

## Youth Partnership

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



# CONTRIBUTION OF NON- PROGRAMME COUNTRIES TO EU YOUTH WIKI

## CHAPTER I: ARMENIA YOUTH POLICY GOVERNANCE

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## 1.1 TARGET POPULATION OF YOUTH POLICY

The Republic of Armenia (RA) has not yet adopted a national youth law,<sup>1</sup> therefore for defining “youth” reference should be made to the Decision of the Government of the RA N1693-N of 27 December 2012 on Approving the 2013-2017 Strategy and Action Plan for the Youth State Policy of the RA<sup>2</sup> (the Strategy) as well as to the Decision of the Government of the RA N54 of 25 December 2014 on Approving the Youth State Policy Concept of the RA for 2015-2025<sup>3</sup> (the Concept). According to Article 6 of the Strategy, direct beneficiaries are entities approved by the Decision of the Government of Armenia N798 of 14 December 1998 on the Youth State Policy Concept for 1999-2001<sup>4</sup> (not in force since 28 December 2014) in particular, Armenia’s youth NGOs, 16-30-year-old citizens, young families, etc. The Strategy is based on the perception that young people aged between 16 and 30 years old, who number in total 888,344 (27% of the entire population) as per the National Statistical Service of the RA data of 1 January 2012, are an important potential of the society and they must be given an opportunity to become free, highly educated, healthy and responsible citizens.<sup>5</sup> Article 1.1 of the Concept defines “youth” as:

1. Young person: Citizens of the RA aged 16-30 (inclusive) as well as foreign citizens aged 16-30 (inclusive) living with the right of residence (a residence permit) in the RA, stateless persons as well as persons with refugee status in the RA prescribed by the law.
2. Young family: a family where at least one of the spouses is under 30 years old while the other is younger than 35 years old and the total age of spouses does not exceed 65, or a young single parent.
3. Youth NGO: non-governmental organisations registered in the RA which according to their statute/regulations deal with youth issues and/or carry out youth work.
4. Youth worker: a person who carries out youth work (with young people, groups of young people or work which aims to address youth issues) to foster young people’s personal, social and educational growth, to develop their full potential and help them to fully establish themselves in society. A youth worker is well aware of young

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<sup>1</sup> As of 17 August 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N1693-N of 27 December 2012 on Approving the 2013-2017 Strategy and Action Plan for the Youth State Policy of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun karavarutyun voroshumy Hayastani Hanrapetutyun eritasardakan petakan qaghaqakanutyun 2013-2017 tvakanneri razmavarutyuny ev mijocarumnaeri tsragiry hastatelu masin, 27 dektemberi 2012 tvakani N1693-N): <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=80598>.

<sup>3</sup> Extract from the Government Session Protocol, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N54 of 25 December 2014 on Approving the Youth State Policy Concept of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun karavarutyun nisti ardzanagrutyunic qaghvacq Hayastni Hanrapetutyun eritasardakan petakan qaghaqakanutyun hayecakargin havanutyun talu masin, 25 dektemberi 2014 tvakani N54): <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=96116>.

<sup>4</sup> Decision of the Government of Armenia N798 of 14 December 1998 on the Youth State Policy Concept (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun karavarutyun voroshum, 14 dektmberi 1998 tvakani N798 Petakan Eritasardakan Qaghaqakanutyun Hayecakargi masin): <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docid=7000>.

<sup>5</sup> Article 6-7 of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N1693-N of 27 December 2012 on Approving the 2013-2017 Strategy and Action Plan for the Youth State Policy of the Republic of Armenia.

people's real life and current local conditions, can assess the situation and needs of young people, can choose and apply appropriate work methods, and can carry out an analysis of the impact of the work. He/she works with young people and youth groups, develops, implements and evaluates youth programmes and projects, and co-operates with interested persons, groups and organisations in various sectors.

Besides, the government attaches particular importance to ensuring and promoting involvement of rural youth and youth NGOs and the implementation of target-based programmes with involvement of young people with limited opportunities to ensure young people's access to information in rural areas.<sup>6</sup>

Although the National Statistical Service of the RA does not have subcategories of youth in specific age groups, in some cases, for statistical purposes young people are classified into subgroups: from 15 to 19 years old, from 20 to 24 years old and from 25 to 29 years old.<sup>7</sup> Young people aged 30 years are included in the sub-group of people of 30-34 years old.<sup>8</sup>

The capacity of a citizen to acquire and exercise civil rights, to subsequently create civil responsibilities and act upon them shall arise in full from the moment of reaching the age of majority, namely upon attaining the age of 18. A minor having attained the age of 16 may be declared as having full active legal capacity (emancipation) where he or she works under an employment contract or with the consent of his or her parents, adopters or the curator is engaged in entrepreneurial activity. Parents, adopters, and the curator shall not be liable for obligations of a minor declared as having full active legal capacity, in particular, for obligations which have arisen as a result of the damage caused thereby.<sup>9</sup> Citizens of the RA having attained the age of 18 on the day of an election to the National Assembly or on the day of a referendum shall have the right to elect and the right to participate in the referendum. Everyone who has attained the age of 25, has held citizenship of only the RA for the preceding four years, has been permanently residing in the Republic for the preceding four years, has the right of suffrage and has command of the Armenian language, may be elected as a Deputy of the National Assembly. Citizens of the RA having attained the age of 18 on the day of election or referendum shall have the right to elect and be elected during the elections of local self-government bodies and the right to participate in a local referendum.<sup>10</sup> Admission of children under the age of 16 to permanent employment is prohibited.<sup>11</sup> Persons

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<sup>6</sup> Article 6(d) of the Decision of the Government of the RA N54 of 25 December 2014 on Approving the Youth State Policy Concept of the RA.

<sup>7</sup> National Statistical Service of the RA, Population Census 2011: <http://armstat.am/file/doc/99478253.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Article 24 (1-2) of the Civil Code of the RA (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Qaghaqaciakan Orenqgirq), adopted by National Assembly on 5 May 1998 and last amended on: <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=112635>.

<sup>10</sup> Article 48(1-3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Sahmandrutyun) adopted by National Referendum on 5 June 1995, last amended through a referendum on 6 December 2015: <http://concourt.am/armenian/constitutions/index2015.htm> (Armenian) and <http://www.president.am/en/constitution-2015> (English translation).

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., Article 57(4).

aged 14 to 16 can work only under a temporary employment contract by the consent of one of the parents or an adopter or a curator.<sup>12</sup> The age of criminal responsibility is 16 and, for certain crimes, it is 14.<sup>13</sup> Twelve-year secondary or pre-vocational or secondary vocational education in the RA is mandatory until the student is 19 years old, unless this right has been exercised earlier.<sup>14</sup> It should be noted that young people aged from 16 to 18 are also covered by the Law of the RA on the Rights of the Child.<sup>15</sup>

## 1.2 NATIONAL YOUTH LAW

Armenia has not yet adopted a national youth law.<sup>16</sup> There were several attempts to adopt a national youth law (see a [draft Law of the RA on Youth State Policy](#)<sup>17</sup> or a [draft Law of the RA on Youth](#)<sup>18</sup>); however, none of them succeeded, for different reasons such as excessive social commitments and poor budgetary means, lack of consultation and public discussion, declarative nature of the draft law, etc.<sup>19</sup> Neither the current Concept, nor the 2013-2017 Strategy, envisages the adoption of a national youth law. However, applying a rights-based approach will allow young people to be actors in their own development, rather than passive recipients of services. The necessity of adoption of a national youth law should be widely discussed in the light of the newly amended Constitution of the Republic of Armenia with all stakeholders, including youth in marzes.<sup>20</sup>

## 1.3 NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

One of the main objectives of the state policy in the economic, social and cultural spheres is to promote participation of youth in political, economic and cultural life.<sup>21</sup> State and local

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<sup>12</sup> Article 17(2) of the Labour Code of the RA (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Ashkhatanqayin Orensirg HO-124-N), adopted by National Assembly on 9 November 2004, last amended on 17 June 2016:

<http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=107116>.

<sup>13</sup> Article 24(1-2) of the Criminal Code of the RA, HO-528-N (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Qrekan Orensirg), adopted by National Assembly on 18 April 2003, last amended on 9 June 2017:

<http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=114411>.

<sup>14</sup> Article 18(7) of the Law on Education of the RA HO-297 (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán orenqy krtutyán masin, HO-297), adopted by National Assembly on 14 April 1999, last amended on 16 March 2016:

<http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=104515>.

<sup>15</sup> Law of the RA on the Rights of the Child, HO-59 (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán orenqy erexayi iravunqneri masin, HO-59), adopted by National Assembly on 29 May 1996, last amended on 23 May 2011:

<http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=69115>.

<sup>16</sup> As of August 2017.

<sup>17</sup> Draft Law of the RA on Youth State Policy, K-102-29 August 2007-GK-010/0 (Petakan Eritasardakan Qaghaqakanutyán masin Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Orenqi Naxagits, K-102-29ogostosi 2007-GK-010/0):

<http://www.parliament.am/drafts.php?sel=showdraft&DraftID=2430&Reading=0>.

<sup>18</sup> Draft Law of the RA on Youth, P-311-08 August 2008-GK-010/0 (Yeritasardutyán masin Hayastani Hanrapetutyán orenqi naxagits, P-311-08 ogostosi 2008-GK-010/0):

<http://www.parliament.am/drafts.php?sel=showdraft&DraftID=2959&Reading=0>.

<sup>19</sup> Jan S. et al. (2009), Youth policy in Armenia, An international perspective, Council of Europe, pp. 24-25.

<sup>20</sup> “Marz” means a region in Armenia.

<sup>21</sup> Article 86(12) of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

self-government bodies are obliged to fulfil this objective within the framework of their competences and possibilities<sup>22</sup> and the Government is obliged to submit a report for each year to the National Assembly regarding the implementation of this objective.<sup>23</sup>

Youth state policy has been implemented in the Republic of Armenia on a systematic basis since 1995.<sup>24</sup> Since then Armenia has adopted two youth state policy concepts:<sup>25</sup> one in 1998 covering the period of [1999-2001](#) and another in 2014 covering the period of [2015-2025](#) (see 1.1, Target Population of Youth Policy). The Concept is a basic document in the field of youth state policy, which defines the subjects, the long-term goals (2015-2025), objectives, principles and directions of the RA Youth State Policy. It defines the main provisions based on which the Youth State Policy in the RA is developed and implemented.<sup>26</sup>

Armenia also adopted three national youth strategies:<sup>27</sup> in particular, (1) [Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N6 of 2 February 2006 on Approving the 2006-2008 Youth State Policy Strategy and action Plan of the RA](#),<sup>28</sup> (2) [Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N39 of 25 September 2008 on Approving the 2008-2012 Youth State Policy Strategy of the Republic of Armenia, Extract from the Government Session Protocol](#)<sup>29</sup> and (3) [Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N1693-N of 27 December 2012 on Approving the 2013-2017 Strategy and Action Plan for the Youth State Policy of the RA](#).<sup>30</sup> A new strategy covering the period of 2018-2022 is currently in the process of development.

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid., Article 87(1).

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., Article 87(2) and 156.

<sup>24</sup> Article 10 of the Strategy.

<sup>25</sup> Concept is a brief document consisting of the research results and recommendations (active or passive) or recommendations to avoid of any action in the specific field. Article 1.2(1) of the Government Decision N2 of 22 January 2015 on Methodological Guidance on Drafting Concepts, Strategies and Action Plans: <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=95885>.

<sup>26</sup> Introduction, the Concept on Youth State Policy (2015-2025).

<sup>27</sup> Strategy is a document generally describing the main directions and activities for realisation of the prescribed goals and measures. Article 1.2(2) of the Government Decision N2 of 22 January 2015 on Methodological Guidance on Drafting Concepts, Strategies and Action Plans: <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=95885>.

<sup>28</sup> The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N6 of 2 February 2006 on Approving the 2006-2008 Youth State Policy Strategy of the RA (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Karavarutyun Nisti Ardnagrutyun Qaghvatq, 2 petrvari 2006 tvakani N6, Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Eritasardakan Petakan Qaghaqakanutyun 2006-2007 tvakanneri razmavarutyuny ev Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Eritasardakan Petakan Qaghaqakanutyun 2006-2007 tvakanneri razmavarutyun Katarumn Apahovogh Gortcoghutyunneri Tsrigrin ev Mijocarumneri Tcankin Havanutyun talu masin): <http://www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=35898>.

<sup>29</sup> Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N39 of 25 September 2008 on Approving the 2008-2012 Youth State Policy Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia, Extract from the Government Session (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Karavarutyun Nisti Ardnagrutyun Qaghvatq, 25 septemperi 2008 tvakani N39, Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Eritasardakan Petakan Qaghaqakanutyun 2008-2012 tvakanneri Razmavarutyun Havanutyun Talu Masin): <http://www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=45781>.

<sup>30</sup> Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N1693-N of 27 December 2012 on Approving the 2013-2017 Strategy and Action Plan for the Youth State Policy of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun karavarutyun voroshumy Hayastani Hanrapetutyun eritasardakan petakan qaghaqakanutyun 2013-2017 tvakanneri razmavarutyuny ev mijocarumnaeri tsragiry hastatelu masin, 27 dektemperi 2012 tvakani N1693-N): <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=80598>.

The current strategy defines youth-related main priority areas for the Government of Armenia.<sup>31</sup> The Strategy consists of nine chapters (Annex 1 to the Government Decision). Chapters include the following themes: Objectives of the Strategy; Analysis of the Current Situation of the Youth State Policy; Description of Youth Situation; Key Priorities; Promotion of Youth Participation in the Political, Economic and Cultural Life; Youth Employment and Socio-Economic Issues; Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle among Youth; Development of Youth Spiritual and Cultural Values and Military-Patriotic Upbringing and Sustainability of Education and Recognition of Non-Formal Education. There is also an Action Plan (Annex 2 to the Government Decision) which lists Activities; Responsible Body; Partners; Implementation Timeframe; and Funding Source. The objective of the Strategy is to enhance the youth participation level in political, economic and cultural life; suggest reasonable and realistic solutions for youth employment to overcome socio-economic problems; promote a healthy lifestyle; contribute to the development of spiritual and cultural values; promote military and patriotic upbringing; and ensure sustainability of education and recognition of non-formal education.<sup>32</sup> For the purposes of the Strategy, the direct beneficiaries are Armenian youth NGOs, 16- to 30-year-old citizens, and young families.<sup>33</sup> The government attaches particular importance to ensuring and promoting involvement of rural youth and youth NGOs as well as to the implementation of youth professional orientation programmes with involvement of young people with limited opportunities. The youth state policy is developed and implemented by the state authorities and local self-government bodies with participation of youth NGOs, young people and other legal and physical persons.<sup>34</sup>

Following the Prime Minister's Order N 785-A of 17 September 2009, the National Youth Policy Council by the Prime Minister was established with a goal to contribute to the design and implementation of the RA youth policy, encouraging youth involvement in different spheres of public life and assisting youth organisations with their activities. The Council consists of representatives of both public stakeholders and civic society on the basis of parity whereas civic society representatives were selected on a competitive basis.<sup>35</sup> However, this Council is not active now; the last session of the Council was held on 19 December 2012.<sup>36</sup>

Starting from 2007,<sup>37</sup> the RA Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MoSYA) has been a state-authorized body responsible for youth state policy in Armenia. Youth state policy programmes are developed by the Ministry Youth Policy Department and implemented by

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<sup>31</sup> Article 2 of the Strategy.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., Article 9.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., Article 6.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., Article 5.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., Article 14.

<sup>36</sup> The website of the Government of the Republic of Armenia: <http://gov.am/en/councils/reports/6/>.

<sup>37</sup> From 1995 to 2007 the RA Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs was the main authorised state body responsible for development and implementation of youth state policy. See the Youth State Policy Strategies for 2006-2007 and 2008-2012.

the Centre for Organising Youth Activities; they are funded from a separate line item of the RA state budget.<sup>38</sup> Since youth problems in Armenia cover different areas of life, it is required that the MoSYA closely co-operate with the relevant state government authorities, local self-government bodies, civic society and international organisations in Armenia.<sup>39</sup> According to the Action Plan, the Ministry of Diaspora of the RA and the Ministry of Education and Science of the RA are also responsible bodies and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the RA, the Ministry of Defence of the RA, territorial administration bodies (marzpetarans) and local and rural youth NGOs and foundations are partners for the implementation of the Strategy. However, the monitoring and assessment results of the current Strategy showed a lack of cross-sectoral co-operation and co-ordination mechanisms. In October-December 2016, with the support of the MoSYA, the Youth Studies Institute conducted [Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2013-2017 Strategy for the Youth State Policy of the Republic of Armenia](#). The results of monitoring and evaluation are presented in Section 1.9.

Issues related to youth are also integrated in other legal acts, such as the Republic of Armenia 2014-2025 Strategic Programme of Prospective Development (the RA Government Decision N442-N as of 27 March 2014).<sup>40</sup> Issues related to youth employment were included in the previous National Strategy on Human Rights Protection (Government Decision N303 of 27 February 2014 of the RA).<sup>41</sup>

The current Strategy has not undergone any revisions or updates. As mentioned above, the current Strategy was preceded by the 2006-2008<sup>42</sup> Strategy and the 2008-2012 Strategy. The main difference between the past and present strategies is that the 2013-2017 Strategy was developed on the basis of large-scale evidence-based research on youth issues in Armenia, in particular the Armenian Youth National Report (Part 1), a study on Aspirations and Expectations of the Youth of Armenia as well as on the second analytical part of the Armenian Youth National Report.<sup>43</sup>

## 1.4 YOUTH POLICY DECISION MAKING

[The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the RA](#) constitutes the main authority in charge of elaboration and implementation of the youth policies in Armenia. Its functions are

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid., Article 11-13.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., Article 25.

<sup>40</sup> The Republic of Armenia 2014-2025 Strategic Programme of Prospective Development (Hayatsani Hanrapetutyanyan 2014-2025 tvakanneri herankarayan zargacman razmavarakan tsragir) <http://www.gov.am/files/docs/1322.pdf>.

<sup>41</sup> Article 22 of the Strategy: [http://moj.am/storage/uploads/HR\\_table\\_Gov\\_approved\\_3Apr14\\_FINAL\\_Arm-1.pdf](http://moj.am/storage/uploads/HR_table_Gov_approved_3Apr14_FINAL_Arm-1.pdf).

<sup>42</sup> A National Youth Policy Review was conducted by the Council of Europe in 2006 and the current government conducted a revision of the youth policy strategy in the first half of 2008.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., Article 1.



regulated by the Government Decision of the RA N825-N of 12 June 2007 on Establishing “Staff of Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia” State Administration Institution, Approving the Statute and Structure of Staff of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.<sup>44</sup>

For realisation of its goals and objectives in the field of youth policy, the Ministry drafts legislative and other normative acts, generalises practical implementation of legal acts and elaborates recommendations with a view of improving legislation of the RA in the field of youth issues; it further develops and implements concepts and specific state target programmes in the field of youth issues; takes part in the elaboration of the Draft Budget of the RA; implements advocacy of the field of youth issues; together with local state authorities ensures the implementation of youth policies; ensures the co-ordination of implementation of research programmes in the field of youth issues; develops and signs inter-agency international treaties within its competences, ensures implementation of international obligations of the RA in the field of youth issues; with the aim of international youth co-operation, sends youth groups to foreign countries, assists in the development of international youth collaboration and exchanges; collaborates with and takes part in the work of international youth organisations; develops youth programmes in co-operation with the state governing body; defines the directions of scientific-technical development in the field of youth issues; analyses the market of services in the field of youth issues, organises the summary and distribution of statistical data; develops programmes on information systems, methodical and counselling service delivery, as well as programmes on informational, methodological, educational, scientific, research and other programmes in the field of youth.

Furthermore, the Ministry creates and introduces a system of administrative statistical reports and with the help of corresponding registers conducts the administrative statistics of youth issues, as well as registers junior and youth organisations; analyses, examines and forecasts social processes in the youth environment, their influence on political and social-economic conditions of the state; organises PR activities. Additional functions of the Ministry in the field of youth issues are conducting analysis of the policy, examining trends and patterns of policy; and developing policy strategy, concepts and targeted programmes and monitoring their implementation.<sup>45</sup> To ensure participation of civil society in the implementation of functions and tasks of the Ministry, a Public Council adjunct to the Minister is set up.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup>Government Decision of the RA N825-N of 12 June 2007 On Creating “Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia” State Administration Institution, Approving the Statute and Structure of Staff of The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Karavarutyán Voroshumy N825-N, 12 hulisí 2007 tvakani “HH Sporti ev Eritasardutyán Harceri Nakhararutyán Ashkhatakazm” petakan karavarchakan himnark steghcelu, HH Sporti ev Eritasardutyán Harceri Nakhararutyán Kanonadrutyny ev Ashkhatakazmi Karucvatcqy Hastatelu Masin): <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=110663>.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., Article 7.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., Article 14.2.

The Youth Policy Department within the MoSYA<sup>47</sup> defines trends of the youth state policy objectives and priorities, conducts policy analysis, studies trends, develops strategies and implements other functions. The Department has two divisions, the Division of Programmes Development and Implementation and the Division of Co-operation and Analysis. Other ministries, like the Ministry of Education and Science of the RA, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the RA, the Ministry of Diaspora of the RA, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, and the Ministry of Culture are also involved in elaboration and implementation of youth policies.

At the National Assembly of the RA, a [Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture and Youth Affairs](#) is established for preliminary discussion of draft laws and other issues falling under its competence and for submission of opinions thereon to the National Assembly, as well as for the exercise of parliamentary supervision.<sup>48</sup> In 2004, the [Youth Parliament](#) was founded under the Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture and Youth Affairs of the National Assembly. In 2005 it was registered as an NGO. The mission of the organisation is to support youth participation in legislative processes and strengthen youth participation in the democratisation processes. However, the NGO is not very active now.<sup>49</sup> The [European Youth Parliament Armenia](#) founded in 2012 is a forum designed to actively engage young people in modelling their future society.

The Pan-Armenian International Youth Centre foundation, later renamed the Youth Foundation of Armenia,<sup>50</sup> was founded based on the Government Decision of the RA N520 of 11 June 2001. The primary objectives of the Foundation are to assist in democratic processes taking place in Armenia, development of a legal state and civil society, to take part in collecting, co-ordinating and organising for publication information on issues in the youth sector in Armenia, as well as abroad, to organise the dissemination and presentation of cultural, educational and historical heritage of Armenia, support talented young people, strengthen Armenia-Artsakh<sup>51</sup>-Diaspora ties, develop and implement joint projects, take part in the implementation of projects aimed at solving problems in environmental protection, health care, media and publishing activities, youth welfare, sports, youth employment, vocational guidance, training and retraining, as well as other related fields. The Prime Minister of the RA acts as a Chairman of the Board of Trustees and other members include officials from the ministries, the Government of the RA, the National Assembly of the RA,

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<sup>47</sup> Ibid., Annex 2 (Structure of the Staff of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the RA), Article 1.1.

<sup>48</sup> Article 106 (1) of the Constitution <http://www.president.am/en/constitution-2015>.

<sup>49</sup> See the last updates and sessions on the website of the Youth Parliament <http://youthparliament.am/?lan=eng&ip=5&id=0>.

<sup>50</sup> Based on the Board of Trustees Decree N1 of 9 June 2010.

<sup>51</sup> The Republic of Artsakh has been the official name of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic following the 2017 constitutional referendum.

and the Office of the President of the RA.<sup>52</sup> According to the government website, the last session was held in 2013.<sup>53</sup>

The National Youth Policy Council adjunct to the Prime Minister of the RA was set up based on the [RA Prime Minister Decision N785-A of 17 September 2009 on Establishing the National Youth Policy Council adjunct to the Prime Minister of the RA and Approving its Statute](#). The goal of the Council is to contribute to the design and implementation of national youth policy, encouraging youth involvement in different spheres of public life and assisting youth organisations with their activities. The members of the Council are representatives of both public stakeholders and civil society on the basis of parity. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of the RA and the Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs is the deputy council chairman *ex officio*. The Council has a secretary who shall be a council member representing civil society.<sup>54</sup> The Council took a very active role till 2014 in development of the 2013-2017 Strategy, discussion of state-funded programmes, establishment of regional youth policy staff in marz administrations to be responsible for youth policy issues, application of an online grant system, and in co-operation with the UN agencies.

To foster youth participation and to increase the efficiency of the youth policies at territorial administration and local government bodies, a Youth Council adjunct to the Governor (Marzpet) was established based on the [RA Prime Minister Decision N85-A of 10 February 2014](#). Although the Youth Councils adjunct to the Governors (Marzpets) are functioning in all marzes/regions, not all of them are active.

The National Youth Council of Armenia (NYCA) was founded in 1997 with a view to assisting the development and promotion of youth policy in Armenia and the involvement of youth in the solution of national tasks, spreading the idea of human rights protection and ensuring mutual assistance of Armenian youth NGOs. It is an umbrella organisation for over 70 youth organisations from different sectors. It also includes political representatives in its structure and has an experience of co-operation with municipality bodies.<sup>55</sup>

Since 2013 youth-related studies, research and youth policy monitoring and evaluation have been conducted by the [Youth Studies Institute](#) (YSI). The YSI activities are funded from a separate line item of the RA state budget. The board members of the YSI are representatives from the Ministry, the Government of the RA, the National Statistical Service of the RA, NGOs and independent experts.

In December 2016, the National Assembly adopted the new [Constitutional Law of the RA on Human Rights Defender](#), according to which the Defender shall conduct monitoring of the

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<sup>52</sup> The website of the Government of the RA: <http://www.gov.am/en/councils/>.

<sup>53</sup> The website of the Government of the RA: <http://www.gov.am/en/councils/reports/26/>, as of August 2017.

<sup>54</sup> The website of the Government of the RA: <http://www.gov.am/en/councils/>.

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/armenia/>.

implementation of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted on 20 November 1989, as well as carry out prevention of violations of the rights of the child (including young people aged from 16 to 18) and the protection thereof.<sup>56</sup>

## 1.5 CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACH WITH OTHER MINISTRIES

Since youth problems in Armenia cover different areas of life, it is required that the MoSYA closely co-operates with relevant state government authorities, local self-government bodies, civic society and international organisations working in Armenia.<sup>57</sup> Although the cross-sectoral approach to youth policy making with other ministries is prioritised for the effective development and implementation of youth strategies, there is no explicit legal framework for ensuring cross-sectoral co-operation and their overall functionality.

National youth strategies are developed in co-operation with other ministries through the establishment of working groups based on the orders of the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of the RA. In some cases, for the implementation of joint programmes, ministers issue a joint order. It should be noted that those orders mainly establish and set up a composition of the working group, but do not regulate rights and duties of co-operating parties, forms and procedures of co-operation, requirements concerning scope and form of cross-sectoral co-operation, and monitoring and evaluation processes.

Although there is an interagency social co-operation which is carried out in accordance with regulation established by the RA Government, it does not specifically target youth.<sup>58</sup>

The results of the [Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2013-2017 Strategy for the Youth State Policy of the Republic of Armenia](#) stressed the lack of cross-sectoral co-operation. The report outlines that sometimes several programmes, for example, those aimed at youth participation are not coordinated. Sometimes several programmes are implemented in the same area, and in another area such programmes are not implemented at all. The co-operation of other agencies during the strategy development, implementation and evaluation was mostly highlighted by various stakeholders as a precondition for the effectiveness of the youth strategy, and therefore as an indicator of effectiveness of the MoSYA activities. The lack of co-operation and co-ordination also concerned inter-sectoral co-ordination among the agencies at regional and local levels.

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<sup>56</sup> Article 2(3).

<sup>57</sup> Article 25 of the 2013-2017 Strategy.

<sup>58</sup> The Decision of the RA Government of 10 September 2015 N 1044-N on Setting Regulations for the Interagency (cross-sectoral) Social Co-operation. Available at <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=112629>.

## 1.6 EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH POLICY

One of the main objectives of the Youth State Policy is to ensure the development of evidence-based youth state policy and increase its effectiveness, improve youth state policy development and implementation process and ensure its sustainability.<sup>59</sup> The main directions of the Youth State Policy are defined based on research studies conducted among young people of Armenia in 2012-2014, particularly the “National Youth Report of Armenia”, “Aspirations and Expectations of the Youth of Armenia” as well as regular research studies conducted by the state non-profit/non-commercial organisation [Youth Events Holding Centre](#)<sup>60</sup> under the MoSYA.<sup>61</sup> According to the Concept, needs assessment of different groups of young people through research studies aimed at implementation of the Youth State Policy assumes a deep research on youth issues based on innovative methods and a systematic approach. Finding possible solutions to the most urgent challenges assumes constant monitoring of the youth rights situation. Currently the Youth Studies Institute, part of the state non-profit/non-commercial organisation Youth Events Holding Centre under the MoSYA, conducts various research studies on youth issues. The aim of these research studies is to contribute to the development of evidence-based and effective youth state policy. Results of the research studies on youth issues serve as the basis for continuous improvement of the regulatory framework in the field.<sup>62</sup>

The 2006-2008 Strategy for the Youth State Policy of the RA was developed on the basis of different reports and statistics.<sup>63</sup> The 2008-2012 Strategy for the Youth State Policy of the RA was developed on the basis of the first Youth National Report of Armenia produced in 2006 and published in 2007 with the support of the Council of Europe and UNDP.<sup>64</sup> The 2013-2017 Strategy for the Youth State Policy of the RA was developed on the basis of [the first research part of the Armenian Youth National Report](#), a comprehensive study, “[Aspirations and Expectations of the Youth of Armenia](#)”,<sup>65</sup> implemented under the

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<sup>59</sup> Article 4(6) of the Decision of the Government of the RA N54 of 25 December 2014 on Approving the Youth State Policy Concept of the RA for 2015-2025.

<sup>60</sup> Youth Events Holding Centre is a state non-commercial organisation acting under the MoSYA, created by the Decision of the Government of the RA of 1 December 2011 N 1799-N on Establishing Youth Events Holding Centre a state non-commercial organisation and Approving its Statute, the website: <http://www.erit.am/>.

<sup>61</sup> Main directions of the Youth State Policy, Decision of the Government of the RA N54 as of 25 December 2014 on Approving the Youth State Policy Concept of the RA for 2015-2025.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Part 1 of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N6 as of 2 February 2006 on Approving the 2006-2008 Youth State Policy Strategy of the RA: <http://www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=35898>.

<sup>64</sup> Article 2(2) of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N39 of 25 September 2008 on Approving the 2008-2012 Youth State Policy Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia, Extract from the Government Session Protocol, available at: <http://www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=45781>.

<sup>65</sup> The national survey on “Youth Aspirations” aimed to reveal the aspirations, expectations, values and goals of young people of Armenia, as well as identify their allegations in the political, social and cultural life of the country. The survey was conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia, in collaboration with the MoSYA and the National Youth Policy Council under the RA Prime Minister’s Office, within the framework of the “Mobilising Communities for Social Contract in Armenia” Project. The target group of the survey included young people of Armenia aged 16-30. The English version is available at:

Memorandum of Understanding, signed between the National Youth Policy Council by the Prime Minister and the UNDP office in Armenia in 2011 as well as on their comparative analysis, the [second analytical part of the Armenian Youth National Report](#).<sup>66</sup> The second national report addressed a number of the most vital areas for the youth: national identity, education, religion, family, employment, political participation, culture, etc. At the preparation stage it became clear that the national report, developed every five years by different expertgroups, does not reveal all existing problems, nor does it provide any solutions. It became obvious that the youth research must be institutionalised; hence the institutional capacity must be developed. As a result, establishment and development of the youth research institute was defined by the RA Government as a policy priority for 2012. Youth issues research and analysis by such an institution will give an opportunity to periodically conduct monitoring as well as scientific and applied progress analysis of the problems with a wider involvement of the field experts.<sup>67</sup>

The Youth Studies Institute (YSI) was founded in 2013 with the support of UNDP and the MoSYA. YSI functions within the “Youth Events Holding Centre” SNCO acting under the MoSYA. The goal of the YSI is to regularly conduct studies among young people promoting the development of evidence-based youth policy. The main functions of the YSI include identifying urgent problems among young people through implementation of thorough research, developing recommendations for the solution to these problems, carrying out regular surveys and studies among young people aimed at implementation of a grounded and consistent youth state policy. The YSI aims to become a research/academic centre, knowledge development and facilitation hub and a platform engaging young people in research, analysis, debates and monitoring activities, viewed as an example of modern tools and technologies, and home to constructive thinking which aims to empower young people by engaging them in policy development and implementation process. Encouraging constructive thinking, the YSI also serves as a hub for knowledge formation and facilitation as well as a platform for young people to get involved in different activities. The YSI is an active participant of the European Voluntary Service for Youth Co-operation and Mobility programme hosting and sending international volunteers.<sup>68</sup> The board of the YSI includes representatives from state agencies (including the deputy Minister of the MoSYA) as well as experts from NGOs and research organisations. The board is making a final decision on research topics proposed by the YSI. The YSI is also active through social platforms.

From 2013 to 2017, the YSI and the “Youth Events Holding Centre” SNCO conducted a number of studies<sup>69</sup> including those funded by the MoSYA. Thus, the policy themes included

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[http://www.undp.org/content/dam/armenia/docs/National%20youth%20aspirations%20survey%20report\\_ENG\\_edited%20final.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/armenia/docs/National%20youth%20aspirations%20survey%20report_ENG_edited%20final.pdf).

<sup>66</sup> Article 1 of the Strategy.

<sup>67</sup> Articles 17-20 of the Strategy.

<sup>68</sup> Information was provided by the YSI.

<sup>69</sup> Studies and reports conducted by the YSI are available at <http://ystudies.am/category/reports> and <http://ystudies.am/category/ystudies>.

research on “[The Issues of Youth Employment of the RA](#)” (Yerevan, 2013), “[Assessment of the Effectiveness of State-funded Youth Programmes and Mapping of Youth Non-Governmental Organisations](#)” (Yerevan, 2014), “[Research on Youth Work and Youth Workers](#)” (Yerevan, 2015), and “[Labour market demand study: institutionalisation prospects of co-operation between employer-young people-educational institutions](#)” (Yerevan, 2015). For the 2017 research, “The Potential of Creative Employment of Young People and its Development Perspectives” was approved by the YSI board out of three projects presented to it. In October-December 2016, with the support of the MoSYA, the YSI conducted [Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2013-2017 Strategy for the Youth State Policy of the Republic of Armenia](#). The research findings are used for the development of the 2018-2022 Strategy for the Youth State Policy of the RA.

According to the information provided by the National Statistical Service of the RA, there are no separate data, statistics, indicators or reports on the youth, though general research includes statistics and data on youth.

The YSI activities, including the above-mentioned studies, are funded from a separate line item of the RA state budget.<sup>70</sup>

## 1.7 FUNDING YOUTH POLICY

The budgetary system of Armenia is composed of the state budget and the community budget. A community shall have its own budget which shall be approved by the Council of Elders of the community upon submission of the head of the community.<sup>71</sup> The powers delegated to communities by the state shall be subject to mandatory financing from the state budget.<sup>72</sup> The government submits the draft state budget to the National Assembly (NA) at least 90 days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Budget drafts are formed in accordance with the RA Government activities, medium-term expenditure framework, as well as community development programmes. The state budget is adopted prior to the beginning of the fiscal year by the NA upon submission of the government.<sup>73</sup> Supervision of the state budget implementation, as well as the use of loans and credits received from foreign states and international organisations, is exercised by the NA. The government submits to the NA an annual report relating to the implementation of the state budget. The NA, upon availability of an opinion of the Audit Chamber, discusses and adopts a decision on the annual report relating to the performance of the state budget submitted by the government.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> Article 12-13 of the Strategy.

<sup>71</sup> Article 185(1) of the RA Constitution.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid., Article 185(2).

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., Article 110.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid., Article 111(1-2).

The Youth State Policy programmes are funded from a separate line item of the RA state budget. These programmes are developed by the Youth Policy Department of the MoSYA and implemented by the “[Centre for Organizing Youth Activities](#)” state non-commercial organisation acting under the MoSYA.<sup>75</sup> The Centre was founded in 2002 for the development and implementation of projects aimed at fostering the youth state policy, administration of online grants system, co-operation with state agencies, territorial administration bodies and regional youth NGOs.

According to the [Law of the RA on State Budget for 2017](#),<sup>76</sup> 827.2 million Armenian drams (AMD) are allocated for youth programmes in 2017. State budget allocations for youth programmes are AMD 827.4 million<sup>77</sup> and AMD 826.7 million<sup>78</sup> in 2016 and in 2015 respectively. Thus, budget allocations for youth programmes have been slightly increased over the past two years, but most of the funding is directed to the programme “Available housing for young families”, which aimed to support young families by improving their housing conditions. It should be noted that social protection, sport and education are funded from separate lines. The breakdown of the 2017 state budget allocations to youth programmes is provided on the following link: [www.arlis.am/Annexes/4/PT92.1\\_2016page925-950.pdf](http://www.arlis.am/Annexes/4/PT92.1_2016page925-950.pdf).

At least 60% of the receiving state funds should be allocated to the key priority areas of the 2013-2017 Strategy: (1) promotion of youth participation in the political, economic and cultural life; (2) youth employment and socio-economic issues; (3) promotion of healthy lifestyle among youth; (4) development of youth spiritual and cultural values and military-patriotic upbringing, and (5) sustainability of education and recognition of non-formal education.<sup>79</sup> Although the Strategy and its Action Plan specify the key priority areas, the funding source is not always clear, and the budget monitoring and programmes evaluation mechanisms are not foreseen. According to the [monitoring and assessment](#) results carried out by the [YSI](#): “179 programmes have been implemented during four years based on the financial statements; 21.5% of the programmes (37 programmes) are in line with more than one priority at the same time; according to the 2013-2017 implemented programmes, it appears that the strategy priorities have gained the following importance: Priority 1: 33%, Priority 4: 18%, Priority 3: 10%. Priorities 2 and 5 are in equal positions at the moment.”

Since 2010 the MoSYA has launched the online grants system <http://cragrer.am/> for the implementation of the objects and priorities of youth state policy. The online grants system

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<sup>75</sup> Article 12-13 of the Strategy.

<sup>76</sup> Article 7 of the Law of the RA on State Budget for 2017 (HH orenqy Hayastani Hanrapetutyanyan 2017 tvakani petakan byujei masin), adopted by NA on 08/12/2016. Available at: <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=96289>.

<sup>77</sup> Article 7 of the Law of the RA on State Budget for 2016 (HH orenqy Hayastani Hanrapetutyanyan 2016 tvakani petakan byujei masin), adopted by NA on 08/12/2016. Available at:

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=103806>.

<sup>79</sup> Online grant system website: <http://erit.am/programs/>.



allows youth NGOs to register on the website and apply for state grants. The system allows for more transparent and public access to state support for youth organisations and increases the effectiveness of the process. Since the introduction of the system, the volume of the grants has been increased considerably. Since 1 July 2010 grants have been provided to NGOs from a separate line in the state budget. The online grants system, available on the following link <http://erit.am/programs/>, was improved and upgraded in 2016. The MoSYA also manages the Travel Grants Scheme and provides travel grants to young people for participation in international youth projects, forums, meetings, conferences, international science and technology competitions and international cultural projects.<sup>80</sup> Since 2013 the Ministry has run the “Armenian Youth Capital of the Year” contest, which aims to contribute to the elaboration and implementation of youth programmes in communities, to develop partnership between the cities in the youth policy field as well as youth organisations and infrastructure in marzes.

According to the Report relating to the Implementation of the 2016 RA State Budget, a large number of programmes have been implemented in the field of youth policy, including “Monitoring and Assessment of the 2013-2017 Strategy of the Youth State Policy of the RA”, “Youth TV Show”, “Preparation and broadcasting of video clip about the announcement of the 2017 Youth Capital of the RA”, “*Yeritasard* online periodic”, “Closing Ceremony of the 2016 Youth Capital”, “Maintenance and development of online grants system”, “Awareness raising among youth on HIV/AIDS, drug, alcohol and tobacco use”, “Methodological support to non-governmental organisations and youth of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”, “Training of Youth Workers” and others. Besides, the MoSYA provided 39 grants to NGOs through its online grants system and 36 travel grants to young people.<sup>81</sup>

€3.75 million of EU assistance is available to enhance Armenia’s vocational education and training (VET) capacities. This support was allocated under the 2012 Eastern Partnership Integration and Co-operation (EaPIC) programme, which aims to open up new horizons and foster job creation for youth in Armenia, to help maximise youth involvement in local development, curb labour migration to urban areas and support poverty alleviation in the regions and across the country.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> <http://www.minsportyouth.am/en/category/champordakan-dramashnorhner.html>.

<sup>81</sup> Report relating to the Implementation of the 2016 RA State Budget, pp. 97-98: [http://www.parliament.am/draft\\_docs6/K-22/K-22\\_hashvetvutyun.pdf](http://www.parliament.am/draft_docs6/K-22/K-22_hashvetvutyun.pdf).

<sup>82</sup> EU Neighbourhood Info centre [page](#) on education, training and research, 9 June 2016. Education and career opportunities for youth in Armenia: EU to support vocational education and training reforms: <http://www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/news/education-and-career-opportunities-youth-armenia-eu-support-vocational>.

## 1.8 CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

Support for international youth partnership and development of intercultural dialogue constitutes one of the main directions of the Youth State Policy for 2015-2025. The state supports the development of international youth partnerships, youth exchange programmes and programmes for intercultural dialogue, as well as involvement of Armenian youth in regional and international cultural, educational, and scientific-technical youth programmes. The state pays special attention to the establishment and development of the relationship between Armenian, Diaspora and Artsakh youth and youth associations in the spiritual-cultural, scientific-educational, socio-economic, social and other relations considering them as one of the main directions of state policy.<sup>83</sup>

The Ministry is actively involved in cross-border co-operation programmes. A co-operation programme between the MoSYA and the Ministry of Sport and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus was signed in the field of physical culture and sport for 2015-2016. In 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India and the MoSYA on Co-operation in Youth Matters. The RA Minister of Culture signed the “Programme of Cultural, Educational and Scientific, Sports and Youth Co-operation between the RA Government and the Government of the State of Israel for the years 2017-2020. An agreement was also signed between the MoSYA and the State Sports Committee of Turkmenistan, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in the field of sports. The Ministry represents Armenia in the Council of Youth Affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Council of Youth Affairs of the participating states was established to implement the Agreement of the CIS Member States on co-operation in the sphere of working with young people, adopted in 2005 in Moscow. The Council is formed from authorised representatives of the Member States of the Agreement, namely, Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan, two from each state.

As an authorised body responsible for youth policy, the Ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a number of international organisations and established successful collaboration with the European Union, the Council of Europe, the World Bank, the United Nations agencies, the United States Peace Corps, the World Vision, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and many others.

Since 2012 Armenia has been a member of Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card and is committed to support the implementation of youth mobility programmes. Armenia is represented at the various bodies of the Council of Europe in the field of youth; it has a member and national correspondent at the European Steering Committee for Youth of the Council of Europe, the Pool of European Youth Researchers at the European Union-Council of Europe youth partnership and the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy.

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<sup>83</sup> Article 7 of the Concept.

In partnership with the Ministry and the National Youth Policy Council under the RA Prime Minister, the United Nations Development Programme in Armenia supported the establishment of the Youth Studies Centre, promoted an evidence-based approach to research, policy formulation and implementation, and engaged youth in research and analysis and supported their empowerment to contribute to policy formulation and implementation. The United Nations Fund for Children Armenia undertook a needs assessment in 2016 to develop strategic directions in the field of adolescents and youth. Based on the report findings and recommendations, potential areas for programming at the country level for adolescents and youth were identified, as was the scope of support to be provided to the government and the Ministry in the development of a new youth policy and strategy.<sup>84</sup>

The World Bank in Armenia in co-operation with the government and ministries promoted a number of projects in the field of youth policies, including those aimed at promotion of social and economic inclusion of vulnerable youth through increased access to opportunities for leadership and livelihood development<sup>85</sup> and at improving school readiness of children entering primary education, improving physical conditions and the availability of educational resources in upper secondary schools, and supporting improved quality and relevance in higher education institutions in Armenia.<sup>86</sup> It assisted the MoSYA in launching a new portal for youth that combines several websites, including an online version of [www.erit.am](http://www.erit.am) and [www.cragrer.am](http://www.cragrer.am) (an online granting system acting within the framework of youth state policy of MoSYA) and completely new tools concerning youth employment search, a directory on youth NGOs and experts, youth library and a website raising awareness on healthy lifestyle among youth.<sup>87</sup>

According to its mandate, the OSCE Office in Yerevan supported Armenia in building capacities of young people and students' community through running educational programmes, supporting the development of student representation bodies and organising the Model OSCE Conferences. The OSCE also supported the set-up of Armenia's first diplomatic school.

The EU has been continuously supporting Armenia in education sector reforms by making a particularly strong focus on vocational education and training (VET) and improving higher education to make it more compatible with European standards. A great number of different initiatives, projects, conferences, programmes and many others initiatives<sup>88</sup> reflect the EU's

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<sup>84</sup> UNICEF Armenia 2016 Annual Report:

[https://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Armenia\\_2016\\_COAR.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Armenia_2016_COAR.pdf).

<sup>85</sup> More information available at the official website of the World Bank:

<http://projects.worldbank.org/P149463/?lang=en&tab=overview>.

<sup>86</sup> More information available at the official website of the World Bank:

<http://projects.worldbank.org/P130182/education-quality-project?lang=en>.

<sup>87</sup> The website of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the RA:

<http://www.minsportyouth.am/en/noroutyouanner/eritasardneri-hamar-kgortsarkvi-nor-erita.html>.

<sup>88</sup> "The Empowerment of Tertiary-level Education Twinning" Project, "Better Qualifications for Better Jobs" Programme, the International European Youth Parliament Forum in Armenia, "European Youth Parliament

commitment to supporting education and employment opportunities for young people in Armenia. A number of Armenian-Georgian co-operation projects, workshops and forums were implemented within the EU-funded Eastern Partnership Territorial Co-operation Programmes. The EU has recently launched a programme under its EU4Youth Initiative to foster active participation of young people in societies and their employability. The agreement associating Armenia to HORIZON2020 entered into force in 2016 allowing researchers and innovators from Armenia to have full access to HORIZON2020 and the EU's research and innovation funding programme.

## 1.9 CURRENT DEBATES AND REFORMS

Currently a new strategy on the youth state policy for the years 2018-2022 is being developed. It is expected to be adopted by the government by the end of 2017. A working group was set up based on the Order of the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of the RA N114-A1 of 29 May 2017 on Establishing a Working Group for Developing the 2018-2022 Strategy on Youth State Policy and Action Plan and Approving the Composition Thereof.<sup>89</sup> The working group consists of the representatives from different ministries (the MoSYA, the RA Ministry of Diaspora, the RA Ministry of Education and Science, the RA Ministry of Culture, the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the RA Ministry of Defence, the RA Ministry of Healthcare), the “Youth Enterprise Promotion Centre” SNCO, World Vision, UN agencies as well as local youth NGOs from marzes.<sup>90</sup> In June 2017, the MoSYA hosted the first meeting with the working group during which the plan of the new Strategy and Action Plan as well as the Results of Monitoring and Assessment of 2013-2017 Strategy of Youth State Policy of the RA conducted by the Institute of Youth Studies<sup>91</sup> were presented.<sup>92</sup>

The results of the monitoring and assessment highlighted the need for the promotion of participatory processes, education, employment, social-economic issues, health care, a healthy lifestyle, spiritual and cultural values, non-formal education, youth mobility, support to young families, actions aimed at enhancing the youth worker institute, the creation of centres for the implementation of ideas and other sectors that need to be targeted in the next

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Business Simulation” Conference, The European Higher Education Area Ministerial Conference and Fourth Bologna Policy Forum, “Armenia Model European Union” Youth Conference, launch of the Euroclubs in Armenia, “E-Stat Diagnostic Tool on Public Education” project.

<sup>89</sup> Order of the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of the RA N114-A1 of 29 May 2017 on Establishing a Working Group for Developing the 2018-2022 Strategy on Youth State Policy and Action Plan and Approving the Composition Thereof (Hayastani Hanrapetutyanyan sporti ev eritasardutyanyan hachery nakharary 2017 tvakany mayisi 29-i N114-A1 hraman Eritasardakan petakan qaghaqakanutyanyan 2018-2022 tvakannery razmavarutyany ev mijocarumneri tsragiry mshakelu npatakov ashkhatanqayin khumb steghcelu ev khmbi anhatakan kazmy hastatelu masin): <http://www.erit.am/media/2017/06/8212.pdf>.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid., Appendix to the Order.

<sup>91</sup> Available at: <http://ystudies.am/reports/3768>.

<sup>92</sup> A meeting of the working group created to develop the plan of the strategy of youth state policy for 2018-2022 and action plan was held on 2 June 2017: <http://www.minsportyouth.am/en/noroutyouanner/teghi-e-ounecel-eritasardakan-petakan-qagh.html>.

Strategy.<sup>93</sup> The assessment makes a number of recommendations with regard to the structure of the Strategy and its Action Plan as well. It suggests reviewing the current structure by making it more specific, measurable, tangible and well-defined. It also suggests including a number of other sections in the Strategy which will contribute to the more effective implementation of it, like information on the implementing parties, awareness raising and participation mechanisms, funding mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation, outreach and communication plan.<sup>94</sup> The monitoring results highlight also the need for improvement of the process of strategy development and implementation to make it more open, transparent and participatory by fostering co-operation with other ministries, state agencies, regional youth and local and international organisations at different levels.<sup>95</sup> According to the assessment in the next strategy special attention should be paid to the involvement of vulnerable groups, improvement of the participation of youth at local level, promotion of the self-expression and self-organisation of youth, development of the voluntary sector<sup>96</sup> as well as improvement of the efficiency and inclusiveness of the functions of already operating platforms.<sup>97</sup>

It should also be mentioned that neither the adoption of a national youth law nor discussions on the necessity of it are foreseen in the next Strategy. The draft strategy will be published on the [www.e-draft.am](http://www.e-draft.am) website enabling CSO representatives and other interested citizens to actively participate in the discussions on and drafting of the strategy.

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<sup>93</sup> Results of Monitoring and Assessment of the 2013-2017 Strategy of Youth State Policy of the RA, Youth Studies Institute, 2017. Available at: <http://ystudies.am/reports/3768>.

<sup>94</sup> Summary of the Results of Monitoring and Assessment of the 2013-2017 Strategy of Youth State Policy of the RA, Youth Studies Institute, 2017. Information provided by the Youth Studies Institute.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> The Draft Law of the RA on Volunteering and Volunteer Work is currently drafted by the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.