

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



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CONTRIBUTION OF NON-PROGRAMME COUNTRIES TO EU YOUTH WIKI

MOLDOVA

CHAPTER I: YOUTH POLICY GOVERNANCE

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1.1 TARGET POPULATION OF YOUTH POLICY

The [Law on Youth No. 215 of 29 July 2016](#) is the national legal act that defines youth age in the Republic of Moldova. Chapter I, General Disposals, Article 2 defines a young person – a person aged between 14 and 35 years old. Article 2 also defines a young family – either a couple, formed through marriage, in which one of the spouses has not reached the age of 35 years or a single parent under 35 years of age.

Based on the 2016 statistics of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, the number of young people constituted 838 291, out of a total of 3 553 100 (total population of the Republic of Moldova). This means young people represent 23.59% of the total population (compared to 2010 when young people constituted 27.22% or 970 300 persons), in the 16-30 year age group. Thus, the number of young people in relation to the total number of the population as well as in relation to other age segments is decreasing.

With the adoption of a new law on youth, [Law on Youth No 215 of 29 July 2016](#), the definition of young people was extended from 14 to 35 years old. In consequence, the number of young people in 2016 grew to about 1 160 541 people, as described in the revised information note of the youth law,¹ as well as the data from the National Bureau of Statistics regarding the stable population of the Republic of Moldova.²

However, according to the Results of Population and Housing Census in the Republic of Moldova in 2014, the number of young people is 951 132 out of a total population of 2 804 801, which constitutes about 33.91%.³

One explanation for the difference in data is that the Census also measured the data referring to the population that had been absent from the country for more than 12 months, or the number of young people up to 35 years old who migrated for work or study purposes. This aspect has been stipulated within the National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020.⁴

¹ <http://mts.gov.md/documents-terms/projects-legal-law-projects>.

² www.statistica.md/category.php?l=en&idc=103&.

³ www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=479.

⁴ <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=356215>.

1.2 NATIONAL YOUTH LAW

The first Law on Youth⁵ was adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in 1999. A new Law on Youth,⁶ according to the internal procedures for drafting legislative acts, was approved by the government on May 4, 2016, and published by the Government Decision No. 776 of 21 June 2016. Later, the law was then passed on to the parliament for review and adoption. The draft law on youth was approved by the parliament in the second reading on 29 July 2016, respectively, the official legislative act becoming [Law no. 215 of 29 July 2016 on youth](#), published on 29 September 2016 in the Monitorul Oficial/Official Monitor No. 315-328, art No: 688. Date of entry into force: 29 September 2016.

As stated by the information note on the [Law on Youth](#), this act was developed in accordance with the provisions of:

- Chapter 23, co-operation in the field of education, training, multilingualism, youth and sports;
- Article 125, implementation measure no. 1 of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Moldova-EU Association Agreement for the years 2014-2016;
- Action no. 1 of the Action Plan on the Implementation of the National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020.

Furthermore, according to the information note on the [Law on Youth](#), the basis for elaboration of the act constituted an analysis of the positive experience of the existing legislative framework in the field of youth, not only of the EU member states (e.g. Romania, Lithuania, Estonia, etc.), but also those in the CIS (Belarus, Russian Federation). The monitoring of youth policies in the Republic of Moldova, carried out during 2008 by the Council of Europe, fostered the formulation of recommendations in the Report on “Youth Policy in the Republic of Moldova”, which was taken into account by the working group responsible for co-ordinating the process of drafting the Law on Youth.

⁵ <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=311644>.

⁶ <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=365506>.

The note also mentions that the new [Law on Youth](#) was elaborated due to the fact that Law No. 279-XIV of 11 February 1999 on youth no longer corresponded to the current trends in youth policy at national and international level. Therefore, the present Law on Youth stipulates new actors, institutions and mechanisms for developing, co-ordinating, implementing and consulting youth policies, new structures and forms of youth participation that have emerged over the past 17 years. For example, over the last decade, youth centres have been developed that represent a service or a complex community service addressing all categories of young people with the mission of providing information, guidance, counselling, education and leisure time activities contributing to the preparation of social and professional integration. In addition, local youth councils have been set up to act as representative and empowerment structures for young people, and whose mission is to ensure young people's participation in community development, in particular in the decision-making process.

The [Law on Youth](#) is structured into six chapters, encompassing the most important social and economic aspects, and forms of participation of young people in public life. Thus, according to the law, there will be developed and elaborated conceptions, strategies, plans and regulations specific to the youth field, which will have the mission to provide young people with equal opportunities and appropriate conditions. This law will enable young people to develop their knowledge and skills to participate actively in all aspects of life through full integration and engagement, access to information and quality services in education, health and leisure.

In addition, the current necessity and tendency in the process of developing, implementing and evaluating youth policies is the application of the co-management principle (parity). This principle implies the equal representation of public authorities and youth associations in different joint bodies of activity (councils, committees, commissions, working groups, etc.), whereby both governmental and non-governmental institutions assume responsibility and authority to manage the existing resources in the youth field. An example in this respect is the [Governmental Commission for Youth Policy](#), as well as the replication of this commission at the district level (districts of Ungheni, Cahul, Ialoveni, Falesti, Straseni).

Among the most important changes that the [Law on Youth](#) has brought are the following:

- a) changing the age range from 16-30 to 14-35 years;
- b) new notions and approaches to youth policy: non-formal and informal education of young people, youth organisation, youth work and youth worker, youth centre, local youth council, etc.;
- c) new principles: co-management (parity); subsidiarity, inter-sectorial co-operation, etc.

The [Law on Youth](#) also stipulates that youth centres are a viable tool for realising youth programmes and services at local level. These institutions will operate on the basis of a Regulations Framework and will meet the quality standards for the services provided (worth specifying that youth centres provide information, guidance, counselling, education, organisation and leisure time activities for young people, contributing to the preparation of youth social and professional integration).

Two important elements that define the youth field are youth work/work for youth and youth workers. Simply put, the [Law on Youth](#) defines:

- Youth worker – a person who organises youth activity without specific planning, on a voluntary basis, not necessarily with professional training, and is usually a volunteer, youth leader or other person working with young people based on these principles.
- Youth specialist – a professional who carries out a planned, systematic and professional activity in relation to the young or the youth group within an institutionalised youth service (usually employed in a youth centre or other youth work institution).

Similarly, youth work (activity for the youth) is a defining element of youth policies and the field that contributes to the multilateral formation and development of young people. It is based on non-formal learning processes and on the voluntary participation of young people. Youth work carried out at a professional level by a youth specialist within an institution working with young people is called youth services.

According to the [Law on Youth](#), its implementation will be carried out gradually, and within 24 months since its adoption, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, together with the relevant institutions, will conduct studies on the number of beneficiaries and the costs brought through expanding or developing new programmes.

1.3 NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

The [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#) was approved by the Government Decision No. 1006 from 10 December 2014.

The National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2014-2020 (hereinafter Strategy) is the third strategic document in the country in the field of youth. The elaboration of the [Strategy](#) derives from the context of the reforms initiated in the 2009-2013 National Strategy for youth, as well as the actions entered into the sectorial documents, which are part of the National Strategy for development “Moldova 2020”. It is guided by principles, goals and fields mentioned in the European Union Council Resolution from 27 November 2009 concerning the renewed framework for European co-operation in the youth field (2010-2018). The [Strategy](#) outlines the primary directions of development in the youth sector for the next six years and defines a specific plan of actions.

Strategic vision: Youth sector is reinforced and recognised as an important field in the development and prosperity of the Republic of Moldova, by which the capitalisation of maximum potential of all young people and the improvement of their life quality is assured.

In the context of the [Strategy](#), the following beneficiaries are targeted:

- 1) all young people according to the age category foreseen by the Law on Youth, including those with limited opportunities;
- 2) young families;
- 3) specialists and youth workers;
- 4) central and local public institutions which work with young people;
- 5) non-governmental youth organisations;
- 6) youth centres and multifunctional community centres which offer services to young people;
- 7) youth-friendly health centres;
- 8) local youth councils;
- 9) young people and youth associations from the diaspora, etc.

The basic principles of the [Strategy](#) are the following:

- 1) equality of rights – every young person has equal rights of access to information of public order, to personal development, education, employment according to their qualification, to adopt their own decisions, to express their own opinions, to access various services, including health services, etc.;
- 2) non-discrimination and equal opportunities – equal and non-discriminatory treatment of young people irrespective of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, opinion, disability, social background, religion and other similar criteria;
- 3) participation – co-ordinated involvement of young people, public authorities and civil society in the decision-making and problem-solving process of the youth sector;
- 4) autonomy of the youth structures – youth structures are autonomous in the decision-making processes and developed practices;
- 5) cross-sectorial co-operation – to apply a cross-sectorial approach for support and develop activities for young people, whose achievement requires the involvement of all state institutions and of civil society with similar objectives to the youth segment;
- 6) partnership – co-operation and co-ordination of actions between young people, state institutions, academic community and civil society by establishing constructive and effective partnerships;
- 7) impartiality – all actors involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy are treated equally and impartially;
- 8) transparency – Strategy-implementing institutions have an increased degree of openness to beneficiaries and the general public, providing information on the process of decision making, implementation and their results.

The implementation of the [Strategy](#) is set to strengthen the youth sector, increase its impact in the social life of the country, which will contribute to the development of education, culture, the creation of jobs and will increase quality of life of young people.

The purpose of the [Strategy](#) is to develop and reinforce the youth sector during the next six years (2014-2020), contributing in this way to the establishment of an appropriate environment in

order to assure the development of each young person on a personal and professional level, inclusively of those from the groups with limited opportunities.

In order to achieve the purpose four general objectives have been set out:

1) to increase the level of involvement of young people in the consolidation process of participatory democracy;

2) to contribute to the development of knowledge, abilities, habits, attitudes and behaviours required for a better integration of young people in society, inclusively of those with limited opportunities;

3) to create employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for young people, especially those with limited opportunities;

4) to develop the youth sector infrastructure and support mechanisms in order to assure the quality of youth work.

In order to achieve the proposed strategic vision, four priority interventions were identified:

Priority I. Youth participation

Priority II. Youth services

Priority III. Economic opportunities for young people

Priority IV. Strengthening the youth sector

Each strategic priority involved an analysis of the situation and argumentation of the needs. The analysis led to the development of objectives, expected results and planned actions to achieve those.

Priority I. Youth participation

General Objective 1. To increase the level of involvement of young people in the consolidation process of participatory democracy:

Sub priority 1.1. Legal framework of youth participation at the decision-making process;

Sub priority 1.2. Civic activism of young people;

Sub priority 1.3. Local youth councils;

Sub priority 1.4. Mobility of young people;

Sub priority 1.5. Information of young people;

Sub priority 1.6. International co-operation.

Priority II. Youth services

General objective 2. To contribute to the formation of knowledge, abilities, habits, attitudes and behaviours required for a better integration of young people in society, inclusively of those with limited opportunities.

Sub priority 2.1. Providers of friendly services for young people;

Sub priority 2.2. Friendly services for young people who are outside the institutions (outreach);

Sub priority 2.3. Promotion services of a healthy lifestyle.

Priority III. Economic opportunities for young people:

General objective 3. To develop employment and entrepreneurial opportunities among young people, especially those with limited opportunities;

Sub priority 3.1. Economic ability and entrepreneurship among young people;

Sub priority 3.2. Employment opportunities;

Sub priority 3.3. Internships.

Priority IV. Strengthening the youth sector:

General Objective 4. To develop the youth sector infrastructure and support mechanisms in order to assure the quality of youth work;

Sub priority 4.1. Youth associative sector;

Specific Objective 4.1. To consolidate the abilities, role and public perception of the youth associative sector in order to respond effectively to the needs of young people;

Sub priority 4.2. Youth worker;

Sub priority 4.3. Legislative cross-sectorial framework in the youth field;

Sub priority 4.4. Non-formal education.

The [Strategy](#) stipulates the implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Government ensures the implementation of the Strategy through competent central public administration. At the same time, the implementation process involves both the central public institutions, that is, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and civil society organisations.

During the first month of Strategy implementation, in 2015, at the initiative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, a reference group with the monitoring role was created. The role of the reference group is to provide monitoring of the Strategy implementation process, ongoing evaluation of the implementation, accomplishment of advocacy activity and of dialogue with the partners responsible for the implementation of those four priorities, as well as of energising the implementation process and obtaining the expected results. While evaluating the implementation progress of the Strategy, two independent intermediate evaluations for the targets established in 2017 and 2018 will be accomplished, in order to adjust the plans to the needs of young people and to the current trends.

The results of the Strategy implementation will be presented in a final independent evaluation, which will measure the impact on the youth sector of the achieved results within each strategic priority of the Strategy in general. The final evaluation will be accomplished through relevance, efficiency, efficacy, durability, impact and of approach based on human rights. During the monitoring and evaluation process, civil society is invited to take an active role, thus offering added value through its expertise and its vast experience in the field.

As part of the youth policy implementation, the [National Youth Capital](#) represents an initiative taken from the experience of the European Youth Forum. It involves the selection of a town in the Republic of Moldova, where during one year the youth activities are centralised and implemented by the local public authorities, regional and national NGOs, international NGOs, as well as central public authorities. This initiative aims to develop localities by involving young

people and harnessing their potential, as well as encouraging the development of new ideas and innovative projects concerning the active participation of young people in society. Any locality in the Republic of Moldova, with the exception of Chişinău municipality (the capital of Moldova), which distinguishes itself in a positive way and presents an ambitious programme for youth involvement and development, can become the “National Youth Capital” – a model for development for other localities in the country. Thus, the National Youth Capital tends to become one of the most effective tools for mobilising existing local resources for better economic and social development, based on the real needs and goals of young people.

1.4 YOUTH POLICY DECISION MAKING

According to the [Law on Youth](#), at the level of authorities and institutions responsible for the development, implementation and co-ordination of youth policies, the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) remains the main entity responsible for the development of the youth policy framework.

At local level, youth policy development relies on support from the local public administrations in the implementation of national policies and supporting youth NGOs, youth centres, youth initiatives, etc. Furthermore, local public administrations are encouraged to carry out their own programmes to support young people in the community, to ensure financial means, to be open to young people’s initiatives and to involve them in decision-making processes.

Also, as an important objective of the [Law on Youth](#), the role of local public administrations is foreseen in co-operating and offering support to youth non-governmental structures, local youth councils, informal youth structures, such as initiative groups, student senates, etc.

The government ensures the implementation of the [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#) and the [Law on Youth](#) through the relevant central public administration. At the same time, the implementation process involves both the central public institutions, that is, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of

Healthcare, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and civil society organisations (CSOs).

The reference group with the monitoring role of the [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#) implementation process is responsible for periodic evaluation of the implementation, accomplishment of advocacy activity and of dialogue with the partners responsible for the implementation of those four priorities, as well as energising the implementation process and obtaining the expected results.

1.4 CROSS-SECTORIAL APPROACH WITH OTHER MINISTRIES

According to the provisions of the [Law on Youth](#), the inter-sectorial dimension and the support programmes in different fields of activity among young people, provide the following:

- a) supporting the initiatives of young entrepreneurs by developing their economic empowerment programmes;
- b) supporting and developing social entrepreneurship programmes;
- c) internships in the public and private sector;
- d) facilitating the employment of young people in the workplace;
- e) providing facilities for young people working in rural areas;
- f) multilateral development of young people and promotion of healthy lifestyles;
- g) creation of mechanisms for promotion and support of voluntary activity;
- h) supporting young people and young families through various social programmes and measures, including young people with fewer opportunities, etc.

The government ensures the implementation of the [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#) and the [Law on Youth](#) through the competent central public administration. At the same time, the implementation process involves both the central public institutions, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and the organisations of civil societies.

The current necessity and tendency in the process of developing, implementing and evaluating youth policies is the application of the co-management principle (parity). This principle implies the equal representation of public authorities and youth associations in different joint bodies of activity (councils, committees, commissions, working groups, etc.), whereby both governmental and non-governmental institutions assume responsibility and authority to manage the existing resources in the youth field.

The cross-sectorial approach in the implementation of the youth policies in Moldova are ensured by the Government Decision No. 733 from 29 September 2011⁷ regarding the creation of the Governmental Commission on Youth Policies. The [Regulations of the Governmental Commission on Youth Policy](#) establishes the Commission's composition, functions, rights and the organisation of its work and activity. This structure ensures the co-management approach in the youth field.

According to the [Regulations of the Governmental Commission on Youth Policy](#), the Commission is composed of 20 members, based on parity between the representatives of the central public administration bodies with attributions in the field and representatives of the non-governmental youth sector.

The representatives of civil society are selected via a contest by the Ministry of Youth and Sports following the competition of the files submitted by the applicants (NGOs) within one month from the publication of the Decision.

The Commission has the following duties:

- 1) co-ordinates the development, implementation and monitoring of youth policies at government level;
- 2) ensures cross-sectorial collaboration in the implementation of youth policies;
- 3) initiates national programmes in the youth field;
- 4) monitors the implementation of the National Youth [Strategy](#).

⁷ <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=340447>.

The Commission is made up of a chairman, two vice-presidents, a secretary and working groups.

The Prime Minister exercises the position of the President of the [Commission](#). The positions of Vice-Presidents of the [Commission](#) are exercised by the Deputy Prime Minister (from the central public administration) and by a representative of the civil society. The Vice-President of the Commission from the civil society is elected at the first meeting of the Commission, at the proposal of the members of the Commission, representatives of the non-governmental sector.

The Vice-President of the Commission from the central public administration has duties of co-ordinating the work of the working groups, at the Commission's decision, chairs the meetings of the Commission in case of absence of the President of the Commission. The Vice-President of the Commission from the civil society co-ordinates the work of the working groups at the Commission's decision. The State Chancellery provides the Secretariat of the Commission.

In order to carry out its tasks, the [Commission](#) may set up working parties. The numerical and nominal composition of the working groups is determined by the Commission. Within the limits of their competence, the working groups may take decisions (with a recommendation character) by the majority vote of the members present at the meeting.

Such [Commission](#) exists at the district level (districts of Ungheni, Cahul, Ialoveni, Falesti, Straseni).

With the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Ministry of Youth and Sports hired a consultant to support youth policy development and the monitoring process of the implementation of the [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#) of the Republic of Moldova.

The reference group with the monitoring role of the [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#) implementation process convenes two or three times a year. Its responsibility lies in the periodic evaluation of the implementation, accomplishment of advocacy activity and of dialogue with the partners responsible for the implementation of those four priorities, as well as energising the implementation process and obtaining the expected results.

It is worth mentioning that the [National Youth Council of Moldova](#), the primary forum and representational body for 58 youth organisations in the Republic of Moldova, competes alongside any other organisation to be represented in the [Governmental Commission on Youth Policy](#). However, as a tradition, it holds the position of Vice-President of the [Commission](#).

[National Youth Capital](#) represents a great inter-sectorial tool of co-operation for local public authority, regional and national NGOs, international NGOs, as well as central public authorities represented by different ministries. Once the locality is selected to be the [National Youth Capital](#), an action plan with events at the local level with national participation of all the localities will be developed by the local public administration of that locality, local youth NGOs, Ministry of Youth and Sports and other ministries.

1.6 EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH POLICY

According to the provisions in the Government Decision No. 1006 of 10 December 2014 regarding the approval of the [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#), the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) is responsible for co-ordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of this strategic planning document.

Pursuant to point 2 of the Government Decision, the central public authorities with responsibilities in the field have the obligation to take the necessary measures for the execution, within the set deadlines, of the actions stipulated in Annex No. 2 of the Decision and to inform the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

According to the [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#), the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) is to present to the government, by 31 March of each year, the report on the implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan.⁸ The information and data for the report are collected from different ministries, local public administrations, youth organisations and international organisations.⁹

⁸ www.mts.gov.md/content/raportarea-autoritator-publice-centrale-si-locale-de-nivel-ii-pentru-sndst-2020.

⁹ Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for 2016 of the [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#).

The [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#) stipulates the mechanisms of data collection and monitoring of youth policies' implementation. The reference group has the role of monitoring the Strategy implementation process, periodic evaluation of the implementation, accomplishment of advocacy activity and of dialogue with the partners responsible for the implementation of the four priorities of the [Strategy](#), as well as of initiating the implementation process and obtaining the expected results. While evaluating the implementation progress of the Strategy, two independent intermediate evaluations for the targets established in 2017 and 2018 are set to be accomplished, in order to adjust the plans to the current needs of young people.

The results of the [Strategy](#) implementation are to be presented in a final independent evaluation, which will measure the impact on the youth sector of the achieved results within each strategic priority of the Strategy in general. The final evaluation will be accomplished through relevance, efficiency, efficacy, durability, impact and of approach based on human rights.

During the monitoring and evaluation process, civil society is invited to take an active role, thus offering added value through its expertise and experience in the field. The [National Youth Council of Moldova](#) and local youth councils present in different working groups provide such data. However, youth NGOs lack knowledge and human resources on monitoring youth policy and collecting data.

For (data-driven) policy development making, the government uses data provided by the National Bureau of Statistics, various international organisations, programmes and projects.

In addition, the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#), based on programmes and projects established with different international partners, develops mechanisms for improving the youth policy database and the extent of inter-sectorial co-operation, such as the Youth Inclusion Project,¹⁰ implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Also, financed by the European Union is a generic project aimed at increasing the inclusion of young people among the 10 beneficiary countries, by providing the necessary support and responding appropriately to their aspirations, as well as to facilitating the involvement of young people in internal (national) policy development processes.

Report on the implementation of the 2015 Action Plan of the [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#).

¹⁰ www.oecd.org/countries/moldova/moldova-youth.htm.

Within the project in 2016, the following research and study projects were presented and discussed:

- Sociological survey “Young in Moldova 2016” (conducted by Sociological Society CBS-AXA);
- Study on indicators and determinants of youth welfare (carried out by the Centre for Demographic Research, INCE);
- Study on the institutional and youth policy framework (conducted by IDIS Viitorul);
- Study on Social Rules and Gender Differences between Girls and Boys in the Republic of Moldova (conducted by the Neovita Youth Friendly Health Centre).

Another project that also had a data-recording component and cross-sectorial co-operation is the Eastern Partnership Youth Regional Project (EPYRU),¹¹ for the period 2013-15, funded by the European Union.

1.7 FUNDING YOUTH POLICY

Funding of youth policy is based on the state budget law, [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#), sectorial spending strategy. In addition, the [Law on Youth](#) stipulates the funding of youth policies from the state budget (including those with inter-sectorial character).

Each year, the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) of the Republic of Moldova organises the [Annual Grant Programme of the Ministry](#). The programme is dedicated to support and develop the youth NGO sector in Moldova, which provides, on a competitive basis, logistical and financial support to achieve initiatives, programmes and youth projects, consolidating in this way co-operation with civil society. As an example, in 2016, 22 youth NGOs received funding within the [Annual Grant Programme of the Ministry](#). In 2017, the programme fund was increased to 4 million Moldovan leu (MDL) (€200 000), resulting in an increase in the number of beneficiaries up to 28 youth NGOs.

¹¹ <http://eapyouth.eu/>.

Other funds are available for youth NGOs from such institutions as the United Nations Organisation (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDESA, etc.), East Europe Foundation from Moldova, UE funds (EU Delegation in Moldova, Erasmus+, etc.).

The yearly implementation of the [National Youth Capital](#) brings to a selected locality financial and logistical support from the central public authorities and local public administration. The Ministry of Youth and Sports provides support in the amount of 1.000.000,00 Moldovan leu. Thus, the National Youth Capital will become one of the most effective tools for mobilising existing local resources for better economic and social development, based on the real needs and goals of young people.

1.8 CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION IN THE YOUTH FIELD

The Joint Operational Programme Romania – Moldova 2014-2020¹² is funded by the European Union through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). The programme addresses the border area between Romania and the Republic of Moldova and contributes to the overall objective of the European Neighbourhood Instrument: the development towards a region of prosperity and good neighbourhood, through cross-border co-operation actions for the benefit of member states and non-EU members, which is adjacent.

The programme budget is €89.1 million (€89.1 million total budget – of which €81 million is funded by the EU through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and €8.1 million is co-financing provided by the partner countries).

Among the objectives and priorities of the programme that address young people are:

- support for education, research, technological development and innovation – institutional co-operation in education to increase access to and quality of education; promotion and support for research and innovation;
- promote local culture and protect historical heritage – promoting and preserving cultural and historical heritage;

¹² www.fonduri-ue.ro/ro-md.

[The Road Ahead: Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020](#) is funded through the [European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument \(ENPI\)](#) and aims at promoting business and entrepreneurship, and environmental protection.

1.9 CURRENT DEBATES AND REFORMS

At the central level, the creation of a new youth structure is proposed in order to ensure the implementation of quality policies and services in the youth field. This structure is part of a process aimed at developing the youth policy system and its institutions, having as a core mission the consolidation of the youth sector. The establishment of this institution is foreseen in the [Law on Youth](#), the [National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020](#), as well as in the Sectorial Youth and Sport Expenditure Strategy.

At the moment, the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) has only six staff members responsible for the youth sector, which makes it difficult to carry out the mission of the institution, namely policy making, because the size of the implementation of youth programmes and projects and the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of youth services is equally attributed to an additional role and effort.

The National Agency for Programmes Development and Youth Work is planned to be created in 2017, in order to ensure a better implementation of public policy in the field of youth work.

The National Agency for Programmes Development and Youth Work will be an administrative authority under the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (the new ministry), established for the training and continuous learning and development of the staff, programmes, activities and services from the youth field, and for their implementation, accreditation, monitoring and evaluation.

The agency will have the following basic functions:

- a) implement youth policies and programmes developed by the ministry;
- b) provide logistical and methodological assistance in the implementation of state policies in the field of youth at local level;

- c) facilitate the communication with beneficiaries of the youth programmes and projects and monitor their activity;
- d) provide proposals of the development of new programmes and projects according to the needs of young people;
- e) evaluate the youth programmes and projects based on performance indicators established in the strategic planning documents of the Ministry of Youth and Sports;
- f) provide services of professional education and training of workers and youth specialists;
- g) provide the analysis of non-governmental policies from the perspective of the youth field and come up with proposals to the central authorities;
- h) perform, at a maximum interval of two years, research actions and analysis of the needs of young people from the country;
- i) develop quality standards and create a national system of quality assurance of youth services;
- j) draw up and keep the register of youth services;
- k) accredit the structures that provide youth services at national and local level and issue them with quality certificates;
- l) ensure the development of the institutional framework on youth activity;
- m) elaborate national programmes on the implementation of youth activities by youth workers;
- n) create proposals to improve youth services after some thematic or transversal actions of evaluation;
- o) monitor the activity of structures that provide youth services;
- p) initiate proposals to amend the legislation in the field of youth service and its adjustment to the European and international legislation.

Another priority at the ministry level is the implementation of the Programme for the Development of Youth Centres for the years 2017-2022 approved by the Order of the Minister of Youth and Sports No. 65t of 6 April 2017 (PDCT 2022).¹³ Through co-operation with the local public administration at district level (Rayon Council), this programme aims at extending the number of youth centres at national level by creating at least one (1) youth centre in each district.

The purpose of the programme is granting financial and methodological support to youth centres to strengthen their institutional capacity that would allow the development and territorial

¹³ www.mts.gov.md/documents-terms/program-dezvoltare-centre-de-tineret.

expansion of youth services to increase the number of young beneficiaries. This purpose will involve strengthening and developing the human resources of youth centres, offering support in acquiring equipment for centres and developing mechanisms to assist young people in initiating and implementing their initiatives and projects.

REFORMS

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is currently responsible for the development and implementation of youth policy in the Republic of Moldova. After the Central Public Administration Reform, started in 2015, the competencies regarding youth policy will be divided. The policy-making process will be taken over by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (established in August 2017) and the implementation and evaluation will be conducted by the National Agency for Programmes Development and Youth Work that, according to the Law on Youth, will be created at the end of 2017.