by the Member States.
- *Dissemination of results:* The results of the cooperation should be made widely known.
- *Monitoring of the process:* The Member States and the Commission will work closely

together in steering, taking forward and evaluating the process and its outcome.

- *Consultations and structured dialogue with young people and youth organizations:* The structured dialogue should be further developed. The themes of the dialogue should be in line with the overall objectives of European cooperation in the youth field and the priorities for each work cycle.
- *Mobilisation of EU Programmes and Funds:* Use should be made of available EU funds and relevant programmes.

In the Council Resolution, supporting and developing youth work are characterized as cross-sectoral issues.³³ The possible contribution of youth work to the achievement of the overall objectives of the framework should be further analyzed.

In accordance to the aforementioned, the Council invites the Member States to

- *Work together, with the support of the Commission and using the open method of coordination as outlined in this Resolution, to enhance European cooperation in the youth field in the period up to 2018 on the basis of the overall objectives, the fields of action, the dual approach, principles and implementation instruments described above, and of the priorities agreed for each work cycle.*
- *Adopt, on the basis of national priorities, measures at national level which can contribute to achieving the overall objectives outlined in the renewed framework, as well as consider whether inspiration can be drawn from mutual learning at EU level, when devising national policies in the youth field and other related policy areas.*³⁴

In Annex II to the Council Resolution, the priorities for European cooperation in the youth field for the first 18 months of the first work cycle are listed:

- 1 January 2010 - 30 June 2010:
Social Inclusion
- 1 July 2010 - 31 December 2010:
Youth Work
- 1 January 2011 - 30 June 2011:
Participation

In Annex III to the Resolution, more information is provided on the implementation of the structured dialogue at national and EU level.

• **References to children (children's rights) policies**

In Annex I to the Council Resolution, a series of initiatives are identified which can be taken by Member States and/or the Commission within their respective competences and respecting the principle of subsidiarity. In the

first part of Annex I, initiatives are proposed which should be considered in all fields of action. In the context of the present state of play, the following suggestion is particularly relevant:

*Including, where appropriate, a children's policy dimension, having regard to their rights and protection taking into account the fact that the life and future prospects of young people are significantly determined by the opportunities, support and protection received during childhood.*³⁵

- 3 Consolidated Version of the Treaty on European Union (2008), Art. 6.
- 4 COM(2008) 412 final.
- 5 The six other priorities of the renewed social agenda are: (i) investing in people, more and better jobs, new skills; (ii) mobility; (iii) longer and healthier lives; (iv) combating poverty and social exclusion; (v) fighting discrimination; and (vi) opportunities, access and solidarity on the global scene.
- 6 COM(2008) 425 final.
- 7 COM(2008) 423 final.
- 8 COM(2009) 200 final.
- 9 Article 14(3) of the Charter guarantees respect for “the right of parents to ensure the education and teaching of their children in conformity with their religious, philosophical and pedagogical convictions.” (emphasis added)
- 10 Emphasis added. According to Article 3 (3), para. 5 of the Consolidated Version of the Treaty on European Union (2008) the Union shall in its relations with the wider world contribute to “the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child.” However, as noted in the introduction, EU external policy is not included in this state of play.
- 11 Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2008) Art. 79(2) (d).
- 12 Ibid., Art. 83(1).
- 13 COM(2005) 12 final.
- 14 Presidency Conclusions of the European Council, Brussels, 22-24 March 2006 (7775/06), para. 72.
- 15 COM(2006) 367 final.
- 16 SEC(2006) 888.
- 17 SEC(2006) 889.
- 18 See S. RUXTON, “Using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to Implement Child Rights at EU level”, paper commissioned by the European Children’s Network (EURONET).
- 19 External EU policy falls outside the ambit of this state of play (see above).
- 20 <http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/children/docs/children_state_of_play_en.pdf>.
- 21 See the presentation by the European Commission at the “Europe de l’Enfance” expert conference on 9 September 2010 on the state of play of the upcoming communication on an EU-strategy for the rights of the child.
- 22 As regards vocational training policy, Union action shall aim to “facilitate access to vocational training and encourage mobility of instructors and trainees and particularly young people.” Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2008), Art. 166(2).
- 23 COM(2001) 681 final.
- 24 Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 27 June 2002, regarding the framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2002/C 168/02). For an evaluation, see the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 24 May 2005, meeting within the Council, on the evaluation of activities conducted in the framework of European cooperation in the youth field (2005/C 141/01).
- 25 Council resolution of 25 November 2003 on common objectives for participation by and information for young people (2003/C 295/04). See also COM(2003) 184 final.
- 26 COM(2004) 336 final.
- 27 COM(2004) 337 final.
- 28 Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 24 May 2005, meeting within the Council, on implementing the common objectives for youth information (2005/C 141/03); Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on implementing the common objectives for participation by and information for young people in view of promoting their active European citizenship (2006/C 297/02); Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 16 May 2007 on implementing the common objectives for voluntary activities of young people (2008/C 241/01) and Corrigendum (2008/C 292/06).
- 29 Presidency Conclusions of the European Council, Brussels, 22-23 March 2005 (7619/05), Annex 1.
- 30 Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on addressing the concerns of young people in Europe — implementing the European Pact for Youth and promoting active citizenship (2005/C 292/03). See also COM(2005) 206 final.
- 31 COM(2009) 200 final.
- 32 SEC(2009) 549 final.
- 33 Youth work is defined as “a broad term covering a large scope of activities of a social, cultural, educational or political nature both by, with and for young people”.
- 34 Emphasis added.
- 35 Emphasis added.

Council of Europe

2.

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is composed of 47 member countries, covering almost the whole European continent. Its basic objective is “to create a common democratic and legal area throughout the whole of the continent, ensuring respect for its fundamental values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.”

The **Warsaw Action Plan**, adopted by the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Warsaw in May 2005, identified the following as the main tasks of the Council of Europe in the years to come:

- Promoting common fundamental values: human rights, rule of law and democracy
- Strengthening the security of European citizens
- Building a more humane and inclusive Europe
- Fostering cooperation with other international and European organisations and institutions
- Implementing the Action Plan: a transparent and efficient Council of Europe

2.1. Council of Europe policy agenda on children (children’s rights)

2.1.1. LEGAL BASIS

The **European Convention on Human Rights** (ECHR) of 1950 sets out civil and political rights and freedoms. The rights of children are not specifically mentioned in the Convention. However, pursuant to Article 1, the Convention applies to everyone within the jurisdiction of the States Parties, and hence also to children. In an increasing number of cases brought before the European Court of Human Rights, issues involving children’s rights have been addressed.³⁶

The **European Social Charter** (ESC) was adopted in 1961 and revised in 1996. The Charter complements the ECHR by guaranteeing social and economic human rights. In the revised Charter, two provisions exclusively address children’s rights, namely Article 7 (the right of children and young persons to protection) and Article 17 (the right of children and

young persons to social, legal and economic protection). The European Committee of Social Rights monitors compliance by the States Parties with the ESC.

The European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was adopted in 1987. Other **Council of Europe conventions** address particular aspects of children’s rights, namely:

- European Convention on the Legal Status of Children born out of Wedlock (1975)
- European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and on the Restoration of Custody of Children (1980)
- European Convention on the Exercise of Children’s Rights (1996)
- Convention on Contact concerning Children (2003)
- Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (2007)
- European Convention on the Adoption of Children (Revised) (2008)

In the **Warsaw Declaration** of 2005, the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe declared their commitment to “eradicating violence against women and children, including domestic violence.” The **Warsaw Action Plan** states as regards the strengthening of human rights in the information society, that “[t]he Council of Europe shall ... continue its work on children in the information society, in particular as regards developing their media literacy skills and ensuring their protection against harmful content.” Also and more importantly, one of the goals catalogued under the third main task of the Council of Europe of “Building a more humane and inclusive Europe” in the Warsaw Action Plan is “Building a Europe for children”. The Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe stated:

We are determined to effectively promote the rights of the child and to fully comply with the obligations of the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of the Child. A child rights perspective will be implemented throughout the activities of the Council of Europe and effective coordination of child-related activities must be ensured within the Organisation.

We will take specific action to eradicate all forms of violence against children. We have therefore decided to launch a three-year programme of action to address the social, legal, health and educational dimensions of the various forms of violence against children. We shall also elaborate measures to stop the sexual exploitation of children, including legal instruments if appropriate, and involve civil society in this process. Coordination with the United Nations in this field is essential, particularly in connection with follow-up to the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

2.1.2.

DECISION-MAKING BODY

The decision-making body of the Council of Europe is the Committee of Ministers, which is composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all Council of Europe Member States or their permanent diplomatic representatives in Strasbourg.

2.1.3.

MAIN POLICY DOCUMENT

In response to the Warsaw Declaration and Action Plan, the programme “**Building a Europe for and with children**” (2006-2011) was launched, with two interlinked aims: the promotion of children’s rights and the protection of children from violence. On 27 November 2008, the programme Strategy for the years 2009-2011, also known as the **Stockholm Strategy**, was adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

• Institution responsible for implementation

The Children’s Rights and Family Policies Division falls under the Directorate of Social Affairs and Health of Directorate General III – Social cohesion of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe. The implementation of the programme “Building a Europe for and with children” is managed by a co-ordination unit of this Division. There is also an inter-sectoral task force, composed of representatives from the relevant Council of Europe secretariats.

• Time frame

The Stockholm Strategy contains the programme “Strategy for the years 2009-2011”.

• Objectives

The aims of the Stockholm Strategy are twofold: to support the implementation of international standards on children’s rights by the Council of Europe Member States, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and to introduce a child rights perspective in all policies and activities of the Council of Europe and to support such an approach within the Member States.

• Agenda – Thematic priorities

The five strategic objectives of the Stockholm Strategy are:

- *Mainstreaming* of children’s rights in all Council of Europe policy areas and coordination of all its activities. As a priority, the child rights perspective should be integrated into the policy areas of democracy, media, family policies and health.
- Promotion of children’s *access to justice*.
- Eradication of all forms of *violence against children*. At European level, the Council of Europe will function as the forum for follow-up to the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General’s study on violence against children.
- *Participation* of children and their influence in society.
- Special focus on *particularly vulnerable children*, namely children without parental care, children with disabilities, and children in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

• Approaches, methods and instruments

According to the Stockholm Strategy, the central characteristics of the working methods should be mainstreaming, transversal work, co-ordination, integrated approaches, co-operation and communication.

Various initiatives have been taken to implement the Strategy. For instance, to further the strategic objective of eradicating all forms of violence against children, the Council of Europe Policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence were adopted in November 2009.³⁷ With respect to the promotion of children’s access to justice, the Council of Europe is currently drafting Guidelines on child-friendly justice. In May 2009, the Group of Specialists on child-friendly justice issued the fifth draft of these guidelines.³⁸

• References to youth (policies)

Within the Council of Europe, the Stockholm Strategy of the Programme “Building a Europe

for and with Children” makes two explicit references to the youth sector. First, as part of the strategic objective of the participation of children and their influence in society, it is stated that the Council of Europe should “reinforce cooperation between children’s rights programme and the youth sector, building upon the youth sector’s expertise in the field of participation and making use of the platform offered by the European Youth Forum.” Furthermore, in the final chapter on “Partners”, it is mentioned that the Council of Europe will develop and consolidate partnerships with, among others, professional networks, in particular in the fields of education, justice, social services, health and youth.

2.2. Council of Europe policy agenda on youth

2.2.1. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The Council of Europe has already been active in the youth field for a long time. In 1972, the European Youth Centre was established in Strasbourg. In 1998, the Committee of Ministers adopted a resolution on the Youth Policy of the Council of Europe.³⁹

2.2.2. LEGAL BASIS

In the **Warsaw Action Plan of 2005**, the third principal task of “Building a more humane and inclusive Europe” includes the objective of “developing youth cooperation.” The Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe declared the following in this respect:

We will intensify our efforts to empower young people to actively participate in democratic processes so that they can contribute to the promotion of our core values. The Council of Europe Youth Centres and the

European Youth Foundation are important instruments to this effect. We will integrate a youth perspective into all Council of Europe activities. To promote diversity, inclusion and participation in society, we have decided to launch a Europe-wide youth campaign, in the spirit of the “European Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance” (1995).

The Council of Europe will further develop its unique position in the youth field. It will continue to assist member states in developing national and local policy instruments and actively promote youth exchanges and youth mobility in Europe.⁴⁰

In July 2009, a motion for a recommendation on “[initiating] a process of drafting, ratifying and implementing of a Convention on Youth Rights” was tabled in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, following a European Youth Forum initiative.⁴¹ The motion was accepted for remittance to the Subcommittee on Youth and Sport, which appointed Ms Elvira Kovacs as rapporteur to deliver a report on the issue for the attention of the Parliamentary Assembly.

2.2.3. DECISION-MAKING BODY

Typical of the Council of Europe, and unique at international level, is the system of co-management employed in the policy field of youth, with the aim of enhancing youth participation. Such co-management implies that representatives of youth organizations and government officials together reflect on the priorities for the youth sector and formulate policy proposals. The Committee of Ministers then adopts these proposals. Specifically, the following decision-making bodies may be distinguished (see Figure 1):

- *The European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) is composed of government officials, who represent the state institutions responsible for youth matters in the 50 States Par-*

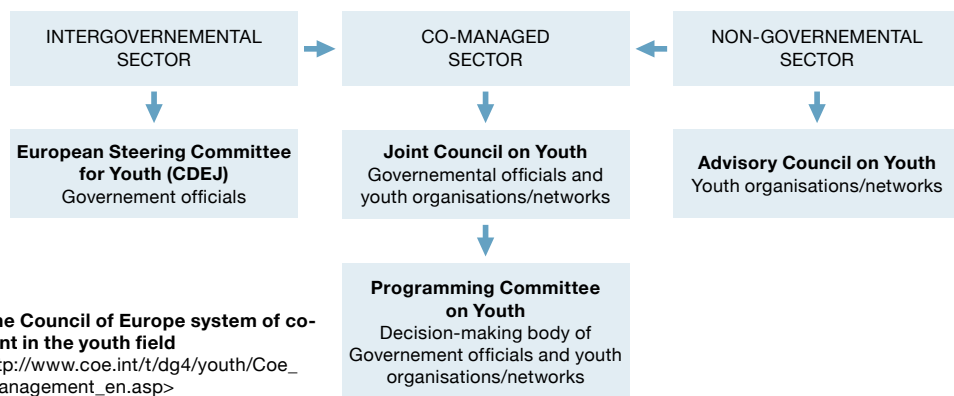


Figure 1: The Council of Europe system of co-management in the youth field
Source: <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Coe_youth/co_management_en.asp>

- ties to the European Cultural Convention;
- *The Advisory Council on Youth* consists of 30 representatives of youth organizations and networks, who give input with respect to all youth sector initiatives of the Council of Europe;
 - *The Joint Council of Youth* brings the CDEJ and the Advisory Council on Youth together in a co-decision body to agree on the priorities, aims and budgets for the youth sector;
 - *The Programming Committee on Youth* brings together eight members each of the CDEJ and the Advisory Council on Youth in a “subsidiary co-decision body”, to decide and follow up on the activities of the European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation.

2.2.4. MAIN POLICY DOCUMENT

On 25 November 2008, the Committee of Ministers adopted a new **resolution on the youth policy of the Council of Europe**.⁴² This resolution takes account of various prior documents, namely the Warsaw Action Plan, the Final Declaration adopted by the 8th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, held in Kyiv (Ukraine) in October 2008,⁴³ and the Recommendation of the Parliamentary Assembly of 2008 on “Refreshing the youth agenda of the Council of Europe.”⁴⁴

• Institution responsible for implementation

The Directorate of Youth and Sport, which forms part of Directorate General IV – Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe, is responsible for the implementation of the Council of Europe youth policy. The Directorate “elaborates guidelines, programmes and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local, national and European levels.”

• Time frame

The time frame for the new Council of Europe youth policy is not strictly determined; the resolution of the Committee of Ministers sets out the beacons of youth policy “for the coming years.”

• Objectives

According to the 2008 Resolution, the general objective of the Council of Europe’s youth policy is “to provide young people – girls and boys, young women and young men – with equal opportunities and experience which en-

able them to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society.” The cross-sectoral dimension of youth policy is emphasised, together with the importance of the participation of young people in the formulation and implementation of and follow-up to such policy.

• Agenda – Thematic priorities

The priorities of the Council of Europe youth policy and action are:

- Human rights and democracy, with special emphasis on
 - ensuring full enjoyment of human rights
 - promoting young people’s active participation in democratic processes and everyday lives
 - implementing gender equality and preventing gender-based violence
 - promoting awareness education and action on the environment and sustainable development
- Living together in diverse societies, with special emphasis on
 - empowering young people to promote cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue
 - preventing and counteracting racism and discrimination
 - supporting initiatives with regard to conflict prevention and management, as well as post-conflict reconciliation
 - supporting youth work with young refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons
 - encouraging sub-regional youth cooperation in Europe and beyond
 - encouraging young people to promote global solidarity and cooperation
- Social inclusion of young people, with special emphasis on
 - supporting the integration of excluded young people
 - ensuring young people’s access to education, training and working life, particularly through the promotion and recognition of non-formal education/learning
 - supporting young people’s transition from education to the labour market
 - supporting young people’s autonomy and well-being, as well as their access to decent living conditions
 - ensuring young people’s equal access to cultural, sporting and creative activities
 - encouraging intergenerational dialogue and solidarity.

• Approaches, methods and instruments

To implement these priorities, the following approaches, methods and instruments are proposed:

- As regards youth policy development and co-operation:
 - Intergovernmental and international co-operation
 - Service to countries
 - Co-operation with the European Union
 - Partnerships with other stakeholders
 - Co-management
- As regards youth work, education and training:
 - Multilateral youth co-operation
 - Working with multipliers and supporting quality youth work
 - Intercultural learning
 - European Youth Centres and European Youth Foundations
- As regards youth research and knowledge of youth:
 - Youth research and cooperation between youth researchers and policy makers in order to promote evidence-based youth policies
 - Carrying out of studies and production of publications
 - Development of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

The Joint Council on Youth adopted the programme of the youth sector for the period 2010-2012 “Developing European youth co-operation through youth policy, youth work

and non-formal education/learning”, which is composed of the following projects:

- Project N°1: “Human rights and democracy: youth policy and youth work promoting the core values of the Council of Europe”-
- Project N° 2: “Living together in diverse societies: youth policy and youth work promoting intercultural dialogue”
- Project N° 3: “Social inclusion of young people”
- Project N° 4: “Policy approaches and instruments benefiting *young people and children*” (concerns mainly intergovernmental co-operation)

For each project, the Joint Council on Youth established the priorities to be applied in 2011, which are available online.⁴⁵

• References to children (children’s rights) policies

The 2008 Resolution on the youth policy of the Council of Europe contains two explicit references to children. The preamble states that a dynamic youth policy is needed, “which includes children as well as young people.” Moreover, the Committee of Ministers resolves that “coordination between child- and youth-related activities should be further enhanced.”

NOTES

36 In the *Theseus Database*, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights relevant to children is analyzed. See <http://www.coe.int/t/transversalprojects/children/caselaw/CaseLawChild_en.asp>.

37 Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10, Appendix 1.

38 C.J.-S.-CH (2010) 9 E.

39 Resolution CM/Res(98)6 on the Youth Policy of the Council of Europe. See also, among others, Recommendation 1585 (2002) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on youth policies in the Council of Europe.

40 Emphasis added.

41 Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Doc. 11984.

42 Resolution CM/Res(2008)23 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe.

43 Final Declaration: “The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: Agenda 2020”, adopted by the 8th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, held in Kiev (Ukraine) on 10 and 11 October 2008.

44 Recommendation 1844(2008) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on Refreshing the youth agenda of the Council of Europe.

45 <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Coe_youth/Priorities_2010_en.asp>.

United
Nations

3.

United Nations

The United Nations is an international organization composed of 192 Member States, committed to maintaining international peace and security and promoting better living standards and human rights.

3.1. UN policy agenda on children (children's rights)

3.1.1. LEGAL BASIS

As long ago as 1924, the League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations, adopted the **Geneva Declaration** of the Rights of the Child. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 paid attention to the particular needs of children, providing in its Article 25 that “[m]otherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance.” In 1959, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the **Declaration on the Rights of the Child**, which consisted of ten principles.⁴⁶

At the thirtieth anniversary of this Declaration, on 20 November 1989, the United Nations **Convention on the Rights of the Child** (CRC) was adopted by the General Assembly and opened for signature.⁴⁷ The CRC is a legally binding instrument, setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children. As of May 2010, there were 193 States Parties to the CRC, turning it into the most universally ratified human rights convention. In 2000, the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography were adopted.⁴⁸ The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols provide a comprehensive normative framework against which to evaluate the policy agendas on children (and youth).

• Institution responsible for monitoring implementation

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the CRC and its two Optional Protocols. The Committee clarifies its interpretation of the provisions contained in the CRC by issuing general comments.

• Time frame

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted in 1989, while its Optional Protocols were adopted in 2000.

• Objectives

The four core principles of the CRC are non-discrimination (Art. 2); the best interests of the child (Art. 3), survival and development (Art. 6) and respect for the views of the child / participation (Art. 12).

• Agenda – Thematic priorities

In its general guidelines regarding the form and content of initial reports⁴⁹ and periodic reports⁵⁰ to be submitted by States Parties, the Committee on the Rights of the Child has grouped the articles of the Convention into eight clusters:

- General measures of implementation (Arts. 4, 42 and 44(6))
- Definition of the child (Art. 1)
- General principles (Arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12)
- Civil rights and freedoms (Arts. 7, 8, 13-17 and 37 (a))
- Family environment and alternative care (Arts. 5, 9-11, 18(1) and (2); 19-21, 25, 27(4) and (39))
- Basic health and welfare (Arts. 6, 18(3), 23, 23, 26 and 27(1)-(3))
- Education, leisure and cultural activities (Arts. 28, 29 and 31)
- Special protection measures (Arts. 22, 30, 32-36, 37 (b)-(d), 38, 39 and 40)

• Approaches, methods and instruments

States Parties undertake to submit to the Committee reports on the measures they have adopted to implement the rights protected by the CRC, initially within two years of the entry into force of the Treaty, and thereafter every five years.⁵¹ The Committee gives its feedback to the States Parties in the form of concluding observations. Until now, there has not been any mechanism for bringing individual complaints before the Committee on the Rights of the Child. However, particular complaints about violations of children's rights

can be submitted to other human rights treaty bodies that are competent to examine such individual complaints.⁵² Moreover, in 2009 the Human Rights Council decided to establish an Open-ended Working Group “to explore the possibility of elaborating an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to provide a communications procedure complementary to the reporting procedure under the Convention.”⁵³ On the basis of the report of the Open-ended Working Group, the Human Rights Council mandated the Working Group in March 2010 to elaborate an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to provide a communications procedure.⁵⁴

Two conventions of the **International Labour Organization** (ILO) address the issue of child labour: ILO Convention No. 138 concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973) and ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999). In a recent study, the ILO warned that progress in putting a halt to the worst forms of child labour is slowing down, and that renewed energy must be invested.⁵⁵ In response, on 11 May 2010, more than 450 delegates from 80 countries agreed on a so-called roadmap, which characterizes the effective abolition of child labour as a “moral necessity.”

3.1.2. DECISION-MAKING BODY

Within the United Nations system, the General Assembly is the main policymaking organ. It comprises all 192 Member States of the United Nations.

3.1.3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In 1989, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted (see below). At the **World Summit for Children** of 1990, two policy documents were adopted: the **World Declaration** on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and a **Plan of Action** for implementing this Declaration in the 1990s.⁵⁶ The political leaders committed themselves to a ten-point programme to safeguard the rights of children and improve their living conditions. These ten points of action can be summarized as follows:

- Promote ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Enhance children’s health
- Take measures to eradicate hunger, malnu-

trition and famine

- Strengthen the role of women, promote maternal health and family planning
- Work for respect for the role of the family
- Provide basic education and reduce illiteracy
- Improve the plight of children in especially difficult circumstances
- Protect children during armed conflicts
- Work towards common measures to protect the environment
- Work towards the alleviation of poverty and the revitalization of economic growth.

In 1996, a mid-decade review of the progress on implementation of the World Summit Declaration and Action Plan was carried out.⁵⁷ In 2001, the Secretary-General presented his report “We the Children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children.”⁵⁸ Some 155 countries had drafted national programmes of action aimed at implementing the goals of the World Summit for Children, and more than 100 states had carried out monitoring surveys.

In 2000, world leaders adopted the **United Nations Millennium Declaration**, which called for the full implementation of the CRC and its Optional Protocols and set out a series of time-limited targets to be achieved by 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals.⁵⁹ Some of these goals exclusively concern children, namely goal 2 concerning universal primary education and goal 4 concerning child health. The achievement of the other goals will also have a beneficial influence on the well-being of children.

- **Goal 1:** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- **Goal 2:** Achieve universal primary education
 - Target 1: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
- **Goal 3:** Promote gender equality and empower women
 - Target 1: *Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015*
- **Goal 4:** Reduce child mortality
 - Target 1: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
- **Goal 5:** Improve maternal health
- **Goal 6:** Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- **Goal 7:** Ensure environmental sustainability
- **Goal 8:** Develop a global partnership for development

3.1.4.

MAIN POLICY DOCUMENT

At the special session of the UN General Assembly on children in 2002, the document **“A world fit for children”** was adopted.

World leaders stressed their commitment to complete the unfinished agenda of the World Summit and to create a world fit for children, which was described as follows:⁶⁰

A world fit for children is one in which all children get the best possible start in life and have access to a quality basic education, including primary education that is compulsory and available free to all, and in which all children, including adolescents, have ample opportunity to develop their individual capacities in a safe and supportive environment. We will promote the physical, psychological, spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive and cultural development of children as a matter of national and global priority.

• Institution responsible for monitoring implementation

Within the United Nations system, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is “the driving force that helps build a world where the rights of every child are realized” (see Annex).⁶¹

• Time frame

The resolution on “A world fit for children” was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 May 2002. Depending on the goals, specific time frames are set. The general time frame is “the decade ahead” (2002-2012).

• Objectives

The following principles and objectives are listed:

- Put children first
- Eradicate poverty
- Leave no child behind (no discrimination)
- Care for every child
- Educate every child
- Protect children from harm and exploitation
- Protect children from war
- Combat HIV/AIDS
- Listen to children and ensure their participation
- Protect the Earth for children

• Agenda – Thematic priorities

The following priority areas of action were identified:

- Promoting healthy lives

- Providing quality education
- Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence⁶²
 - General protection
 - Protection from armed conflict⁶³
 - Combating child labour
 - Elimination of trafficking and sexual exploitation of children
- Combating HIV/AIDS

• Approaches, methods and instruments

The primary responsibility for the implementation of the Plan of Action comprised in the document “A world fit for children” lies with each country. To implement the Plan of Action contained in the document “A world fit for children”, substantial additional resources are needed. A number of targets and goals are set to mobilize such resources. Priority attention is to be given to the most vulnerable children, and new partnerships must be concluded. Also, corporate social responsibility is encouraged. Finally, a commitment is expressed to “ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation” between the United Nations and other multilateral bodies.

• References to youth (policies)

In “A world fit for children”, there are some references to “young people”. One of these references recognizes the right of children and adolescents to participate, according to their age and maturity.⁶⁴ In spite of that, no further connection with the youth sector or youth policies is established.

3.2. UN policy agenda on youth

3.2.1.

LEGAL BASIS

In 1965, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples.⁶⁵

According to this non-binding instrument, young people shall be brought up “in a spirit of peace, justice, mutual respect and understanding” (Principle I) and “in the knowledge of the dignity and equality of all men, without distinction as to race, colour, ethnic origins or beliefs” (Principle III). Associations of young people are encouraged to promote the purposes of the United Nations (Principle V).

3.2.2.

DECISION-MAKING BODY

Within the United Nations system, the General Assembly is the main policymaking organ. It comprises all 192 Member States of the United Nations.

3.2.3.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In 1979, the Assembly decided to designate 1985 as the **International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace**.⁶⁶ The year offered a “useful and significant opportunity for drawing attention to the situation and the specific needs and aspirations of youth, for increasing co-operation at all levels in dealing with youth issues, for undertaking concerted action programmes in favour of youth and for improving the participation of young people in the study, decision-making processes and resolutions of major national, regional and international problems.”⁶⁷

In the **Millennium Declaration**, young people are explicitly mentioned under the first goal of eradicating poverty and hunger, namely in its target 2: “Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.”

3.2.4.

MAIN POLICY DOCUMENT

At the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year, in 1995, the United Nations strengthened its commitment towards young people by adopting the **World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY)**.⁶⁸ The WPAY is the key instrument of global youth policy, providing “a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people.”

- **Institution responsible for monitoring implementation**

The United Nations Programme on Youth is in charge of monitoring progress and constraints in achieving the goals of the WPAY. The Programme resides under the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (see Annex). The Programme on Youth has issued various publications on youth, including the Guide to the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth of 2006 and the World Youth Reports.⁶⁹

- **Time frame**

The WPAY is divided into three phases. The first phase included the drafting of the WPAY and its adoption by the UN General Assembly. The second phase concerned world-wide implementation by 2000. In the third and current phase, from 2001 to 2010, the focus is on “further implementation and evaluation of progress made and obstacles encountered”; and suggestions should be formulated as regards “appropriate adjustments to long-term objectives and specific measures to improve the situation of young people.”

- **Objectives**

The Programme of Action “focuses in particular on measures to strengthen national capacities in the field of youth and to increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people for full, effective and constructive participation in society.”

- **Agenda – Thematic priorities**

On the basis of a cross-sectoral approach, ten priority areas for youth development are identified in the WPAY, namely, education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women and the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making. The WPAY includes various references to “children and youth” and “street children” and refers to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the context of the protection of girls and young women from economic exploitation and hazardous work. Nevertheless, no structural links with policies on children’s rights have been established.

The World Youth Report 2003 examined the global situation of young people.⁷⁰ In the first ten chapters, the different priority areas of the WPAY were reviewed. In the five following chapters, more recent issues were addressed. These new themes were thereafter formally acknowledged by the UN General Assembly as additional priority areas for youth development: globalization, information and communication technology (ICT), HIV/AIDS, armed conflict, and intergenerational issues.⁷¹

In the World Youth Report 2005, “Young People today, and in 2015”, these fifteen priority areas were grouped into three clusters, “representing the broad contexts in which today’s youth deal with challenges and concerns that many of them share in spite of the vast differences in their cultures, societies and communities.”⁷² The first cluster “youth in the global economy” includes the topics of globalization,

education, employment, and hunger and poverty; the second cluster “youth in civil society” comprises the issues of environment, leisure, participation in decision-making, intergenerational relations, and ICT; whereas the last cluster “youth and their well-being” focuses on concerns relating to health, HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, the situation of girls and young women, and youth in armed conflict.

In 2007, the UN General Assembly adopted the **Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond**, which expanded on the five additional priority areas.⁷³ The Supplement contains various references to “children and youth”. Interestingly, with respect to armed conflict, a series of proposals for action aims at “protecting youth under age 18 from direct involvement in armed conflict”, and is thus in fact limited to a specific age group within youth that coincides with the international definition of “children”, i.e. under the age of 18.

• Approaches, methods and instruments

According to the WPAY, “[i]mplementation of the Programme of Action is ultimately the responsibility of Governments with the support of the international community and in cooperation, as appropriate, with the non-governmental and private sectors.” In such implementation, Governments “should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes.” As regards the implementation of the WPAY at national level, the Programme (moreover) urges or calls on governments to

- Formulate and adopt an integrated national youth policy as a means of addressing youth-related concerns;
- Undertake special efforts to develop and disseminate model frameworks for integrated policies and to identify and organize an appropriate division of responsibilities among governmental and non-governmental entities concerned with youth-related issues.
- Strengthen national capacities for data collection and dissemination of information, research and policy studies, planning, implementation and coordination.
- Establish or strengthen national coordinating mechanisms for integrated youth policies and programmes.

In a 2007 report by the Secretary-General, the advancements and difficulties as regards the participation of young people in the global economy were analyzed.⁷⁴ In its resolution on “Policies and programmes involving youth:

youth in the global economy”, the UN General Assembly formulated various recommendations towards Member States in this respect.⁷⁵ A 2009 report by the Secretary General focused on the implementation of the two other clusters, the well-being of youth and their role in civil society.⁷⁶ Again, the UN General Assembly extracted various policy recommendations from this report with respect to the eleven priority areas:⁷⁷

In December 2009, the UN General Assembly decided to proclaim the year commencing on 12 August 2010 the **International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding**, inter alia to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Youth Year of 1985.⁷⁸ In this respect, the Member States are invited “to build on the synergies among the activities to be carried out at the national, regional and international levels during the Year and to promote actions at all levels aimed at disseminating among young people the ideals of peace, freedom, progress, solidarity and dedication to the objectives and goals of progress and development, including the Millennium Development Goals.” Member States are also requested to support all activities related to the Year, including by means of voluntary contributions.

• References to children (children’s rights) policies

The World Programme of Action for Youth contains some references to “street children” and “children and youth”, but no links with policies on children (children’s rights) are established.

- 46 UN Doc. A/4354.
- 47 UN Doc. A/44/49.
- 48 UN Doc. A/RES/54/263.
- 49 UN Doc. CRC/C/5.
- 50 UN Doc. CRC/C/58/Rev.1.
- 51 CRC, Art. 44(1).
- 52 *These are the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.*
- 53 UN Doc. A/HRC/11/L.3.
- 54 UN Doc. A/HRC/13/L.5.
- 55 *Accelerating action against child labour. Report of the Director-General, International Labour Conference, 99th session, 2010, ILO/10/19.*
- 56 UN Doc. A/45/625, Annex.
- 57 UN Doc. A/51/256.
- 58 UN Doc. A/S-27/3.
- 59 UN Doc. A/RES/55/2.
- 60 UN Doc. A/RES/S-27/2, Annex.
- 61 <http://www.unicef.org/about/who/index_introduction.html>.
- 62 *The independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, presented his report in October 2006 (UN Doc. A/61/299) and a progress report in October 2007 (UN Doc. A/62/209). In November 2007, the United Nations General Assembly established the post of Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children (UN Doc. A/RES/62/141).*
- 63 *A report on the impact of armed conflict on children was presented in 1996 by Graça Machel, an independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General (UN Doc. A/51/306). In December 1996, the United Nations General Assembly established the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (UN Doc. A/RES/51/77).*
- 64 *“Children, including adolescents, must be enabled to exercise their right to express their views freely, according to their evolving capacity, and build self-esteem, acquire knowledge and skills, such as those for conflict resolution, decision-making and communication, to meet the challenges of life. The right of children, including adolescents, to express themselves freely must be respected and promoted and their views taken into account in all matters affecting them, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.” (para. 32)*
- 65 UN Doc. A/RES/2037. *For evaluation on the implementation of the Declaration, see UN Doc. A/RES/43/136.*
- 66 UN Doc. A/RES/34/151.
- 67 UN Doc. A/RES/40/14.
- 68 UN Doc. A/RES/50/81.
- 69 *The World Youth Report 2003 examined the global situation of young people. The World Youth Report 2005 was entitled “Young People today, and in 2015.” The World Youth Report 2007, “Young people’s transition to adulthood: Progress and challenges,” provided a regional overview of the challenges faced by young people in the different priority areas. The World Youth Report 2009 on youth and climate change is due to be published soon.*
- 70 UN Doc. A/58/79-E/CN.5/2003/4.
- 71 UN Doc. A/RES/58/133.
- 72 UN Doc. A/60/61-E/2005/7. *See also UN Doc. A/RES/60/2.*
- 73 UN Doc. A/RES/62/126.
- 74 UN Doc. A/62/61-E/2007/7. *See also UN Doc. A/62/61/Add.1–E/2007/7/Add.1, elaborating on goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy.*
- 75 UN Doc. A/RES/62/162.
- 76 UN Doc. A/64/61-E/2009/3.
- 77 UN Doc. A/RES/64/130.
- 78 UN Doc. A/RES/64/134.

Annex

Annex: European and international policy agendas

	FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE	
	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	EUROPEAN UNION
Legal basis		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000/2007) Article 3 (3), para. 2 of the Consolidated Version of the Treaty on European Union (2008)
Decision-making body		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For trafficking and sexual exploitation of children: European Parliament and Council For other measures that impact on children (children's rights): linked to the substantive field
Main policy document		Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child
Type of document	Convention (binding)	Communication of the European Commission (non-binding)
Institution responsible for (monitoring) implementation	United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child	Unit C1 Fundamental Rights and the Rights of the Child of the Directorate C Fundamental Rights and Union Citizenship in the Directorate General Justice of the European Commission (+ other structures)
Time frame	Adopted 20 November 1989, entry into force 2 September 1990	Adopted 4 July 2006 Actions to be implemented between 2006 and 2008, or "from 2007 onwards"
Objectives of policy on children('s rights)	Core principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-discrimination (Art. 2) Best interests of the child (Art. 3) Survival and development (Art. 6) Respect for the views of the child (Art. 12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and protect children's rights in European Union internal (and external) actions Support the efforts of Member States in this field
Agenda (Thematic priorities)	Clusters of articles for reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General measures of implementation Definition of the child General principles Civil rights and freedoms Family environment and alternative care Basic health and welfare Education, leisure and cultural activities Special protection measures 	Specific objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capitalising on existing activities while addressing urgent needs Identifying priorities for future EU action Mainstreaming children's rights in EU actions Establishing efficient coordination and consultation mechanisms Enhancing capacity and expertise on children's rights Communicating more effectively on children's rights Promoting the rights of the child in external relations
Approaches, methods and instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports of the States Parties to the Committee on the Rights of the Child No individual complaint mechanism (optional protocol is being drafted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Necessary human and financial resources Attention to possible synergies Progress report every year
References to young people and/or youth policies	No references to young people or youth policies	No references to youth (policies)
Cooperation with other policy levels		The Commission will strengthen cooperation among the main stakeholders, making optimal use of existing networks and international organisations or bodies involved in children's rights. To this end, the Commission will bring the stakeholders together in a European Forum for the Rights of the Child. The Forum will include all the relevant stakeholders (including Member States, UN agencies, the Council of Europe, civil society and children themselves), and will contribute to the design and monitoring of EU actions and act as an arena for the exchange of good practice.
Responsibilities of States Parties / Appeal to the Member States	Undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation	To take an active part in the development of the Strategy on the Rights of the Child and so contribute to its success

on children, youth and children's rights: State of Play

POLICY AGENDAS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE	UNITED NATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Convention on Human Rights (1950) • European Social Charter (1961/1996) • Council of Europe conventions relevant to children • Warsaw Declaration and Action Plan (2005) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and two Optional Protocols (2000) • ILO Convention No. 138 concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973) • ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999)
Committee of Ministers	United Nations General Assembly International Labour Conference (on child labour)
Programme "Building a Europe for and with children 2009-2011: the Stockholm strategy"	A world fit for children (Above, the CRC is used as general policy reference)
Decision of the Committee of Ministers (taken at meeting of Ministers' Deputies) (non-binding)	Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly (non-binding)
Children's Rights and Family Policies Division of the Directorate of Social Affairs and Health of Directorate General III – Social cohesion of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe (+ inter-sectoral task force)	United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF
Adopted 27 November 2008 For the period 2009-2011	Adopted 10 May 2002 The decade ahead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the implementation of international standards on children's rights by the Council of Europe MS, in particular the CRC • To introduce a child rights perspective in all policies and activities of the Council of Europe and to support such an approach within the Member States 	<p>Principles and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put children first • Eradicate poverty • Leave no child behind (no discrimination) • Care for every child • Educate every child • Protect children from harm and exploitation • Protect children from war • Combat HIV/AIDS • Listen to children and ensure their participation • Protect the Earth for children
<p>Strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming and coordination • Promotion of access to justice • Eradication of violence against children • Participation • Special focus on particularly vulnerable children: children without parental care; children with disabilities; children in poverty/social exclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Education • Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General protection - Protection from armed conflict - Combating child labour - Elimination of trafficking and sexual exploitation of children • HIV/AIDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming • Transversal work • Coordination • Integrated approaches • Cooperation • Communication 	<p>Mobilizing resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority attention to world's most vulnerable children • New partnerships • Encourage corporate social responsibility • Greater policy coherence and better cooperation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council of Europe should "reinforce cooperation between children's rights programme and the youth sector, building upon the youth sector's expertise in the field of participation and making use of the platform offered by the European Youth Forum" • The Council of Europe will develop and consolidate partnerships with professional networks, in particular in the fields of, among others, youth. 	Various references to "young people", but no references to youth policies
"The Council of Europe will develop and further consolidate partnerships with key international stakeholders, in particular with the European Union, including the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Fundamental Rights Agency and intergovernmental bodies such as l'Europe de l'Enfance and ChildONEurope and the United Nations (notably Unicef, OHCHR, WHO, Unesco)."	"We resolve to ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies, and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as other multilateral bodies and civil society, with a view to achieving the goals of the present Plan of Action"
	<p>... if possible by the end of 2003, national and, where appropriate, regional action plans with a set of specific time-bound and measurable goals and targets based on the present Plan of Action...</p> <p>We encourage States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to consider including in their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child information on measures taken and results achieved in the implementation of the present Plan of Action</p>

POLICY AGENDAS ON YOUTH			
	EUROPEAN UNION	COUNCIL OF EUROPE	UNITED NATIONS
Legal basis	Arts. 6 and 165.2 of the Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2008)	Warsaw Action Plan (2005)	Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples (1965)
Decision-making body	Council of Youth Ministers	Committee of Ministers, supported by a system of co-management between the following institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) • The Advisory Council on Youth • The Joint Council of Youth • The Programming Committee on Youth 	United Nations General Assembly
Main policy document	<i>Council resolution 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field</i>	<i>Resolution CM/Res(2008)23 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe</i>	<i>World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAV)</i>
Type of document	Resolution of the Council of Youth Ministers (non-binding)	Resolution of the Committee of Ministers (non-binding)	Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly (non-binding)
Time frame	2010-2018	Not specified ("for the coming years")	1995-2010
Objectives of youth policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create more and equal opportunities for all young people in education and in the labour market, and • To promote the active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity of all young people. 	To provide young people – girls and boys, young women and young men – with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen national capacities in the field of youth • To increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people for full, effective and constructive participation in society
Agenda (Thematic priorities)	Fields of action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and training • Employment and entrepreneurship • Health and well-being • Participation • Voluntary activities • Social inclusion • Youth and the world • Creativity and culture 	Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights and democracy, with special emphasis on human rights • participation • gender equality and gender-based violence • environment and sustainable development <p>Living together in diverse societies, with special emphasis on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue • racism and discrimination • conflict prevention and management, as well as post-conflict reconciliation • youth work with young refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons • sub-regional youth cooperation in Europe and beyond • global solidarity and cooperation <p>Social inclusion of young people, with special emphasis on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integration of excluded young people • access to education, training and working life • transition from education to the labour market • young people's autonomy and well-being, as well as access to decent living conditions • cultural, sporting and creative activities • intergenerational dialogue and solidarity 	Priority areas (2000): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Employment • Hunger and poverty • Health • Environment • Drug abuse • Juvenile delinquency • Leisure-time activities • Girls and young women • Full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making Additional priority areas (2007): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalization • Informations and communications technology • HIV/AIDS • Armed conflict • Intergenerational issues

<p>Approaches, methods and instruments</p>	<p>Dual approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific initiatives in the youth field • Mainstreaming initiatives <p>Method:</p> <p>Renewed open method of coordination</p> <p>Instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge building and evidence-based youth policy • Mutual learning • Progress reporting • Dissemination of results • Monitoring of the process • Consultations and structured dialogue • Mobilisation of EU Programmes and Funds 	<p>Approaches, methods and instruments:</p> <p>As regards youth policy development and cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergovernmental and international cooperation • Service to countries • Cooperation with EU • Partnerships with other stakeholders • Co-management <p>As regards youth work, education and training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilateral youth cooperation • Working with multipliers and supporting quality youth work • Intercultural learning • European Youth Centres and European Youth Foundations <p>As regards youth research and knowledge of youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth research and cooperation between youth researchers and policy makers in order to promote evidence-based youth policies • Carrying out of studies and production of publications • Development of European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy 	<p>Means of implementation:</p> <p>At national level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See "appeal to member states" <p>Regional cooperation</p> <p>International cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection and dissemination of information • Research and policy studies • Planning and coordination • Technical cooperation, training and advisory services • Outreach and partnership among specialized constituencies
<p>References to policies on children('s rights)</p>	<p>Preamble:</p> <p>"Recalling the Renewed Social Agenda which targets youth and children as a main priority"</p> <p>Annex 1, general initiatives:</p> <p>Including, where appropriate, a children's policy dimension, having regard to their rights and protection taking into account that the life and future prospects of young people are significantly determined by the opportunities, support and protection received during childhood</p>	<p>Preamble:</p> <p>"Convinced of the need for a dynamic youth policy in the Council of Europe, which includes children as well as young people"</p> <p>Text:</p> <p>"co-ordination between child- and youth-related activities should be further enhanced"</p>	<p>Some references, mainly to "street children" and "children and youth", but no links with policies on children('s rights).</p>
<p>Cooperation with other policy levels</p>	<p>Cooperation with international organizations such as the Council of Europe, OECD and the United Nations should be continued</p>	<p>As regards youth policy development and cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergovernmental and international cooperation on the development of youth policy, with particular focus on setting standards and supporting their implementation • Cooperation with the European Union 	<p>See means of implementation "international cooperation"</p>
<p>Appeal to the Member States</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together to enhance European cooperation in the youth field • Adopt, on the basis of national priorities, measures at national level which can contribute to achieving the overall objectives outlined in the renewed framework, as well as consider whether inspiration can be drawn from mutual learning at EU level, when devising national policies in the youth field and other related policy areas. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate and adopt an integrated national youth policy • Develop and disseminate model frameworks for integrated policies and identify and organize an appropriate division of responsibilities among governmental and non-governmental entities concerned with youth-related issues • Strengthen national capacities for data collection and dissemination of information, research and policy studies, planning, implementation and coordination. • Establish or strengthen national coordinating mechanisms for integrated youth policies and programmes.

COLOFON

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