

# **Report on the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth (SWAP) Survey**

## **Why a SWAP Survey?**

Amongst the three actions outlined by the Secretary-General for youth development is the preparation of a United Nations system wide action plan on youth to deepen the youth focus of existing United Nations system programmes. To seek inputs from youth and other relevant stakeholders for the development of the System-wide Action Plan on Youth, The Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development conducted an on-line survey in July-August 2012.

## **Survey Structure**

The survey was conducted in French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and English. The survey contained questions on each of the five priority areas of the action plan, as identified by the Secretary-General. The five priority areas are: Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education including education on sexual and reproductive health, Political inclusion, Citizenship and protection of rights. The survey asks the respondents to identify major challenges for each priority theme and then asks them to suggest possible solutions.

## **Profile of the respondents**

In total, 13,500 people have participated in the survey, of these 69% used the English version; 6% used the French version; 11% used the Spanish version; 3% used the Arabic version; 9% used the Chinese version and 2% used the Russian version. In total 53% of the contributors were female whereas 46% were male (other 1%). About two-thirds of the respondents were under 30. (1.2% was under 15; 11.3% were between 15 and 18; 37.4% were between 19 and 24; 26.3% were between 25 and 29; 12.2% were between 30 and 35; 11.7% were older than 36).

## **Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Suggested Solutions**

Respondents identified lack of financial literacy and business skills (50.2%) and lack of access to financial services, including loans, savings, and equity and youth friendly financial products (49.9%) as the most important challenges for youth entrepreneurship.

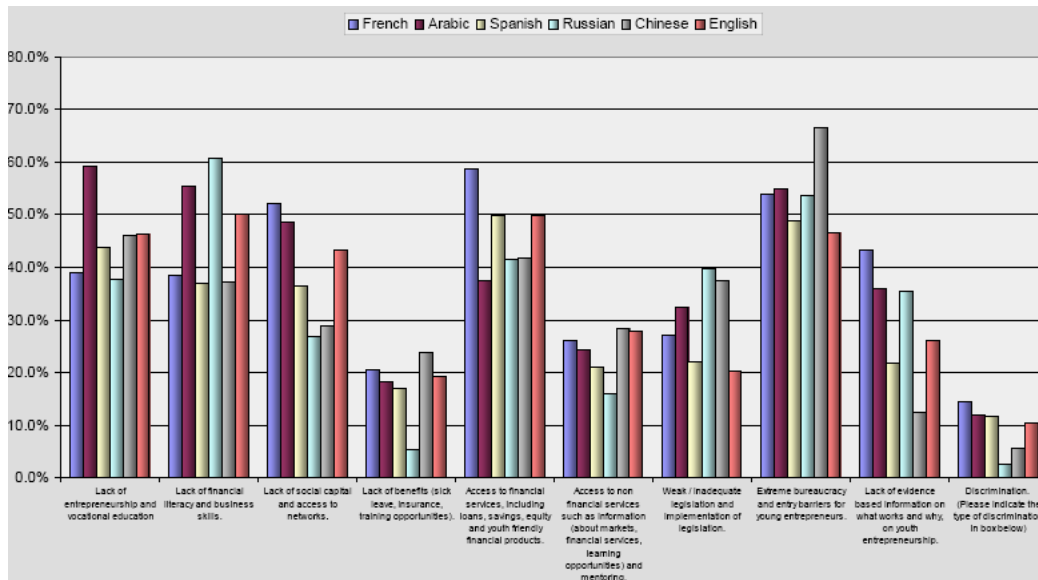


Table 1: What are the most Important Challenges/Issues Related to Youth and Entrepreneurship?

They suggested the establishment/ improvement of entrepreneurship training, including through the development of entrepreneurship education curricula in schools (53.2%) and provisions for easier access to financial services, including loans, savings, and other youth friendly financial products (52,1%) as the most important steps to overcome those challenges.

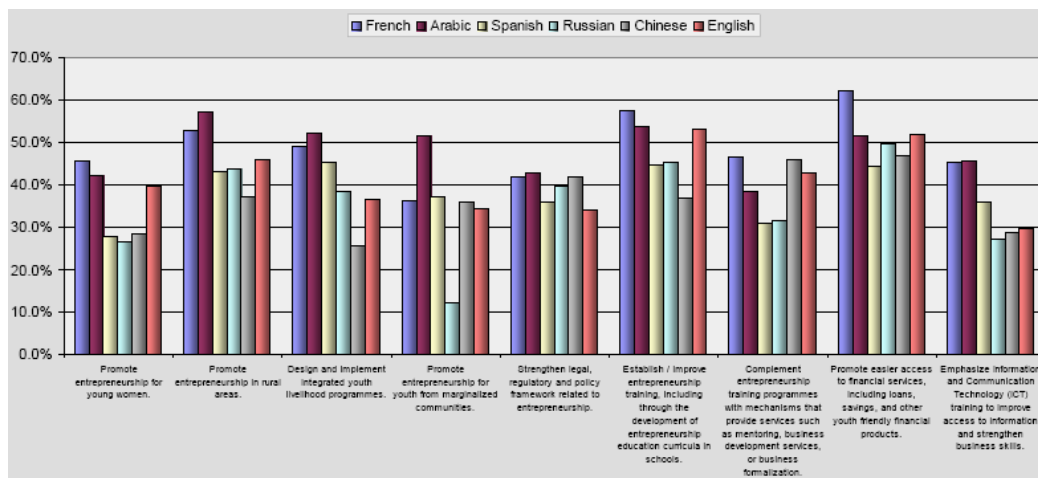


Table 2: What Should Be Done to Promote Youth Entrepreneurship?

## Employment: Challenges and Suggested Solutions

Respondents identified lack of job opportunities (62.2%) and the miss-match between education/training and labour market need (58.8%) as the most important challenges for youth employment.

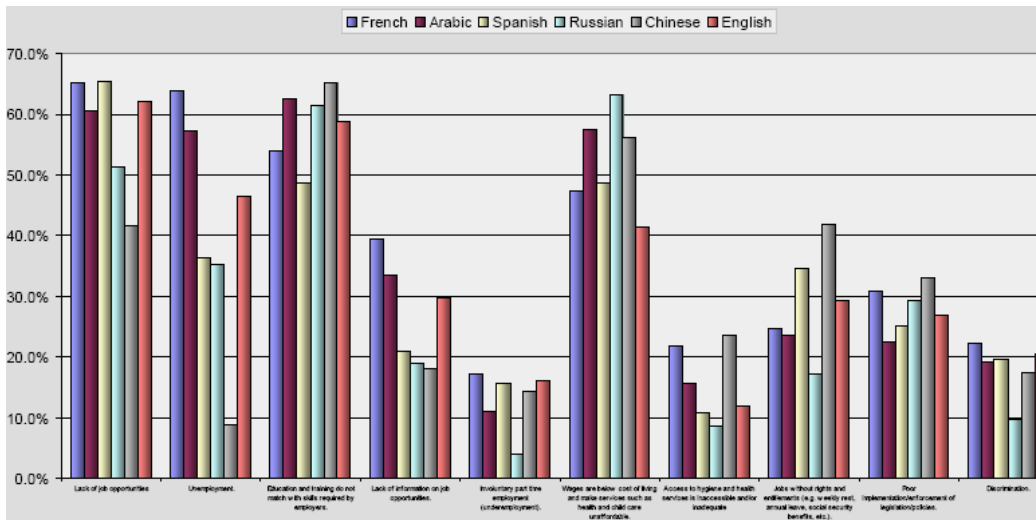


Table 3: What are the most Important Challenges/Issues Related to Youth and Employment?

They suggested the provision/improvement of training and vocational education in the classroom and the workplace, such as internships, volunteering and on the job training schemes (64.3%), and development, implementation and evaluation of specific policies and strategies on decent work for youth, including in the green economy (49.6%) as the most important steps to promote youth employment.

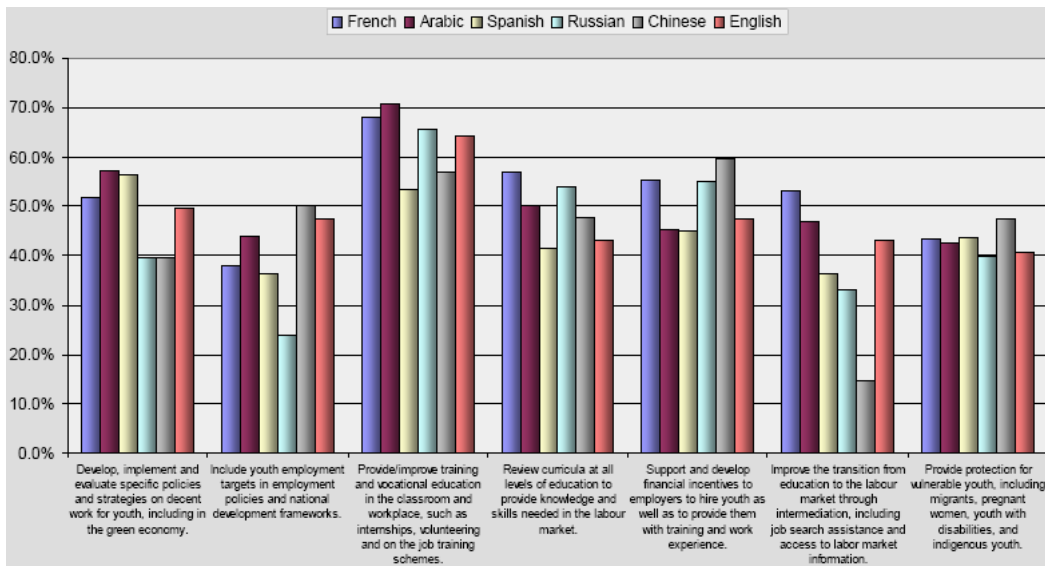


Table 4: What Should Be Done to Promote Youth Employment?

## Education, including sexual and reproductive health education: Challenges and Suggested Solutions

Respondents identified the poor quality and availability of education, especially for those from the poorest households or households with the lowest socioeconomic status (59.2%), and poorly linked curriculum to the

knowledge and skills needed for work (57.1%) as the most important challenge for youth education.

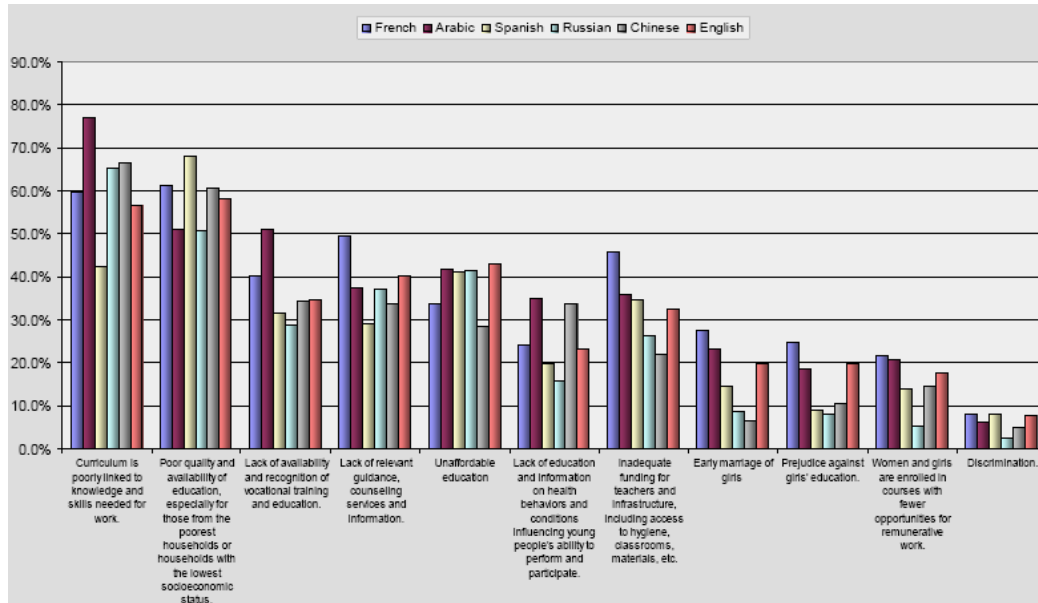


Table 5: What are the most Important Challenges/Issues related to Youth and Education?

They suggested supporting initiatives enabling a smooth transition from education to the labour market, including workplace training (i.e. mentorships, apprenticeships) as elements of formal education (55.2%), and incorporating peace, human rights, gender equality, global citizenship and cross-cultural awareness into curricula of formal and non-formal education (48.9%) as the most important steps to ensure education for youth.

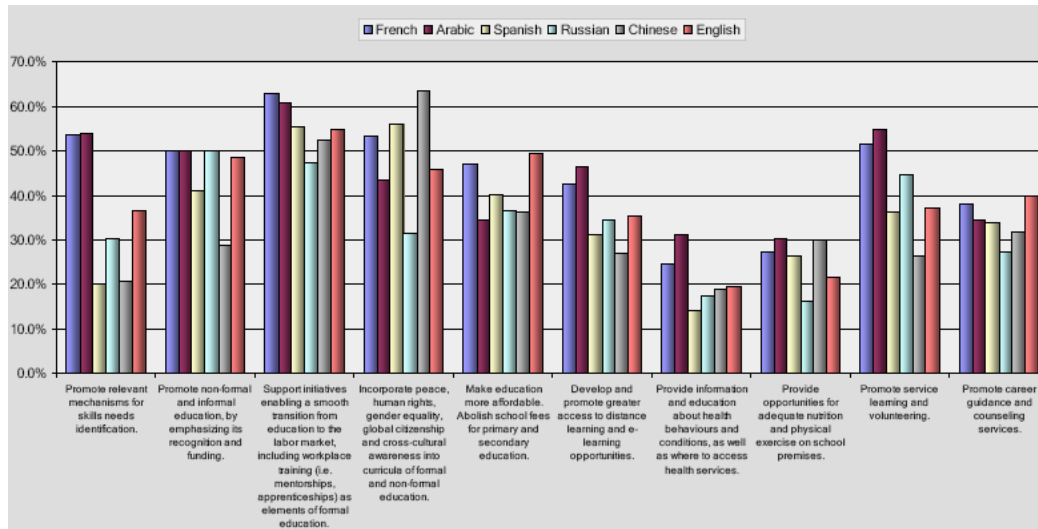


Table 6: What Should Be Done to Promote Youth Education?

In regards to education on sexual and reproductive health, participants underlined that the lack of effective curricula and learning/teaching materials for comprehensive sexuality education (59.6%), and inadequate training of the

teachers and health-care workers to deliver comprehensive sexuality education towards youth (56%) as the main challenges to be tackled.

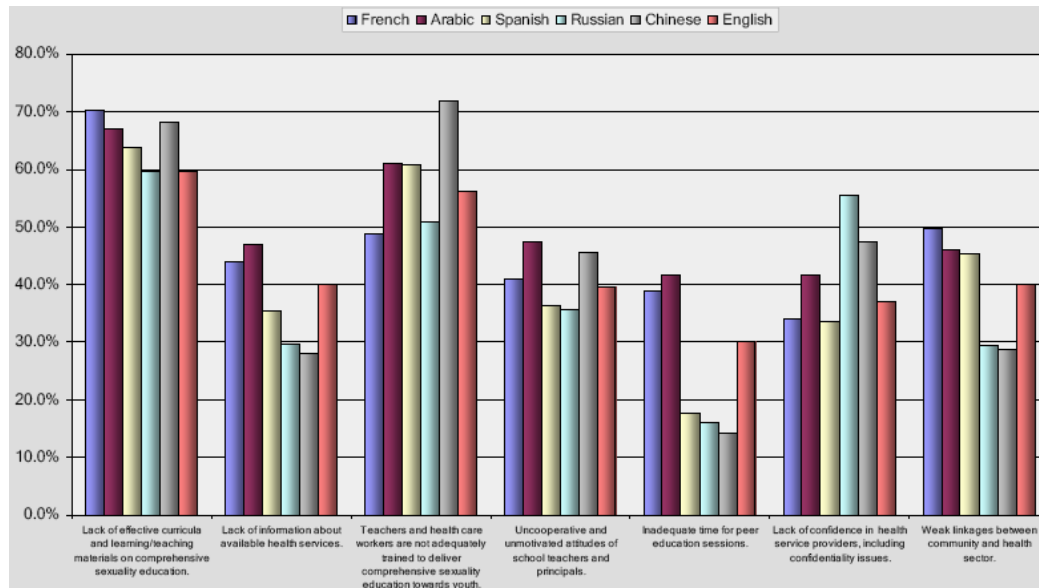


Table 7: What are the most important Challenges/Issues related to Youth and Education on Sexual and Reproductive Health?

They put forward suggestions to strengthen content, quality and coverage of comprehensive sexuality education, including information on family planning and contraception (58,7%), and identified making comprehensive sexuality education a mandatory part of primary and secondary school curricula (51,3%) as the most important actions to ensure effective sexual and reproductive health education for youth.

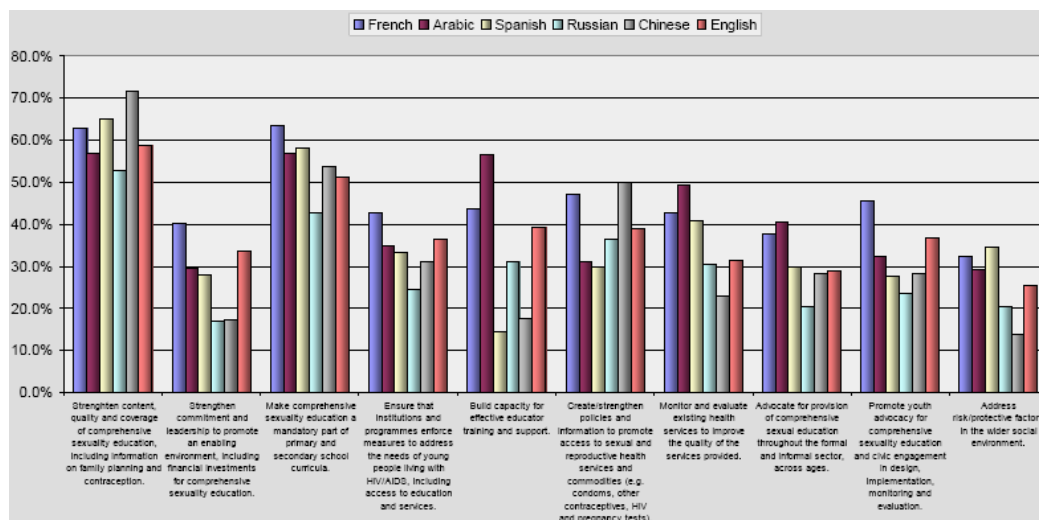


Table 8: What Should Be Done to Promote Education on Sexual and Reproductive Health?

### Citizenship: Challenges and Suggested Solutions

Respondents highlighted limited opportunities for the effective participation of youth in decision making, including lack of youth participation structures at the

community and national level (70.2%), and the lack of trust between youth and government institutions and political parties (61.6%) as the main challenges for young people in the area of citizenship.

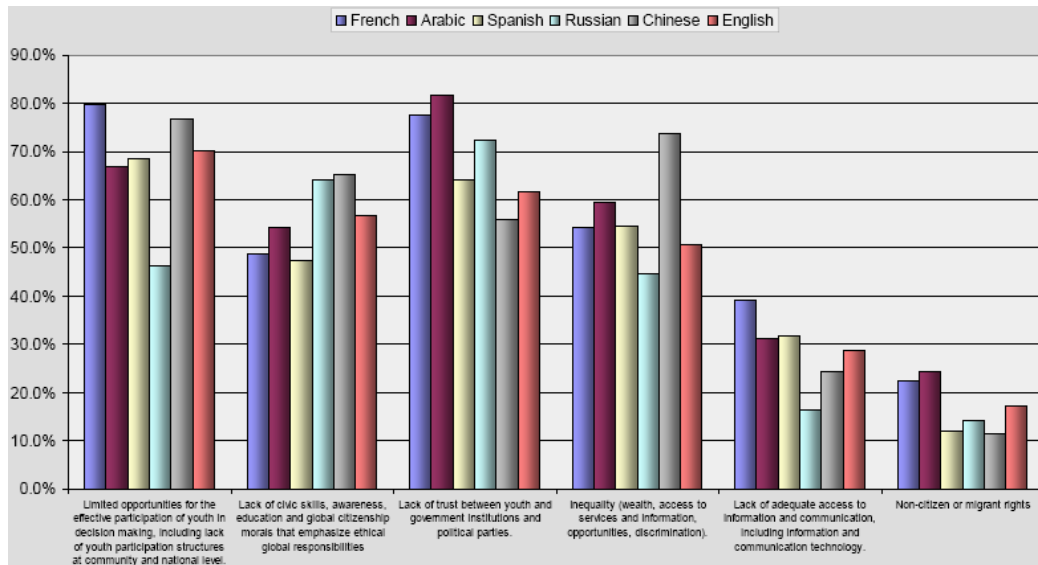


Table 9: What are the most important Challenges/Issues Related to Youth and Citizenship?

They recommended promoting and improving the quality of global citizenship through civic education on human rights, civic engagement, gender equality, peace and sustainable development, in both formal and non-formal education systems (70.1%), and promoting global, regional, and national youth volunteering schemes to engage youth (59.5%), as the most important actions to be taken to tackle these challenges.

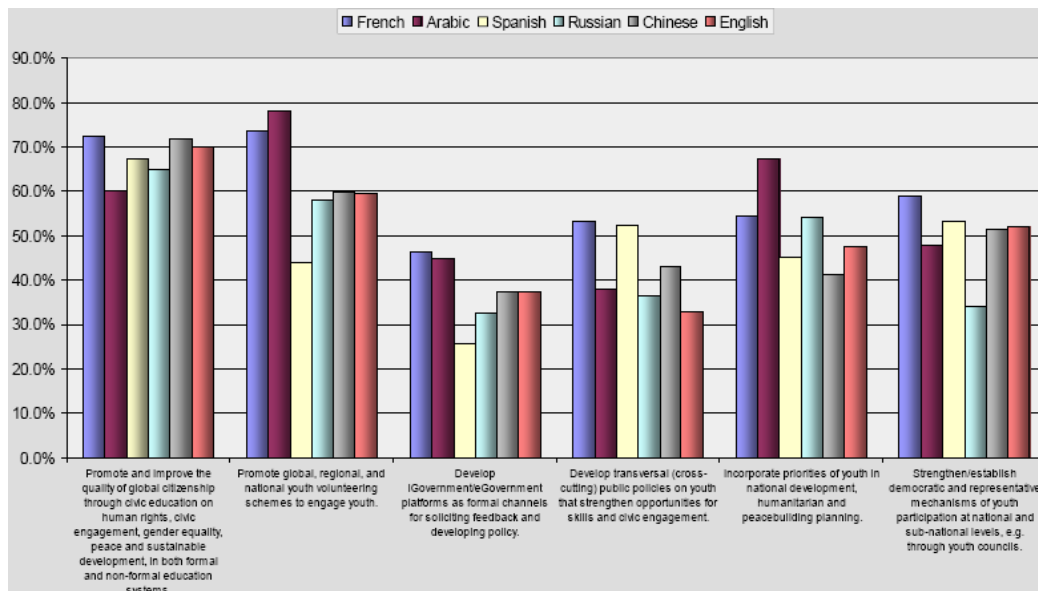


Table 10: What Should Be Done to Address Youth and Citizenship?

## Protection of Rights: Challenges and Suggested Solutions

Poverty (58.1%) and lack of awareness about human rights (57.2%) were identified as top challenges to protect young people's rights. Participants proposed to increase awareness and implement programmes about human rights, and improve access to youth-friendly information about rights and how to exercise them (72.3%), and increase support for mechanisms and programmes that promote human rights and prevent human rights violations, such as national human rights institutions (59.1%) as the key interventions for the protection of youth rights.

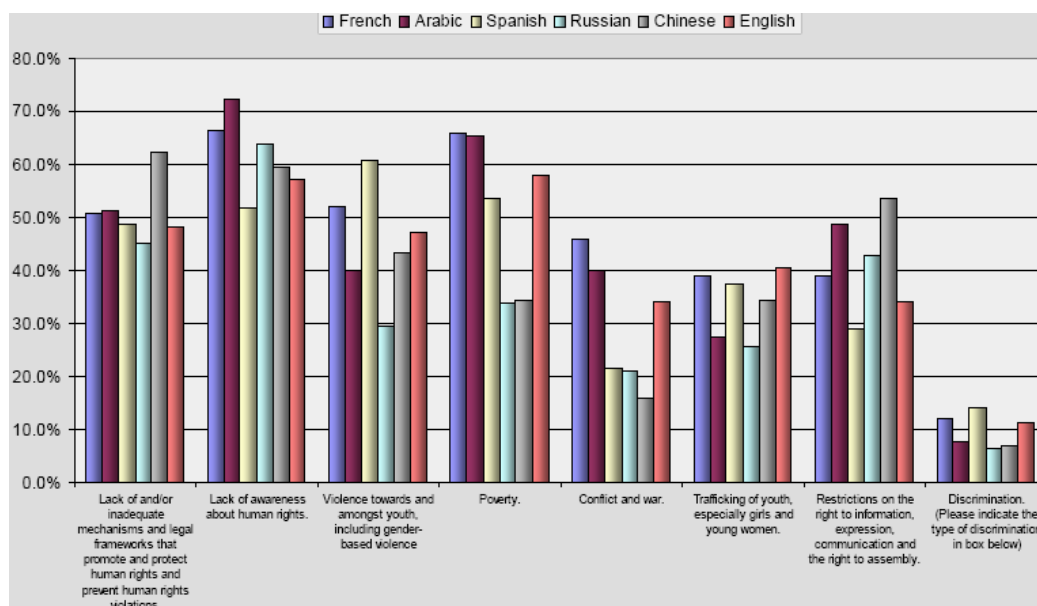


Table 11: What Are the most important Challenges/Issues Related to Youth and Human Rights?

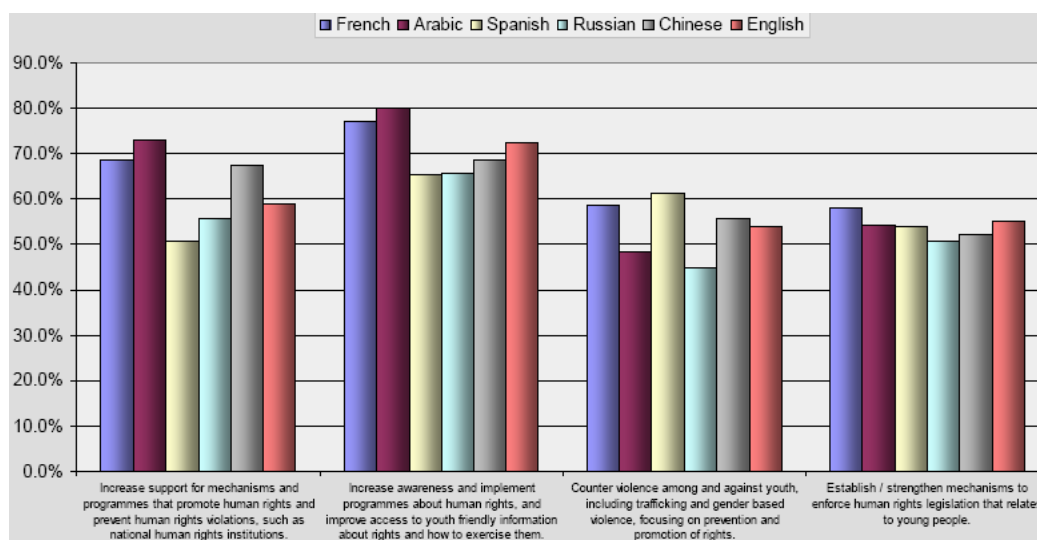


Table 12: What Should Be Done to Promote the Protection of Rights of Youth?

## Political Inclusion: Challenges and Solutions

The biggest challenges identified, for political inclusion, were the ignorance/indifference of people in positions of authority (50%), and the lack of support

and commitment towards young people including support to youth branches of political organizations (49.8%).

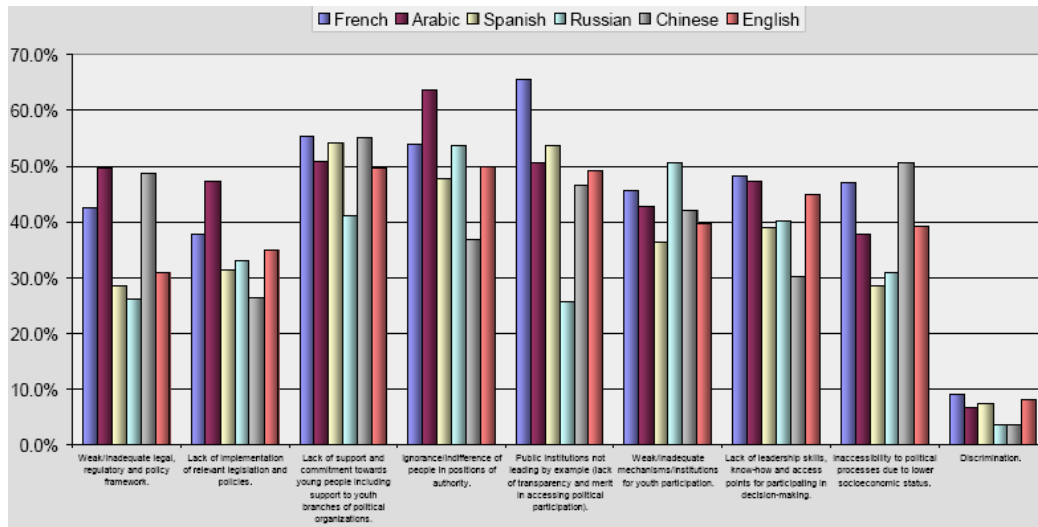


Table 13: What are the most important Challenges Related to Youth and Political Inclusion?

Respondents suggested to promote youth leadership, capacities and skills, including through strengthening support of youth-led organizations (70%), and to establish/strengthen institutions that promote youth participation (52.5%) as the most important undertakings to improve the situation.

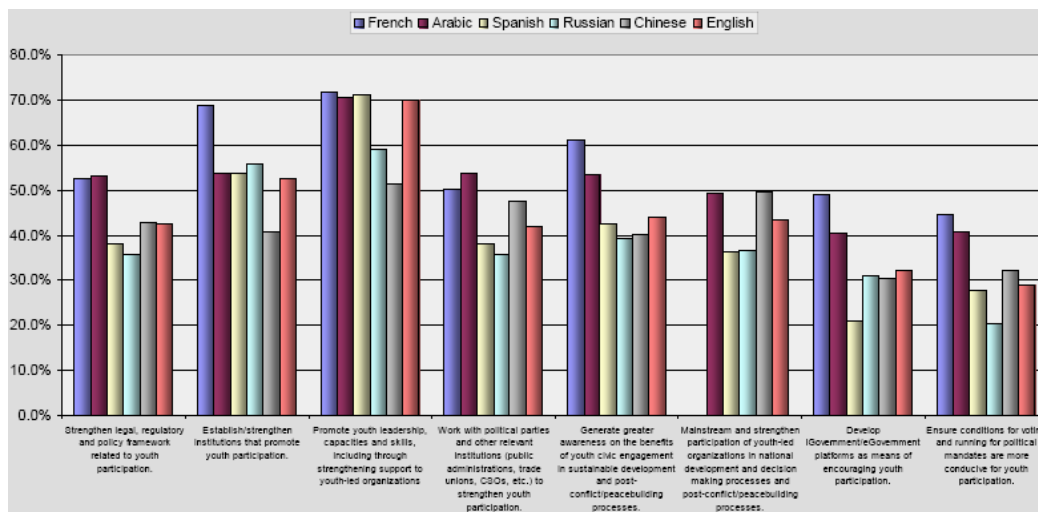
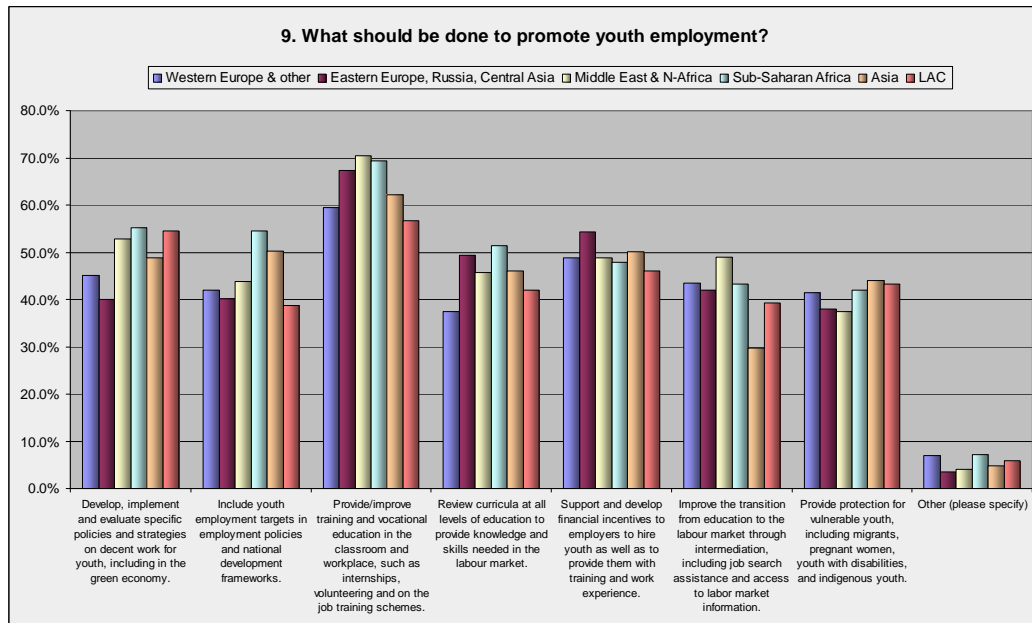
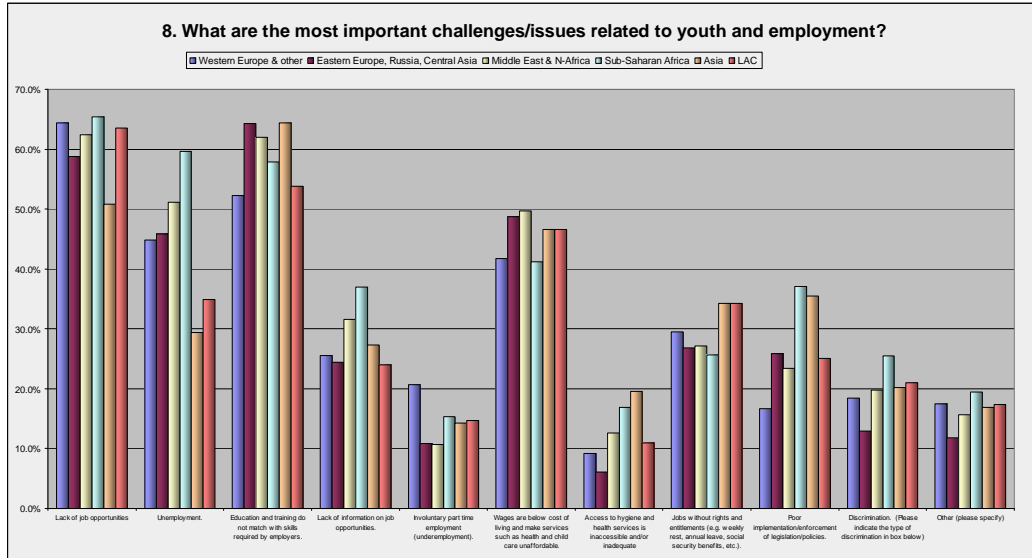


Table 14: What Should Be Done to Enhance the Political Inclusion of Youth?

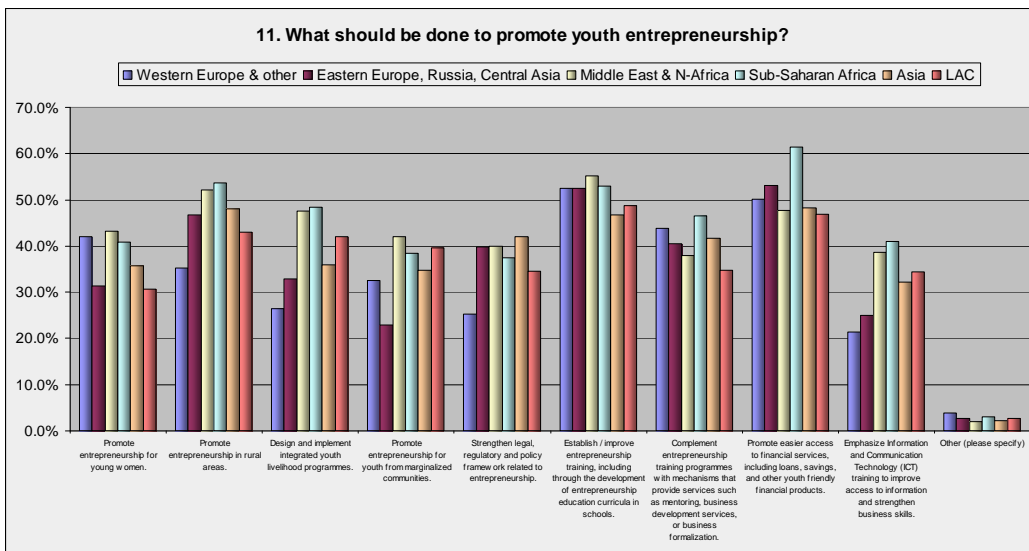
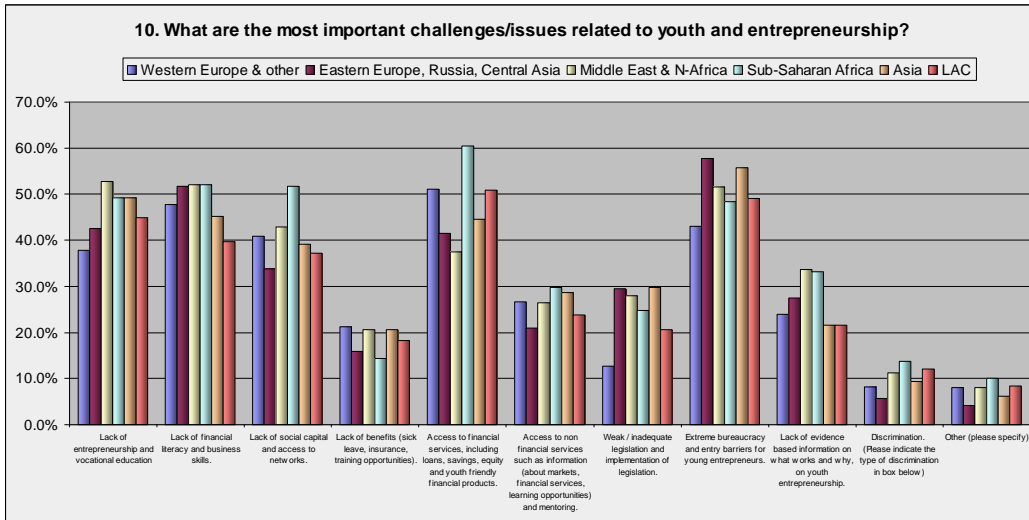


# Regional Dimensions of Results and Outcomes

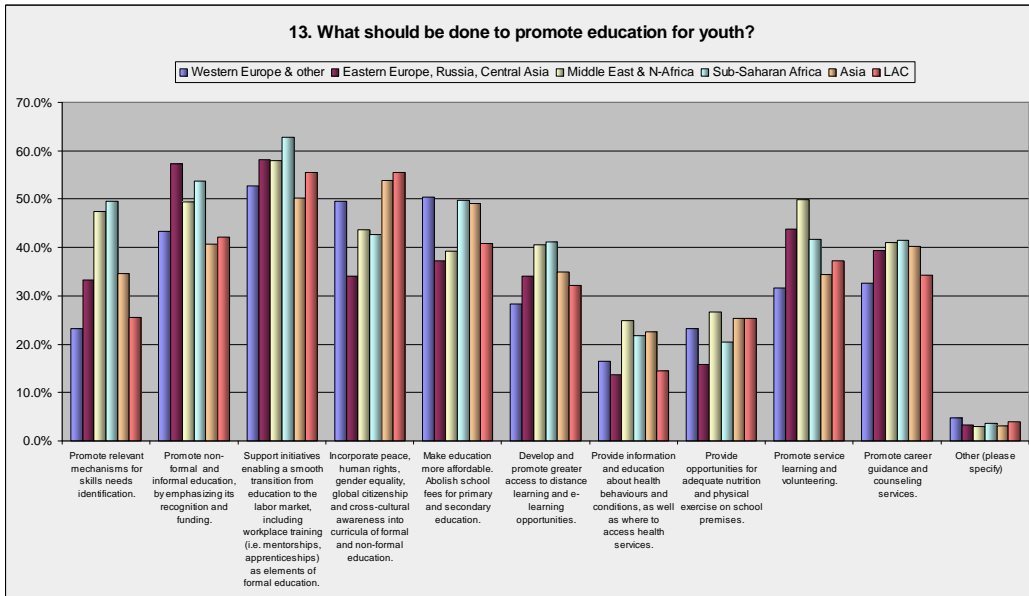
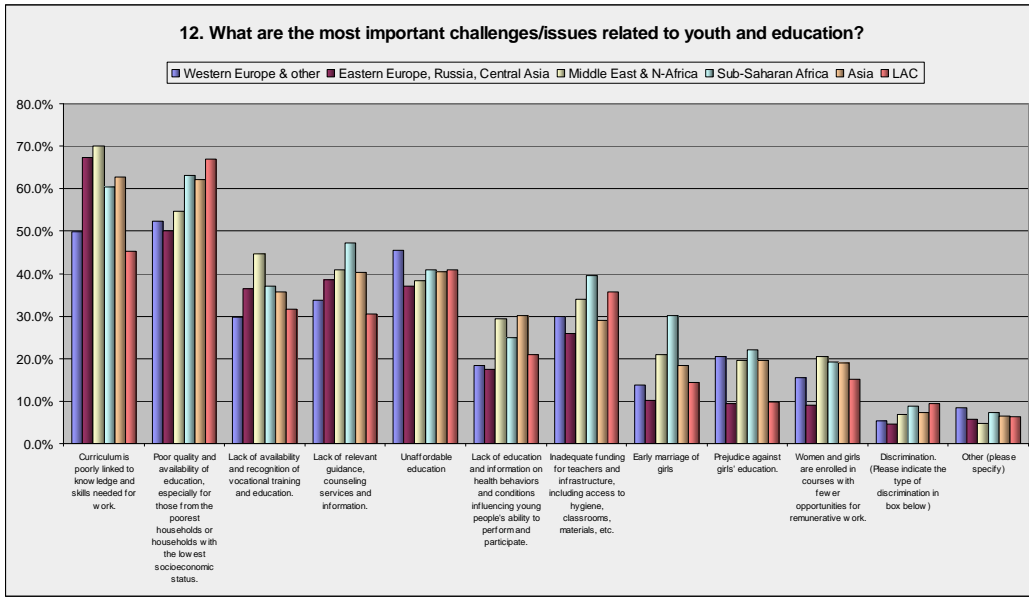
## Employment



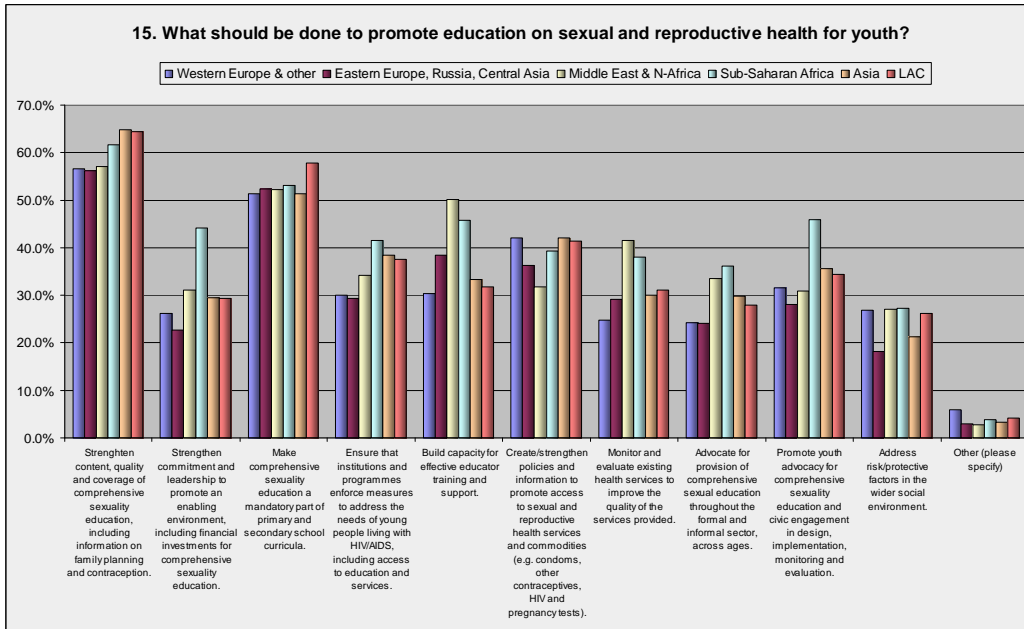
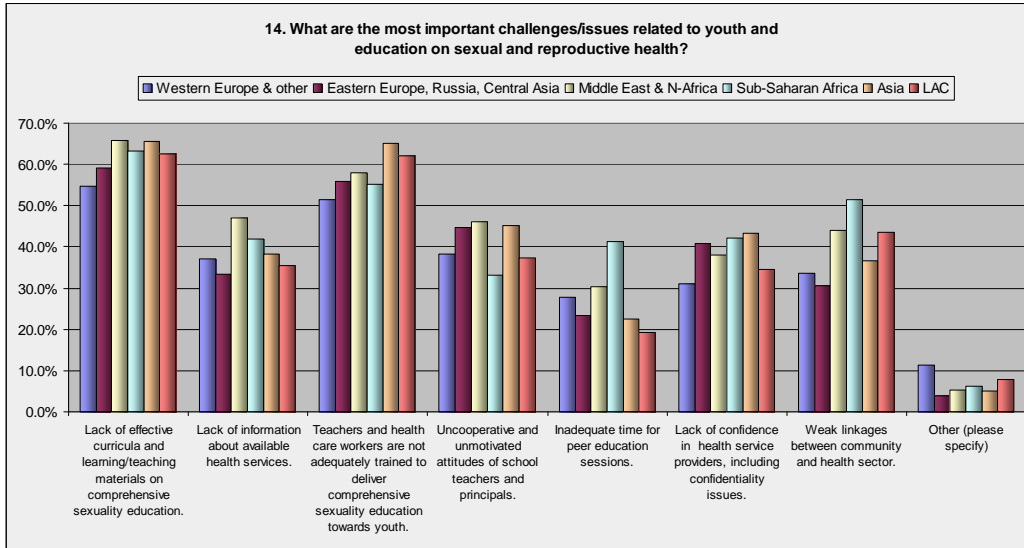
# Entrepreneurship



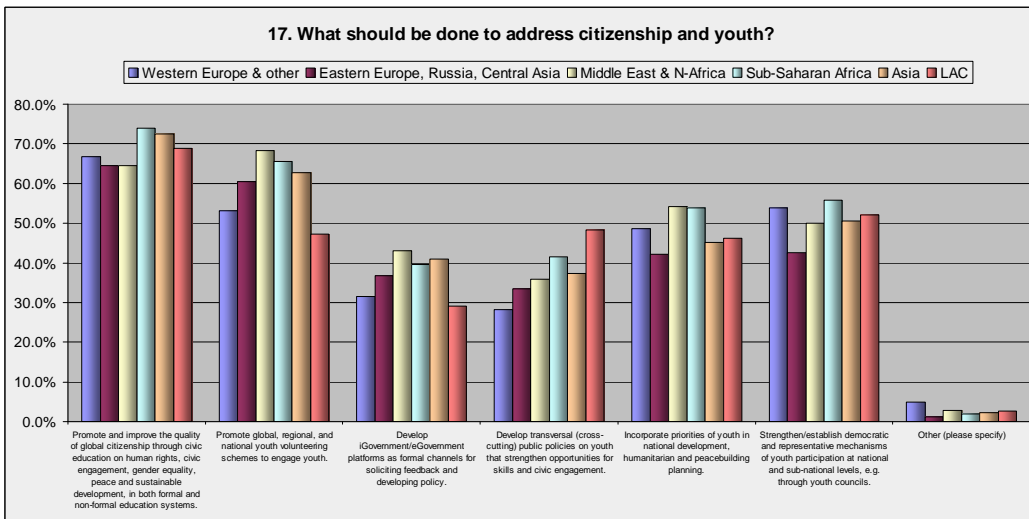
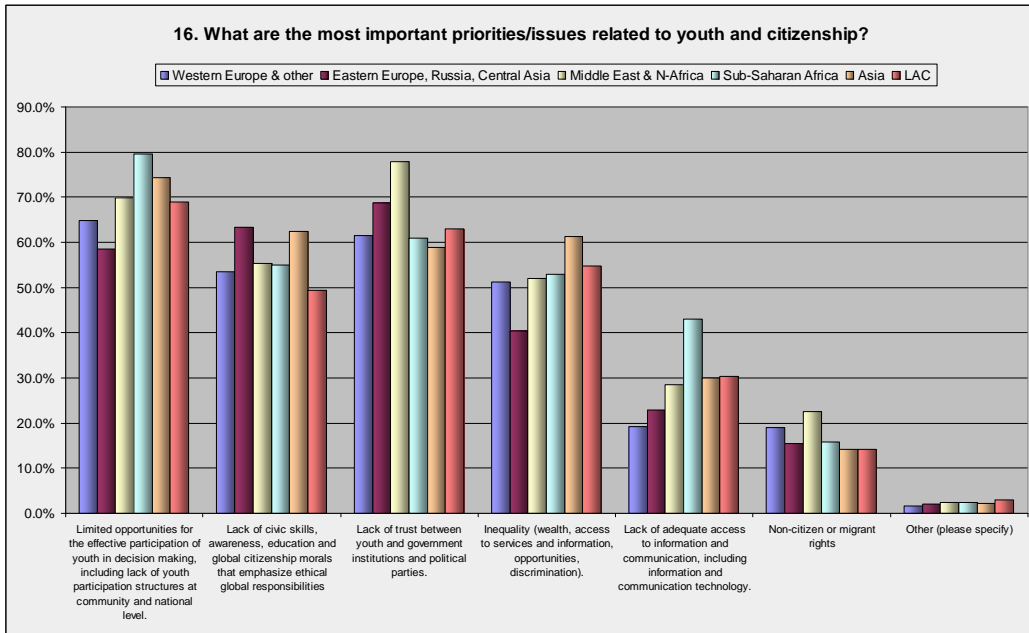
# Education



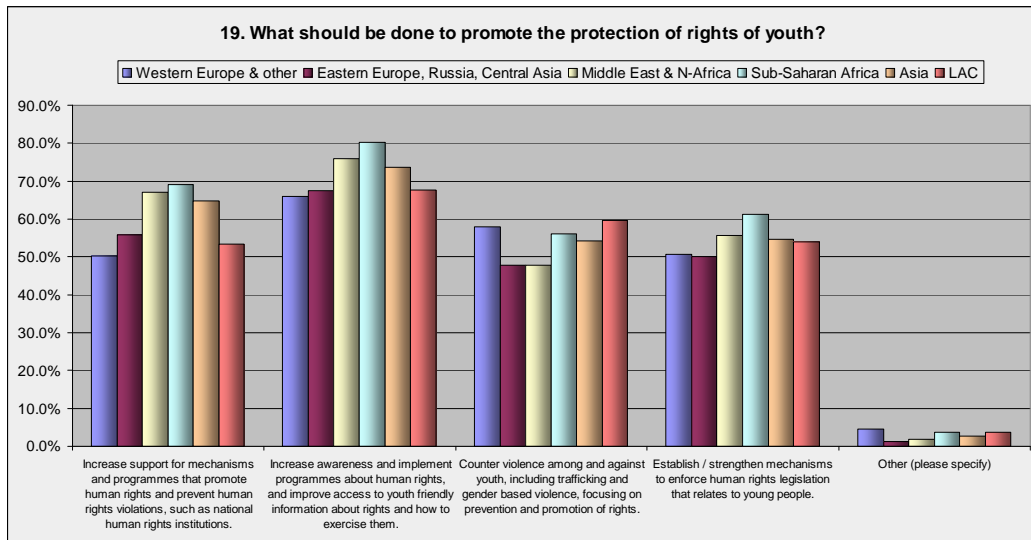
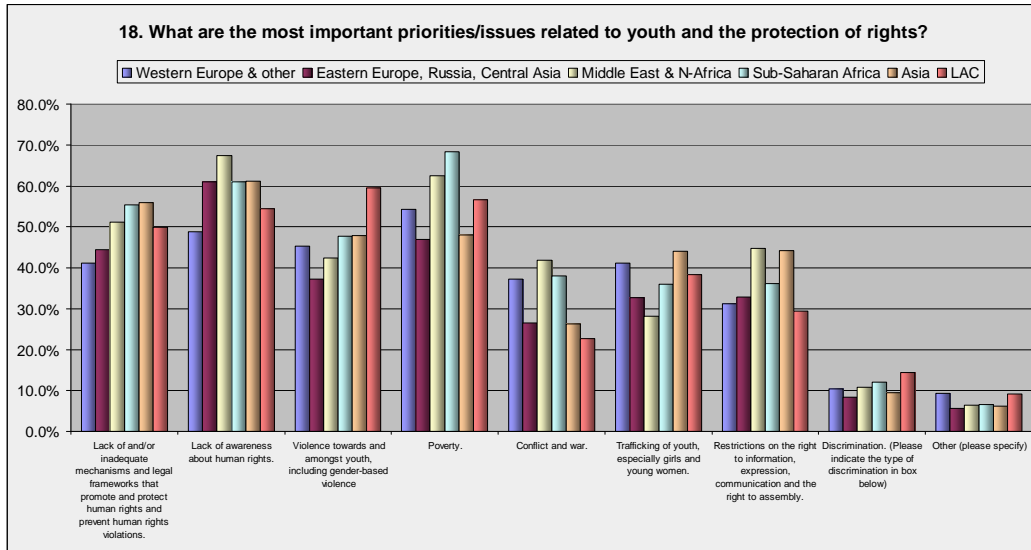
## Education on Sexual and Reproductive Health



# Citizenship



## Protection of Rights



## Political Inclusion

