

Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH WORK IN BELARUS



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1. Context of youth work

Youth work is an integral part of the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus. During the Soviet period, the youth policy implementation was mostly under the responsibility of the Young Communist League of Komsomol and the state authorities. In 1992, a new stage in the development and implementation of the state youth policy in the independent Republic of Belarus started with the adoption for the first time of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On the General Principles of State Youth Policy in the Republic of Belarus”.

The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus of 1994 (with alterations and amendments adopted at the republican referendums of 24 November 1996 and of 17 October 2004) guarantees young people the right to their spiritual, moral and physical development. The state creates the necessary conditions for free and effective participation of young people in political, social, economic and cultural development (Article 32).

An important development affecting youth work in the country was the Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 825 “On Additional Measures to Improve the Organisation of Work with Children, Adolescents and Youth in the Place of Residence” of 7 July 1997. On the basis of this law, provisions for a multidisciplinary centre for working with children, adolescents and youth in a place of residence as well as the provisions of an educator-organiser for working with children, adolescents and youth at their place of residence was developed. As a result, 11 centres (143 specialists) for work with children and youth at their place of residence were set up under committees (departments) for youth affairs of regional (district, city) executive committees.

In 1998, for the purpose of the legal support of the social services system, the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 21 June 1998, No. 1136 “Model Provision on the Territorial Centre for Social Services for Families and Children” was approved. As of today, support for young families and young people with fewer opportunities are provided by local social service centres (148 centres in total).

One of the sectors providing youth work in the country is youth NGOs. An important development in youth work with organised youth was the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Belarus No.305-Z of 9 November 1999 “On State Support to Youth and Children’s Public Associations in the Republic of Belarus”. Today there are 320 youth public associations and public associations for youth, including 26 children’s public associations in the country.

On 6 September 2002, the public association Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM) was formed as a result of the unification of the public associations Belarusian Patriotic Youth Union and Belarusian Youth Union. Nowadays, BRSM is the largest youth public association in the country.

An important stage in the development of youth work started with the implementation of the programme Youth of Belarus for 2006-2010 (Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus, No. 200 of 4 April 2006). Within the scope of the programme special attention was given to: improvement of information support of the youth work system; professional development of

youth and children association's leaders and specialists in youth work; methodology and evidence bases of youth work; and training personnel in the sphere of state youth policy. Further development was given to work with young people in educational establishments and place of residence as well as to social work with young people at risk.

Since 2008 the Department of Youth Policy and Sociocultural Communications of the state education institution National Institute for Higher Education has been providing retraining courses for university graduates, who receive a retraining diploma with a qualification of Specialist in Youth Work.

In 2009, the strategic document in the field of state youth policy was approved – the Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 “On the Foundations of State Youth Policy”. The law aims to define the objectives, principles and main directions of state youth policy.

An important step towards recognition of youth work as a profession was made on 31 August 2010. On the basis of the Resolution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Belarus No. 42 “On Amendments to Issue 1 and Amendments to Issue 27 of the Uniform Qualification Directory of Job Positions”, the position Specialist in Youth Work was introduced in a number of enterprises and organisations. As of 1 January 2015, the Republic of Belarus had 1 285 specialists working with youth at enterprises, organisations, institutions, educational establishments and agencies.

In the 2010s a number of acts improving youth policy and youth work were issued. Key documents are the following: Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 124 of 29 December 2010 “On Approval of the Regulations on the Multidisciplinary Centre for Work with Youth in the Place of Residence (Place of Stay)”, stipulating a major framework for a multidisciplinary youth centre; Code of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 243-Z on 13 January 2011, regulating youth policy implementation and supplementary education of children and young people in educational establishments; Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 181 of 16 April 2012 “On Organisation of the Activities of Student Work Teams on the Territory of the Republic of Belarus”, regulating students' work teams movement; Resolution of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 128 of 16 November 2015 “The Concept of the Organisation of Youth Volunteer Movement in the Republic of Belarus”; Resolution of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 82 of 15 June 2015 “On the Concept of Continuing Education of Children and Student Youth”, regulating youth work in educational establishments.

The year 2014 marked the starting point for the open dialogue on youth policy and youth work issues, “Traditions and the Future of Belarusian Youth”.

The year 2015 was declared the Year of Youth in Belarus. Several significant acts were adopted during 2015. In the framework of the Year of Youth the First Republican Forum of Specialists in Youth Work was held. This is a biannual event to identify and present good practices and innovative technologies in youth-related activities. The Republican Forum of Youth from Rural Areas, as well as other significant events (forums, conferences, round-table discussions) on youth issues, was carried out.

In 2016, youth workers founded their professional association, <https://youthworker.by/en/>.

In 2016, the city of Baranovichi, Brest region, was nominated as the first youth capital of Belarus.

The next milestone was set with the state programme Education and Youth Policy 2016-2020 (adopted on 28 March 2016 by the Resolution of Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 250). Today, this is the guiding document for youth policy implementation in Belarus. For the purpose of implementing the Education and Youth Policy 2016-2020, the Action Plan was adopted. The Action Plan specifies titles of the activities, level of implementation (national and local) and terms of implementation by years and sources of financing. There are four main objectives in the document: 1) formation of active citizenship and patriotism among young people and their social inclusion; 2) adoption of additional measures to promote positive attitudes to traditional family values and responsible parenthood, health promotion, prevention of negative phenomena among young people; 3) increase the effectiveness of work on vocational guidance and organisation of youth employment in free time, support youth in entrepreneurship, development of volunteer and student work teams; 4) support for socially significant initiatives of young people, student self-government; strengthening of children's and youth public associations' activities.

Thus, contemporary legal and regulatory framework in youth policy is a multilevel system that ensures the constitutional rights of young citizens and covers all spheres of young people's life, including youth work. The history of youth work in the independent Republic of Belarus has long-term traditions. It is rooted in social pedagogy, social work, formal and non-formal education, culture and arts, and sports.

2. Strategic and legislative framework of youth work

Youth work in Belarus is provided by specialists in youth work, social workers, pedagogical workers, educators, youth leaders, students' work team leaders, volunteers, specialists in sociocultural activities, summer camp counsellors, animators, etc. There is no exact definition of the term "youth work" in Belarusian legislation. Nevertheless, on the basis of the Resolution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Belarus No. 42 of 30 March 2006 "On Amendments to Issue 1 and Amendments to Issue 27 of the Uniform Qualification Directory of Job Positions", the position of Specialist in Youth Work was introduced in a number of enterprises and organisations.

In October 2016 updates were made to the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus. In particular, the [Law "On Making Amendments and Agenda to the Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 "On Foundations of State Youth Policy"](#) was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus. The new concepts/definitions such as "mentorship" and "youth personnel policy" were integrated into the law. Mentors are in charge of giving professional support and facilitate personal development of young workers.

The Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 124 of 29 December 2010 "On Approval of the Regulations on the Multifunctional Centre for Work with Youth in the Place of Residence (Place of Stay)" was adopted. The main tasks of the centre's work with youth as follows:

- to inform young people about their rights and responsibilities;
- to counsel youth on psychological, educational, medical and legal assistance;
- to provide young families with social assistance;
- to assist young citizens who find themselves in challenging life situations
- with appropriate help
- to organise sociocultural and sport activities with youth in their place of residence;
- to inform youth about youth organisations and their local activities;
- to exercise other functions in order to provide assistance and create conditions for the development of young people in accordance with the law.

In educational establishments youth work is provided by student self-governance bodies, student union committees, social and psychological services and departments for youth affairs. These activities are regulated by the [Code of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 243-Z of 13 January 2011](#). Such activities are regulated by local regulatory and legal frameworks alike. In addition to that, the terms "supplementary education", "supplementary education for children and youth" have been introduced at the legislative level in the Code.

Non-formal youth work in educational establishments is based on the [Resolution of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 82 of 15 June 2015 "On the Concept of Continuing Education of Children and Student Youth"](#). This law establishes the following priorities for upbringing in educational establishments: consistent and active assistance for youth coming to be a citizen and

patriot of the country, a professional worker, a responsible family man (Article 1). For the purpose of implementing the law the [Action Plan for 2016-2020](#) has been adopted.

The Law of the Republic of Belarus No.305-Z of 9 November 1999 “On State Support to Youth and Children’s Public Associations in the Republic of Belarus” defines guarantees, general principles, contents and measures of the state support for youth and children’s public associations, associations (unions) of youth and (or) children’s associations in the Republic of Belarus at national and local levels as well as the amount of targeted financing from the republican and local budgets and state extra-budgetary funds allocated for these purposes (Article 1).

There is a widely supported movement of student work teams in the Republic of Belarus. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 181 of 16 April 2012 “On Organisation of the Activities of Student Work Teams on the Territory of the Republic of Belarus” and the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 958 of 23 June 2010 “On Approval of the Regulations on the Procedure of Organising and Financing the Temporary Employment for Youth Studying in Education Institutions at Extracurricular Time” was adopted.

Special attention is paid to support youth workers who are involved in the volunteer movement. In this regard, the Resolution of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 128 of 16 November 2015 “The Concept of the Organisation of the Youth Volunteer Movement in the Republic of Belarus” was adopted.

Recognition

According to the definition of [recognition](#) there is **self, social, formal and political recognition** of youth work and of youth workers (professionals or volunteers). What is the situation in your country on these different dimensions of recognition of youth work?

Is there any formal validation system of non-formal education and learning in youth work contexts implemented in your country?

If there is a legal framework for the profession of youth work per se or embedded in other fields, please explain briefly and reference it.

Is your country involved in any European or applying any national initiatives to support youth work (for example, Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio, Council of Europe quality label for youth centres, Erasmus+ Youthpass, European Youth Capitals, Youth Friendly Cities, others)?

As already mentioned, on the basis of the Resolution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Belarus No. 42 of 30 March 2006 “On Amendments to Issue 1 and Amendments to Issue 27 of the Uniform Qualification Directory of Job Positions”, the position of Specialist in Youth Work was introduced in a number of enterprises and organisations.

More information: <http://edu.gov.by/doc-42713/>.

In accordance with the law, a specialist in youth work implements state youth policy within the organisation; co-ordinates activities in educating universal human values, cultural and moral

traditions of the Belarusian nation among young people; helping young people acquire knowledge about their rights and responsibilities; informing them about the opportunities available to exercise their rights to health, education, social protection, employment, recreation, physical training and sports, etc.; in co-operation with other stakeholders, he or she resolves problems with young people's workplace adaptation, occupational health and safety, working hours, leave, social protection and other labour and socio-economic conditions; develops and implements comprehensive actions to provide legal, social and economic support to young families; organises public cultural, sports and recreational activities, including those at young people's place of residence; provides assistance to young people, who are in the particularly disadvantaged population group due to their state of health; carries out preventive activities against violations and crimes among young people, promoting healthy lifestyles; supports talented and creative youth; provides information on youth organisations and the scope of their activities; provides assistance to youth public associations; enables development and implementation of socially significant youth initiatives; helps to involve young people in the system of international co-operation, to establish friendly and business relations, and to conduct experience exchanges with their foreign counterparts; with other stakeholders, enables the organisation of sociological surveys on relevant youth problems; interacts with the mass media to cover events related to public youth policy; analyses and informs youth organisations on the main aspects of political, social and economic state policy, on the main areas of activities and prospects of the entity's development; within his or her competence, co-operates with local executive and regulatory authorities, social and cultural institutions, and law enforcement bodies; takes part in organising "The Common Informative Days"; participates in the process of planning the activities of the youth organisation; improves his or her professional skills.

The following exist in the Republic of Belarus in terms of youth work recognition:

- the system of supplementary education of children and young people;
- multidisciplinary youth centres and clubs (for example, Youth Centre in Nesvizh; Belarusian Republican Youth Centre for Travel and Excursions; Center for Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Belarusian State University; ecological and local lore club "Clean World" etc.);
- explicitly profit-oriented youth entertainment centres;
- youth NGOs;
- departments of youth affairs at educational establishments;
- youth social services;
- children and youth summer camps;
- volunteering and students' work teams.

Republican forums of specialists in youth work, marathons of successful practices on youth work, fairs on good practices in youth work and festivals of creative youth are held in the country. Specifically in the framework of the Year of Youth, the First Republican Forum of specialists in

youth work was held in 2015. The goal of the forum was to identify and present best practices and innovative technologies in youth-related activities. The second Republican Forum of Youth Specialists, entitled “Modern forms of participation of working youth in the implementation of the main directions of the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus”, was held in 2017. The “Fair of successful practices in youth work” was held in Minsk on 16 May 2015. The aim of the event was to promote good practices in youth work and to establish partnerships among organisations and specialists in youth work alike. The Marathon of Successful Practices in the Field of Youth Work was held on 14 December 2017, <https://youthworker.by/ru/150-marafon-uspeshnykh-praktik-itogi>. The goal of the Marathon is to identify and consider successful practices and innovative technologies, methods and forms of youth work.

A number of national and international events are held annually: the Republican Festival of Artistic Creativity of Students and Student Youth “ART-vacation”, <http://artviva.by/art-vacations.html>; the Republican Festival of Creativity of Foreign Students “F.-ART.by”, <http://artviva.by/fest-art.html>; the international festival-contest “Creativity without Borders”, http://nchtdm.by/meropriyatiya/1_noyabrya_dan_start_mezhdunarodnomu_festivalyukonkursu_tvorchestvo_bez_granic/; and many others.

Since 2014 the open dialogue “Traditions and the Future of the Belarusian Youth” has been taking place. This project provides a platform for fruitful communication among all stakeholders, decision makers, researchers, youth workers and youth leaders in the country.

Youth leaders and youth volunteers are provided with appropriate training by educational establishments and youth NGOs. Some of youth workers use the Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio with a view to recognising their competencies. The main training settings, methods and tools are the following: peer learning, blended learning, e-learning, projects, trainings, summer schools, youth exchanges, voluntary youth (students) camps, forums, open airs, forum theatres, workshops, team buildings, art and sports festivals, webinars, live libraries, hackathons, crowdfunding, world café and so on.

Seventeen teen-friendly centres supported by UNICEF have been set up in the country on the basis of children’s polyclinics, where teenagers can get integral medical and psychosocial aid in the field of reproductive health and prevention of harmful habits.

The city of Polotsk was assigned as the Youth Capital 2016 in Belarus.

3. Recognition

Youth work is an inseparable part of the state youth policy implementation. In accordance with the [Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 “On the Foundations of State Youth Policy”](#) (Article 22), the process of financing state youth policy implementation is carried out at the expense of the republican and (or) local budgets and other sources not forbidden by law. Special funds may be established for the purpose of financing activities in the sphere of state youth policy.

Also, international funding sources for youth work are provided within programmes of bilateral and multilateral co-operation (Union State of Russia and Belarus, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, Eastern Partnership, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN System, Erasmus+).

It has to be mentioned, that the Republican Register of Youth and Children’s Associations enjoys state support. The register includes 11 public associations as follows: [Belarusian Republican Youth Union](#), www.brsm.by; Belarusian Republican Pioneer Organisation, www.brsm.by/ru/pioneer; Belarusian League of Intellectual Teams, www.blik.by; League of Youth Voluntary Service, www.lyvs.bn.by; Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs, www.belau.info; Association of Belarusian Guides, www.belguides.com; Belarusian humour club of cheerful and resourceful, www.kvn.by; Belarusian Youth Public Organisation of Rescuers-Firefighters, rescue01.gov.by/rus/main/organization; Belarusian Republican Scout Association, www.scout-belarus.org; Belarusian Shotokan Federation karate-do, <http://karate-academy.by>; Belarusian Association for Assistance to Disabled Children and Young People with Disabilities, www.belapdi.org.

More information: <http://edu.gov.by/sistema-obrazovaniya/upr-molodezhi/obedineniya/reestr/>.

4. Funding youth work

N/A

5. Structures, actors and levels in youth work provision

5.1 State structures/public authorities deciding on or providing youth work

Youth policy issues at national level are within the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus (MoE), Directorate of Educational Work and Youth Policy. In accordance with the [Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 1049 of 4 August 2011 “Regulations on the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus”](#) the MoE is in charge of state youth policy implementation and youth work issues alike. In the field of state youth policy the MoE provides the following: co-ordinates the activities of state authority, organisations, individual entrepreneurs, and all actors implement state youth policy; oversees quality assurance in the field of state youth policy; carries out comprehensive analysis of the state of affairs in the youth field and predicts its tendencies; analyses contemporary tendencies in the youth field and determines directions of its development; co-operates with local executive and administrative bodies in decision-making processes on youth policy issues and child protection; provides organisational support and conducts fundamental and applied scientific research in the field of youth policy as well as implementation of research results in this field.

More information: edu.gov.by.

5.2 National or local youth councils

Belarusian Committee of Youth Organisations (BKMO). BKMO is a republican union with the objective to create conditions for the most complete exercise of rights and legitimate interests of BKMO member organisations, supporting the development of civil society in the Republic of Belarus based on patriotic and moral values of the Belarusian nation. BKMO is an umbrella organisation that includes 37 children’s and youth public associations in the Republic of Belarus.

Republican Youth Council at the Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus. This public organisation introduces and reviews proposals to improve legislation and shape normative legal frameworks for youth policy in the Republic of Belarus, discusses relevant issues and problems of young people, develops recommendations aimed at increasing the efficiency of state youth policy decisions, and facilitates co-operation between various organisations and state structures working with youth. The Council includes representatives of state authorities, public associations and unions, young teachers and scholars, researchers as well as pupils and students.

Public Republican Student Council at the Minister of Education. The Council includes representatives of all 51 higher education establishments in the country. The main objective of the Council is to provide support to stakeholders and decision makers for efficient solutions in the education system by a broader public dialogue on youth issues. Competencies of the Council include issues of student self-governance.

The Council of Young Scientists of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus, www.smu-nanb.com, unites over 2 100 young scientists from the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus, including 250 candidates of sciences (PhD equivalent) and approximately 600 postgraduate and graduate students.

Republican Co-ordination Council of Youth Parliaments. This Council unites leaders of regional youth parliaments (chambers) of the Republic of Belarus,

http://nchtdm.by/meropriyatiya/zasedanie_respublikanskogo_koordinacionnogo_soveta_molod_ezhnyh_parlamentov1/. The Co-ordination Council of Youth Parliaments of the Republic of Belarus is a consultative and advisory body and it was established to co-ordinate the activities of youth consultative bodies (parliament, council, chambers) with legislative (representative) or executive bodies of the state authorities of the Republic of Belarus.

The Council of Leaders of Working Youth in Minsk. This is an advisory body that ensures the participation of young workers' representatives in decision-making processes.

The Youth Chamber at Minsk City Council was established in 2007 with the aim of popularising self-government among youth, identifying leaders of the youth movement, providing young people with opportunities to participate in the development and implementation of city programmes. Members of the Youth Chamber develop projects and submit proposals to local governments on youth issues and put forward and support civil initiatives aimed at the social and economic development of the city.

5.3 Youth and youth work NGOs

The Association of Youth Workers was founded in 2016, www.youthworker.by. The aim of the Association is to consolidate youth workers for mutual support and to co-ordinate activity by means of creating conditions for developing professional competence, raising the prestige of their work, determining the social status of youth workers and the protection of the rights and interests of its members.

5.4 Other relevant actors

Student self-governance bodies, student union committees, youth public associations, social and psychological services and departments for youth affairs at educational establishments are relevant actors in providing youth work. Extra training for youth workers is provided by youth NGOs. Within the framework of youth NGOs activities, a number of opportunities are available. For example, certified training courses for summer camp counsellors, volunteering and students' team leaders, youth leaders. For more information see: <http://ngo.by/>, <http://adukatar.net/>, <http://brsm.by/>, www.lyvs.bn.by, www.belau.info, www.youthworker.by/en/.

6. Forms and examples of youth work in your country

Youth work is mostly delivered within the supplementary education system, extracurricular activities and through youth NGOs.

The system of supplementary education of children and young people is aimed at ensuring their personal development, formation and development of their creativity; meeting their individual needs for intellectual, moral and physical improvement; socialisation; arranging their leisure activities; helping them in career guidance (Article 228 of the Code of Education of the Republic of Belarus 243-3 of 13 January 2011).

On 1 December 2016, the country had 297 establishments of supplementary education for children and youth; 389 000 young people were engaged in 31 400 hobby groups and clubs (about 18% of the targeted population). Some of them are multidisciplinary but some are specialised in arts, technology, ecology, tourism and ethnography, patriotic upbringing and sports.

The republican institutions of additional education of children and youth are represented by the following institutions of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus:

- National Centre for Artistic Creativity of Children and Youth, www.nchtdm.by;
- Republican Center of Ecology and Local Lore Studies, www.rctkum.by;
- Republican Center of Innovation and Technical Creativity, www.rcitt.by;
- The national children's educational health-improving centre "Zubrenok", www.zubronok.by.
- All regions of the Republic of Belarus successfully operate a network of institutions of supplementary education of children and youth.

In addition, all educational establishments (schools, vocational education, higher education) provide pupils and students with professional supplementary education opportunities in their leisure time. Young people are encouraged to participate in after-school programmes for children and youth as well as extracurricular activities. As of 1 January 2016, in day-time general secondary education institutions (schools), there were up to 30 100 hobby rings and clubs with a total of 429 200 young people (about 22% of the targeted population) are participating in such after-school programmes on a voluntary basis.

The vocational education establishments have 3 463 hobby groups and clubs with a total of 44 100 young people or 47.6% of the overall students. The higher education institutions have 2 738 hobby groups and clubs with a total of 57 800 students or 33.5% of the overall students.

Source: Education in the Republic of Belarus, Statistical book, Minsk, 2017, http://www.belstat.gov.by/ofitsialnaya-statistika/publications/izdania/public_compilation/index_7498/.

The Republic of Belarus operates 424 children's art schools in which 114 600 children and young people aged 6-17 are studying. Art schools are diverse in their areas of activity and divided into musical, choreographic, fine arts, applied art, artistic and aesthetic.

Source: Culture in the Republic of Belarus, 2017, Statistical book, Minsk, 2017, http://www.belstat.gov.by/ofitsialnaya-statistika/publications/izdania/public_compilation/index_7878/.

Particular attention is paid to improving the physical education of youth. Youth sports clubs, specialised schools of the Olympic Reserve, and children's and youth sports schools and sections have been put into operation. There are 457 organisations of physical culture and sports, including 11 secondary schools – Olympic Reserve schools, and 446 specialised educational and sports institutions with a total of over 174 000 young athletes in the country.

Republican Volunteer Centre. The Republican Volunteer Centre at the republican public organisation League of Youth Voluntary Service was developed in September 2009 with the purpose of promoting civic engagement of youth through its involvement in volunteering. The Centre provides an opportunity for young people to get information about open calls, projects and activities to participate in.

More information: <http://lyvs.by/>

The Republican Youth Centre started its work on 19 May 2017 at the National Centre for the Art of Children and Youth,

http://nchtdm.by/kreativnoinnovacionnyj_molodezhnyj_cent/.

The aim of the Centre is to co-operate with youth NGOs, at national as well as international level, to support youth in the framework of implementing the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus.

Regional support centres for youth entrepreneurship have been put into operation. For example, in Minsk the communal unitary enterprise "Youth Social Service" is registered as a small entrepreneurship incubator, www.mcc.by.

In the Republic of Belarus there is a widely supported movement of students' work teams for the purpose of implementation of the state youth policy as well as provision of temporary employment opportunities for youth in leisure time. In order to support the movement, the republican headquarters of students' work teams has been put into operation,

<http://brsm.by/about/directions/republican-state-of-student-teams/about/>.

In terms of digital/online youth work development it has to be mentioned that a number of activities are carried out. The online media library on youth information at the internet portal of the Association of Youth Workers has been launched, www.youthworker.by/ru/normativnye-dokumenty. The media library provides users with key normative documents in the field of youth policy, good practice in youth work, and an online library on youth issues.

Opportunities in e-learning and blended learning are also available. For example: Distance Learning Platform of the EDU-HUB of the Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs.

EDU-HUB objectives are as follows:

- provision of information and technical support for specialists working with adolescents and young people at-risk groups;
- organisation of the experience and best practices exchange in working with adolescents and young people at risk in the context of counselling and HIV testing;
- widening opportunities for communication of most-at-risk adolescents and young people and their inclusion in the processes of counselling and dialogue in the development of new programmes and projects in the field of health protection and promotion.

Source: www.belau.info/moodle/index.php?lang=en_utf8.

Support for youth work targeting specifically young people with fewer opportunities is provided by local social service centres (148 centres in total). These centres pay much attention to orphans and children deprived of parental care who came out of orphanages, children's homes or other education establishments.

The non-governmental organisation Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities (NGO "BelAPDiMi") unites on a voluntary basis approximately 3 000 families bringing up children and young people with disabilities.

The National Centre of Legal Information of the Republic of Belarus gives young people and youth workers access to appropriate legal information databases, www.pravo.by.

7. Quality standards

The competency descriptors for youth workers are defined by the Educational Standard of the Republic of Belarus No. 1-09 01 74-2012 in the specialty of retraining executives and specialists with the higher education “Organisation work with youth” with the confirmed qualification “Specialist in work with youth”. The competence framework comprises three groups of competences: social-personal, academic and professional (57 in total). The most prominent competencies are as follows:

1. Social-personal competences: to have a perception of the world, reflecting the ideals of Belarusian society and the state of Belarus, knowledge of the youth policy of the Belarusian state, the history of the national culture and culture of other nations; to have high civic consciousness and patriotism; to know the religious aspect of the ideology of the Belarusian state, the features of the world religious situation and national culture; to be able to analyse the economic processes taking place in the Republic of Belarus and abroad.

2. Academic competences: to know the basics of psychological-pedagogical theory, patterns, principles, forms and methods of teaching and upbringing; be able to apply them in their professional and social activities; to be able to design educational systems and manage their development; to be able to analyse and solve problem situations arising in professional activity; to know the theoretical and methodological foundations of social pedagogy and psychology; to know the legal and ideological foundations of the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus, the main fields of work with young people in the conditions of the modern Belarusian higher school; to be able to implement the main state programmes, taking into account the conditions of education, professional performance of various categories of youth; to be able to analyse the current situation of acute youth problems, conduct preventive, informative and educational work, actively using modern technologies of management; to be able to organise sociological research in the field of youth sociology and use information technologies for searching, collecting and visualising information; to know and to be able to apply various methods of analysing the organisation’s needs for personnel, assessing the personal and professional qualities of the employees, staff recruitment and training; to know effective technologies for working with an audience, methods of persuasive impact and hidden control; to know the main regulations of the Labour Code of the Republic of Belarus, the nature of labour law offences, the general rules for regulating labour relations; to know the features of the implementation of various communication technologies in the sphere of culture; to be able to apply new technologies of sociocultural activity in the professional sphere; to know the essence and specifics of local history and tourism in the Republic of Belarus, as well as the role of historical and cultural disciplines in the formation of youth’s civic position; to know the patterns of cultural life of Belarusian society, the features of the cultural processes in society; to know and be able to determine the place and role of Belarusian culture in the context of the development of Slavic cultures.

3. Professional competences: to know the basic theories of mental development of the personality, known in world psychological sciences; to know the various forms of deviant behaviour and their content; to know the social essence of the family as a historical form of population reproduction and the socialisation of new generations; to know the specific features

of the formation of a young family; to know the basic legislative, normative, instructive and methodological documents of the Republic of Belarus on the organisation of ideological and educational work; to know the basic methodological, conceptual, social and psychological-pedagogical aspects of educational work with youth; to be able to analyse and implement in their professional activity, the main ideas of the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus, to evaluate the situation and perspectives of educational work in organisations, the impact of social, psychological and pedagogical conditions on its effectiveness (the effectiveness of the educational work); to be able to apply with a purpose both traditional and innovative forms and methods of working with students in the system of ideological and educational work; to be able to carry out real communicative interaction in different situations of professional activity, using forms, methods and techniques of communicative behaviour; to know the theoretical basis of intercultural communication, forms, methods and techniques of intercultural interaction; to be able to analyse real intercultural communicative situations; to be able to analyse the situation of ideological and educational work with young people (including students); to be able to formulate projects for the organisation of educational work and its improvement, objectively evaluate the ways of solving youth problems in the conditions of particular educational institutions and organisations; to be able to analyse the main youth subcultures, modern trends in the development of the youth movement in the context of globalisation; to have practical skills in neutralising the destructive potential of youth radicalisation; to be able to design and plan a professional career; to be able to actively use modern information technologies, use applied computer programmes for solving specific tasks.

Source: http://nihe.bsu.by/images/cnpo/Standart_1-09_01_74.pdf.

It has to be mentioned that a quality assurance framework for youth workers is determined by employment agreements between employers and youth workers as well as local job regulations documents.

8. Knowledge and data on youth work

As of 1 January 2015, the Republic of Belarus had 1 285 specialists working with youth at enterprises, organisations, institutions, educational establishments and agencies.

The key statistical document that presents data on children and youth is the statistical book “Children and youth in the Republic of Belarus, 2015”. Inter alia, the statistical book presents statistics on educational institutions; supplementary educational institutions; summer recreational camps; sanatoriums; health improvement and recreational institutions; where youth work was mostly delivered. Data are shown for the country as a whole as well as in a breakdown by region and Minsk city.

More information:

<http://www.belstat.gov.by/upload/iblock/78c/78ceecdfe5f0b01448aa8dbff465c88c.zip>.

The report on youth in the Republic of Belarus is drafted annually in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 “On Foundations of State Youth Policy” (Article 23). The national report “On the situation of the youth in the Republic of Belarus in 2015” is prepared by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus. The mission of the report is to inform the public at large about the situation in the youth field in the Republic of Belarus. The report presents contemporary statistics and sociological data on a wide range of issues, including youth personnel policy, socio-economic support for young people, crime prevention among young people, youth participation in the socio-political life of the country, youth and children’s NGOs, the system of supplementary education of children and young people and others.

More information:

<https://youthworker.by/images/normativnie%20dokumenti/Doklad%20o%20polozhenii%20molo dezhi%20v%202015%20godu.pdf>.

The Youth Policy and Sociocultural Communication Department at the National Institute for Higher Education has been carrying out scientific research on the topic “Professional and competent culture of a specialist in youth work” since 2016. Furthermore, the department issues the academic journal “[Modern youth and society](#)” and “Education in co-creation”, where a number of academic articles dealing with various youth work issues have been published.

More information: <http://www.nihe.bsu.by/index.php/ru/dep-m>.

In 2017, the [online media resource on youth information](#) on the internet portal of the [Association of Youth Workers, Belarus](#) was launched, <https://youthworker.by/ru/normativnye-dokumenty>.

9. European and international dimension of youth work in the country

The Republic of Belarus takes part in the EU-funded project Youth Policy Support in the Eastern Partnership Region, EPYRU, www.eapyouth.eu/. Within this initiative, the EPYRU study visit on youth workers' education took place in Minsk on 21-23 September 2015. The main objectives of the study visit were the following:

- Examine the current state of affairs in the area of youth workers' training and education and on-the-job training of state authorities' staff dealing with youth policy issues in Eastern Partnership countries.
- Design recommendations to improve this activity.
- Present and discuss training programmes in the area of youth policy.
- Present and discuss guidebooks/manuals in the area of youth policy.
- Exchange best practices (based on European and international experience) in the area of youth workers' training, and education and on-the-job training of state authorities' staff; discuss applicability and potential of these best practices regarding their use in Eastern Partnership countries.

A number of youth workers take part in mobility programmes of the European Voluntary Service (EVS), https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/evs-organisation_en.

An Erasmus+ Youth Information Centre was established in Belarus, <https://www.facebook.com/pg/EP.belarus/about/>. The information centre provides information support within the framework of the Erasmus programme, including opportunities for youth workers.

10. Current debates and open questions/policies on youth work

Further priorities addressed to youth work development are emphasised at the State Programme on Education and Youth Policy for the period 2016-2020. To be specific:

- to develop a network of multidisciplinary centres for work in the place of residence;
- to promote innovative forms and approaches in youth work;
- to staff the management for professional youth work;
- to facilitate youth participation in the implementation of socially significant initiatives and projects;
- to facilitate young people's engagement in the volunteer and student work teams' movements;
- to provide comprehensive support in successful youth career development, implementation of youth personnel policy;
- to further develop a youth entrepreneurship infrastructure;
- to promote digital youth work in order to raise the level of young people's digital literacy;
- to provide comprehensive support for young people who are in challenging situations.

Source: the State Programme "Education and Youth Policy" 2016-2020,

<http://www.government.by/upload/docs/file2b2ba5ad88b5b0eb.PDF>.