

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on
Country information on youth policies



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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GREECE, 2006

1 Statistics on young people

1.1 Total number of young people in global population

2409064 *young persons*

1.2 Percentage of young people in global population

22.03 %

1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %

1.4 Percentage of young people by gender

Male	Female
11.46 %	10.56 %

1.4.1 Percentage of young people by gender and by age brackets

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
Female	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %
Male	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %

1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population

N/I %

1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population

N/I %

1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population

N/I %

1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population

N/I %

1.7 Percentage of young people with a different nationality in global population

N/I %

1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers) N/I *persons*

2 Actors and structures

2.1 National public authorities

2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs-General Secretariat for Youth

Name of minister

Ms Marietta Giannakou, Minister Ms Vasso Kollia, Secretary General for Youth Affairs

Duration of mandate

Max 48 **months**

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

82 **persons**

Contact person in the youth department

Ms Vasso Kollia, Secretary General for Youth Affairs, General Secretariat for Youth
(e-mail:ggng@neagenia.gr)

Function, role and competence of youth department

The General Secretariat for Youth is attached to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and is responsible for the implementation of the government's youth policy. It has: -Wide responsibility for the development of youth policy strategies and their implementation. -Significant institutional status and functional continuity. -Acceptance and recognition of its public and social role on youth issues. -Ability to follow middle and long run planning and implementing of projects regarding the youth population. -Ability to raise public funding for the support and completion of its goals. -International recognition. Being the only state organization responsible for the development of youth policy, the General Secretariat for Youth works for the mainstreaming of youth dimension in other governmental policies given that all governmental organizations may develop policies that ultimately touch upon some needs of the younger generation. In this respect, the General Secretariat for Youth comprises departments covering employment and development, culture and leisure, education and social participation, international co-operation and information, and its main role is to promote an intra-sectoral youth policy taking also into consideration all the relevant developments in the youth sector at the European and international level.

2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

-Department of Youth Information and Hellenic National Agency for the EU Programmes YOUTH & EURODESK (Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs-General Secretariat for Youth).

Role-Responsibilities: - Provides information on the policies, measures, programmes and initiatives



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taken by the General Secretariat for Youth. - Provides information on the policies, measures, programmes and initiatives being taken at European and/or international level. - Coordinates the operation of Youth Information Centres established and supported by the General Secretariat for Youth at the local or regional level. # Develops and supports the Youth Information Centres national network. - Implements at the national level decentralized European Programme YOUTH. - Coordinates the implementation of the European Youth Information Portal EURODESK. Name of contact person: Ms Dora BEI Head of Youth Information Dept & of Hellenic National Agency Tel.: +30 210 2599402 Fax: +30 210 2531879 e-mail: dbei@neagenia.gr ·National Youth Foundation (NYF) (Private Law Legal Body functioning under the auspices of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs) Role # responsibilities: The main mission of the National Youth Foundation is to support young persons in Secondary and Higher Education, as well as to develop a series of cultural, social and educational activities. For over 55 years, this institution offers services to a substantial number (exceeding 12000 yearly) of young pupils and students from Greece and other countries, in High schools, Technological Institutes and Universities. Name of Contact Person: Mr Diamantis SEITANIDIS, President Central telephone line: +30 210 6424923, -6417115, -6425110, -6425368 (e-mail: ein@ein.gr)

2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

-Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational Affairs Name of Contact Person: Mr Anastasios SPILIOPOULOS, President of the Standing Committee and Member of the Hellenic Parliament. Tel: +30 210 3707263, -3709645/646 and +30 2310 220041 Fax: +30 210 3709649 and +30 2310 222173 (e-mail: spiliopoulos@parliament.gr)

2.1.4 Other national public authorities

The Inter-Ministerial Committee for Youth

2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities

2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field

-Second Degree Prefectural Authorities (Prefectures): they are the second tier of local self-government and are financially and administratively autonomous. Set up in 1994, they are concerned with the socio-economic and cultural development of their prefecture, as well as the running of services for the local authorities which are members of the prefectures. Among their responsibilities are the development of initiatives, measures and programmes of interest to young people and the support of their activities, at local and regional level. In this respect, Prefectures seek cooperation with relevant Governmental bodies, and in particular, the General Secretariat for Youth. -Union of Prefectural Authorities of Greece (E.N.A.E.): The 51 prefectures have constituted the Union of Prefectural Authorities of Greece (E.N.A.E.). The Union partially coordinates youth policy at the prefectural level.

2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field



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-First Degree Local Authorities (Municipalities and Communities): In Greece, there are 1031 urban and rural municipalities (municipalities and communities respectively), which constitute the first tier of local self-government. They are entrusted with a wide range of responsibilities concerning children and young people, including equipment and maintenance of nursery, primary and secondary school buildings, family and youth welfare services, leisure (sport, etc) and out-of-school provisions to young people, etc. -Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece (KEDKE): The 1031 urban and rural municipalities have constituted the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece. It is important to note that the Union has created a special committee on education and youth affairs.

2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation

2.3.1 Names of bodies that must be consulted in the youth field

The Inter-Ministerial Committee for Youth: the General Secretariat for Youth is obliged to take under serious consideration any advice provided by the Inter-Ministerial Committee in the formulation of its youth policies (national level).

2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation

2.4.1 Names of bodies that can be consulted in the youth field

N/A

2.4.2 National and regional youth councils

-The National Youth Council (ESYN) -Local Youth Councils (Prefectural and Municipal) - The National Committee of Local Youth Councils

2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

ONNED (Nea Demokratia Party Youth Organization), PASOK Youth (PA.SO.K. Party Youth Organization), KNE (Communist Youth of Greece), Association of Young Leftists (EAN), YMCA, YWCA, Greek Scouts (SEP), Greek Guides (SEO), Evropaiki Ekfrasi (European Expression), Young European Federalists (NEF), AEGEE # University Students# Movement for the European Union, EFEE # Hellenic Federation of University Students, ESEE - Hellenic Federation of Technological Institutions# Students, Holy Archdiocese of Athens # Directorate of Youth Affairs, EKFE # Union of Greek Young Catholic University Students, EKNE # Union of Catholic Youth of Greece, Youth Secretariat of GSEE (General Confederation of Workers of Greece), Young Farmers Committee of GESASE (General Confederation of Young Farmers of Greece), Hellenic Red Cross#Youth Directorate, HELMSIC-Hellenic Medical Students International Committee, Cretan Youth, AIESEC, ELSA-European Law Student Association, Armenian Youth of Greece, SAFIA-Student Association for International Affairs, Youth Network of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad, etc.



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2.4.4 Expert groups, round tables, consulting groups in the youth field

N/A

2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field

-Youth Information Centres -National Committee of Local Youth Councils Name of coordinating structure: General Secretariat for Youth (e-mail: info@neagenia.gr)

2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

N/A

3 Legislation

3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

-The Greek Constitution, Article 16 (indirect reference to young people): It mainly concerns education and stipulates the role of the state in the intellectual, professional, ethical and physical development of young persons. It also sets as an aim their transformation into #free and responsible citizens#. The exact content of the article is the following: #Education constitutes a fundamental state objective and aims at the moral, intellectual, professional and physical instruction of the Greeks, the development of national and religious consciousness, and the formation of free and responsible citizens#. -The Greek Constitution, Article 21 (direct reference to young people): It refers to the obligation of the state to take measures ensuring the good health of the young people. More specifically, the exact content of the article is the following: #The state shall be concerned with the health of the citizens and shall take special measures for the protection of youth, old age, cripples, and those who are destitute#.

3.2 Application and transposition of the United Nations Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

Greece ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms on 28 November 1974 (it is important to note that Greece signed the Convention much earlier, in November 1950). According to Article 28 of the Greek Constitution, the Convention constitutes an integral part of Greek Law and overrides any law provision to the contrary. The exact content of Article 28 of the Greek Constitution is as follows: #The generally recognized rules of international law and the international conventions after their ratification by law and their having been put into effect in accordance with their respective terms, shall constitute an integral part of Greek Law and override any law provisions to the contrary. The application of the rules of international law and international conventions in the case of aliens shall always be effected on condition of reciprocity#.

3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Childrens Rights

The UN Convention on Childrens Rights was formally ratified by Greece in 1992 (Act 2101/1992).



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There are two institutions entrusted with defending and promoting children's rights in Greece: the National Observatory for Children's Rights and the Greek Ombudsman.

3.4 National legislation on youth

See data for 2005. In addition, in February 2006, the Greek government has passed a new law instituting the Local Youth Councils (Law 3443/2006).

3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth

None

3.6 Guidelines

None

4 Programmes

4.1 European programmes

- Youth Programme: It is a European programme introduced by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the member states of the European Union, especially designed for the younger members of the large European family. The Youth Programme offers young people a great range of opportunities for mobility and activation. -Youth EUROMED Programme: It is a European programme which promotes cooperation between EU member states and the countries of the Mediterranean # Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey # by providing assistance for international youth projects. It supports activities such as exchanges, volunteering in other countries, working in an organisation abroad, networking, training, study visits, development of projects, seminars, learning on youth work in other countries.

4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

The Hellenic National Agency (HNA) is responsible for the implementation and management of the YOUTH (Youth in Action) and EURODESK EU Programmes. It is part of the Information Department of the General Secretariat for Youth. Name of contact person: Ms Dora BEI Head of Youth Information Dept & of Hellenic National Agency for YOUTH & EURODESK Tel.: +30 210 2599402 Fax: +30 210 2531879 e-mail: dbei@neagenia.gr

4.1.2 Eurodesk

Eurodesk EL is part of the Hellenic National Agency (HNA). Name of contact person: Ms Lia LOGARIDI EURODESK-EL Coordinator in Athens Tel: +30 210 2599428 Fax: +30 210 2531879 E-mail: lialog@neagenia.gr

4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

The Hellenic National Agency (HNA) is responsible for the implementation and management of the YOUTH and EURODESK EU Programmes. Starting from 2004, HNA has been implementing a



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new working method based on quality standards, mainly relying on information and communication technologies (ICT). A closer cooperation with the Youth Information Centres (YIC) around the country has been established since 2004, significantly improving their performance. This cooperation has been further strengthened with the involvement of EURODESK as an additional informative tool for a stronger supportive structure. The same policy will be applied and further strengthened, during 2005-2006. In addition, the new structure of Regional Counsellors, foreseen in previous years, will be implemented, starting from 2005. They will strongly serve the purpose of decentralizing the activities of the Hellenic National Agency, especially in combination with its inclusion strategy for the years to come. The HNA's improved web site (access through the portal of the General Secretariat for Youth: www.neagenia.gr) provides applicants with all necessary direct information. Accordingly, all information on the selection procedures is provided through HNA's web site, ensuring equal treatment of all applicants and taking all necessary measures to avoid any conflict of interest. Finally, at the beginning of each year, the National Authority supervising the Hellenic National Agency launches an official call for the implementation of the YOUTH Programme in the country. The launching is mainly based on the EU Official User Guide including all the national priorities plus information on the application evaluation processes and the total budget breakdown, including both Decentralized and Additional National Funds. Thus, the applicants have all the necessary information for the submission of applications under the framework of the YOUTH Programme.

4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

European Social Fund, Education and Training Programmes such as SOCRATES and LEONARDO.

4.2 National Programmes on youth

-Youth Entrepreneurship Units and Youth Entrepreneurship Observatory: they aim to develop an entrepreneurial culture among the young by offering them constant training and consulting services, with a view to encouraging the development of business activity. Duration: till end of 2006. -Legal Aid: Young lawyers from the Athens and Thessaloniki Bar Associations offer free legal services to people belonging to minorities or to groups with fewer opportunities. Duration: Annually renewed. -Medical Aid to remote (border) islands of Greece: students from the medical schools in Greece offer their services voluntarily during July and August to the remote islands of Greece. Duration: Annually renewed. -Historical Archives of the Greek Youth: research programme on the history of the Greek childhood and youth. Duration: Annually renewed. -Alternative Tourism: The General Secretariat for Youth initiates programmes of alternative tourism. Duration: Annually renewed. - #Young People Getting to Know Europe# Programme: this programme gives the opportunity to 300 outstanding pupils from all over Greece to visit five European capitals. -Visiting Greece: The General Secretariat for Youth, in cooperation with the National Tourism Organization (EOT) initiates programmes of social tourism for young people aged 18-30. Duration: Annually renewed. -'Holidays and Voluntary Work' Programme: this programme is run in cooperation with the Hellenic Postal Services (ELTA) and targets young people aged 18-26, who are called to cover the additional staff requirements of Post Offices during the summer months in Greek tourist



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resorts. Duration: annually renewed. Main objective: to promote Volunteerism. -National Observatory for Children's Rights: through the work of this observatory, the promotion and implementation of the International Convention for Children's Rights is achieved and relevant research is promoting. Duration:ongoing.

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people
-Ministry of Development: 3rd Community Operational Framework Programme #Competitiveness# (includes special policies for the enhancement of youth entrepreneurship). -Ministry of Rural Development and Food: Operational Programme for the Agricultural Development and Reform of the Countryside 2000-2006 (includes special policies for the support of young farmers). -Ministry of Employment and Social Protection: #Equal# Programme.

5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth

-Ministry of Employment and Social Protection: National Action Plan for Employment. In pursuit of the general objective of the National Reform Programme 2005-2008, the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection , designed some Policy measures to attain the primary goals of the European Employment Strategy (EES) focus on the following priorities: (a) attracting more people into the labour market, and retaining them in the market (b) improving the adaptability of workers and businesses, and (c) increasing investment in human capital by improving education and skills.
-Ministry of Employment and Social Protection: Operational Programme on #Employment and Vocational Training#. Following the Commission's assessment that better links are needed between training and the needs of the labour market, programmes of vocational training are being implemented on the basis of a system of diagnosis of educational and training needs. The O.P.#Education and Vocational Training# supports the Centres of Consultation and Guidance (KE.SY.P), the Offices of Consultation and Career Guidance (GRA.S.E.P) and the National Centre for Career Guidance. -Greek Manpower Organization: Programmes facilitating the access of excluded groups to the labour market (special programmes for young people) and programmes of vocational guidance and vocational training. More specifically, a range of programmes is implemented, such as: Special programmes for unemployed young people (to acquire necessary work experience), the New Jobs Programme, the STAGE programme, the programme of Grants for New Self-Employed Professionals.

6 Budget

6.1 Amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field

13700000 *Euros*

6.2 Main beneficiaries

Main beneficiaries are national NGO's, specializing on youth issues, or local authorities (municipalities). Projects organized focus on social inclusion, education, information, inter-cultural exchange and volunteerism.



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6.3 Tendencies

Efforts are being made to increase the budget for youth policies/actions. Note that efforts were successful last year, since overall budget has increased by almost 20%.

7 Changes foreseen in the youth field and new developments especially linked to the four Open Method of Coordination priorities.

One of the basic plans of the General Secretariat for Youth for 2006 is to enhance the Youth Information Centres Network by establishing one centre in the capital city of each prefecture. Furthermore, by the end of December 2006 the General Secretariat for Youth will be launching in Greece the Euro<26 Youth Card # Greece has already become an associate member of EYCA (European Youth Card Association). In addition, the website of the General Secretariat for Youth will be upgraded into a Portal that will include, in a structured and easily accessible way, all information, news and links regarding youth issues; e-governing services will be provided to young people through this Portal. Finally, the new Institute for Youth will initiate a variety of research projects on youth issues.

8 Forthcoming events/conferences in the youth field, especially linked to the Open Method of Coordination priorities

Forthcoming events include: -Conferences promoting intercultural exchange among youngsters in Europe; these conferences will take place in major urban centres throughout the whole country on various dates. -Exhibitions of artistic creations made by people with special needs. These exhibitions will take place in Iraklio, Rethymno, Ioannina, Patras, Volos, Xanthi, Thessaloniki and Athens -Seminar for the employees of Youth Information Centres. -Various multi-cultural events all over Greece, where young people from different countries, representing different cultures, exchange ideas on music, dancing, cooking, crafting, etc.

9 Useful links

www.ypepth.gr, www.neagenia.gr, www.paratiritirio.gr, www.thirides.gr, www.neagenia.ncsr.gr, www.ein.gr, www.parliament.gr, www.esyn.gr, www.istoria-neolaias.gr

10 Context of national youth policy (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies)

The basic problem of youth policy in Greece is the lack of actions and programmes for special groups of young people. The General Secretariat for Youth, and other relevant actors, should plan the introduction of such programmes for: -Young people with special needs, mainly with mobility



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problems and problems in sensory organs. -Young immigrants and refugees. -Young people with language, religious and cultural particularities (eg: Gypsies, Pomaks, etc). -For other categories of young people with fewer opportunities, such as prisoners or people released from prison, rehabilitated and former users of illegal substances, etc. Among the most important achievements of youth policy in Greece during the last few years one could list the institutionalization of the Municipal and Prefectural Youth Councils, the foundation of a National Organization on Volunteerism # the so-called #House of Volunteerism# # the introduction of the Euro<26 Youth Card, the reactivation of the National Observatory for Children#s Rights, etc.



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