

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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POLAND, 2006

1 Statistics on young people

1.1 Total number of young people in global population

10966714 *young persons*

1.2 Percentage of young people in global population

28.7 %

1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
4.2 %	4.6 %	5.2 %	5.1 %	4.9 %	4.7 %

1.4 Percentage of young people by gender

Male	Female
30.2 %	27.3 %

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	2.1 %	2.2 %	2.6 %	2.5 %	2.4 %	2.4 %
Male	2.2 %	2.3 %	2.6 %	2.6 %	2.5 %	2.3 %

1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population

11.2 %

1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population

28.7 %

1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population

17.6 %

1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population

28.6 %

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



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N.I. %

1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers)

N.A. *persons*

2 Actors and structures

2.1 National public authorities

2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

Ministerstwo Edukacji Narodowej# Ministry of Education

Name of minister

Mr Roman GIERTYCH

Duration of mandate

41 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

10 *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

Head of Department: Mrs Agnieszka DYBOWSKA, Departament do Spraw Mlodziezy i Edukacji Pozaszkolnej (Youth and Informal Education Department), Ministerstwo Edukacji i Nauki, al. Szucha 25, 00-918 Warszawa, tel. 3474228, 3474229, ginter@mein.gov.pl

Function, role and competence of youth department

Main goals and tasks: Implementing of basics included in national and European youth regulations and programmes; Collecting information on youth and developing national system of youth research; Providing active support for youth organisations, youth leaders, voluntary activities on youth field; Supporting of informal education activities.

2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

N.I.

2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

Sejmowa Komisja Edukacji, Nauki i Mlodziezy, Podkomisja ds. Mlodziezy (Education, Science and Youth Committee, Subcommittee on Youth) President of Committee: Mrs Krystyna SZUMILAS
competencies on youth field: There are following issues in the domain of activities of the Committee: pre-school, elementary, secondary (...) education, rest, physical education and sport for children and youth, care of children and youth, matters of realization of ambitions of young generation and social and professional adaptation of youth;

2.1.4 Other national public authorities

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Health



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2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities

2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field

Competencies in the youth field at regional level mainly consider fields of education, culture and social policy. They are held by bodies placed in the structure of Marszałkowskie Urzędy (Marshal's Offices (Marshal is the title of the head of regional parliament)) in each of 16 "voivodships" regions in Poland.

2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field

Competencies in the youth field at the local level mainly consider fields of education, culture, social welfare policy and health. They are held by bodies placed in the structure of basic administrative units (self-government # pol.: "gmina"). They are usually named as Education, Culture and Sport (departments or offices).

2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation

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

There is no compulsory consultation

2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation

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

Big youth organizations (national level); teachers associations/trade unions; representative youth bodies (eg.: students parliament). The consultations have mainly advisory role.

2.4.2 National and regional youth councils

There is no officially established youth council in Poland. The following organisations may be recognized as youth councils: Stowarzyszenie Polska Rada Młodzieży (Association Polish Youth Council), Ogólnopolska Federacja Samorządów Młodzieżowych (Polish Federation of Local Youth Self-governments) Youth Councils in 3. of 16. voivodships (administrative regions)

2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

Ogólnopolska Federacja Młodzieżowych Samorządów Lokalnych (Polish Federation of Local Youth Self-governments), Stowarzyszenie Polska Rada Młodzieży (Association: Polish Youth Council), Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego (biggest scouting organisation in Poland), Związek Harcerstwa Rzeczypospolitej (second scouting organisation in Poland), Parlament Studencki, Niezależne Zrzeszenie Studentów, Zrzeszenie Studentów Polskich (main student organisations), Chrześcijańskie Stowarzyszenie Akademickie, Katolickie Stowarzyszenie Młodzieży, Stowarzyszenie Katolickiej Młodzieży Akademickiej, Stowarzyszenie Harcerstwa Katolickiego "Zawisza", Związek Młodzieży Chrześcijańskiej Polska YMCA (christian & catholic youth organisations), Europejskie Forum Studentów AEGE, Europejskie Stowarzyszenie Młodzieży,



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Miedzynarodowe Stowarzyszenie Studentow #AIESEC (interantional & european youth organisations),

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

Osrodek Badan Mlodziezy (Youth Research Centre) www.obm.isns.uw.edu.pl

2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field

Osrodek Badan Mlodziezy (Youth Research Centre) www.obm.isns.uw.edu.pl

2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

Sekcja Socjologii Mlodziezy i Edukacji # Polskie Towarzystwo Socjologiczne (Section of Sociology of Youth and Education # Polish Sociological Association) www.pts.org.pl

3 Legislation

3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

Art. 48 Constitution warranties children#s independence during upbringing and education in the family. Art. 68 Authorities are obligated to provide special care on children#s and youth health. Authorities should support youth sport and culture Art. 70. Education is obligatory until the age of 18. Art. 65 It is prohibited to employ young people under the age of 16.

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

The Declaration of Fundamental rights and Freedoms is the base and guidance for the preparation of laws and other regulations.

3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Childrens Rights

The principles and assignments of European Convention on Children#s Rights are reflected in Constitution. The National Plan of Actions for Children #Poland for Children#, focuses on health, education, family support and abusement&harrasment protection issues.

3.4 National legislation on youth

Ustawa o Przedstawicielstwach Mlodziezy (w przygotowaniu) Act on Youth Representation (in preparation). The law will serve as regulation of structure and actions of youth representative bodies on local, regional and national level, their status etc.

3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth

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3.6 Guidelines

Strategia Państwa dla Młodzieży (National Youth Strategy) The equalizing of developmental opportunities of the young generation; creating conditions for the self-fulfilment of youth and inspiring its social activity; applying of the best possible way of using opportunities resulting from the Polish accession to the European Union. The state youth strategy is a result of a compromise between: the conclusions included in the diagnosis prepared by the Expert Team of the Polish Ministry of National Education and Sport, the tasks in which the country is faced in the process of the EU accession, the postulates of youth circles consulting the project and the existing economic, social and political conditions. The aims of national strategy should be reached through the method of open coordination. (Department of Youth and Informal Education <http://www.yforum.pl>)

4 Programmes

4.1 European programmes

YOUTH Programme, Leonardo da Vinci, Socrates-Erasmus, Eurodesk

4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

Mr Tomasz BRATEK (National Director) ul. Mokotowska 43; 00-551 Warszawa; POLSKA Tel: 022 622-37-06; 022 628 60 14 Fax: 022 622-37-08; 022 628 60 17 e-mail: mlodziez@mlodziez.org.pl

4.1.2 Eurodesk

Mr Wawrzyniec PATER (National Coordinator) Eurodesk Polska ul. Mokotowska 43; 00-551 Warszawa; POLSKA Tel: 48 22 622 66 70; Fax: 22 622 80 81 e-mail: w.pater@eurodesk.pl;

4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

YOUTH Programme in Poland is implemented through the network of regional centres (14) and regional information points (4). They are located in local NGO#s, closely cooperating with the National Agency of YOUTH Programme and experienced in youth work. The main task of regional structures is to serve as consulting and information bodies for young people and organizations which are interested in project#s preparation. The existing network is supported by communication infrastructure (central and local internet sites, FAQ, forum, on-line proposal registration, phone info-line etc.). Specialized structures (teams and coordinators) responsible directly for each action (from 1 to 5) are located on central level. The special attention is put on promoting projects proposed by informal youth groups. In the year 2005 over 1000 events were financed on total sum of 6 millions euro.

4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

Yes, there are 1. Krajowa Agencja Programu Leonardo da Vinci (da VINCI National Agency) and 2. Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji (National Agency for Socrates-Erasmus Program)

4.2 National Programmes on youth



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1. #Program dofinansowania międzynarodowej współpracy dzieci i młodzieży# (Program of financial support of youth & children international cooperation and exchange) by Ministry of National Education and Science. Duration: continuously since 2003 Dedicated to: NGOs, educational units, local self-government units. Objectives: a) developing youth participation in public and social spheres; b) development of voluntary activities in the context of youth participation; c) promoting international exchange of youth and children; d) creating and supporting of national youth information network. <http://www.yforum.pl>

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people
Several governmental programmes on drug/alcohol/nicotine prevention, health care, cultural participation & support, security and safety, sport promotion etc. for details see: Department of Youth and Informal Education <http://www.yforum.pl>; PARPA (The State Agency for the Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems) <http://www.parpa.pl>; National Bureau for Drug Prevention <http://www.narkomania.gov.pl>; Ministry of Sport <http://www.msport.gov.pl>

5 Action plans

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

1. #Pierwsza praca# (First Job) by Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Duration: continuously since 2002 Dedicated to: unemployed young people until age of 25 (with non academic education) or 27 (with higher education) Objectives: to give young people possibility of gaining work experience and practice and/or other forms of support on job market (many subprograms: #Firs Business# # dedicated for self-employment trajectory, #Junior# # dedicated for disabled youth and others). Also modules focused on skills development, trainings, mobility promotion etc. From 2002 # more than 2,5 millions of participants, among them: 500.000 of active ones (practices, trainings, etc.) and 180 000 young people successfully employed. Financial support from government in 2005 - 12 mln Euro. details: <http://www.1praca.gov.pl> 2. #Dotacje dla Akademickich Inkubatorow Przedsiębiorczosci# (Donations for Academic Business Incubators) by Ministry of Regional Policy and Development. Support for AIP # Academic Business ... They are developed as support for efficient employment policy for academic graduates and may serve as contact points for science & business cooperation. details: <http://www.mgip.gov.pl/>

6 Budget

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

N.A. *Euros*

6.2 Main beneficiaries

There are no budget statistics on whole amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field in Poland. The biggest resources are invested in employment related areas. Other relatively well supported spheres are: education, sport & health, participation, information and culture.

6.3 Tendencies



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The budget for youth policies and actions is likely to be increased.

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

The main goals for 2006: 1. Establishing of interministerial committee dedicated to revision of National Youth Strategy; 2. Introducing of Youth Representations Act; 3. According to the introduced regulations, appointing of Youth Councils on national, regional and local levels

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

N.A.

9 Useful links

Youth Forum # set of useful information about developing and implementing youth policy in Poland, youth organizations, actions and events: www.yforum.pl; Ministry of Education and Science, main site: www.mein.gov.pl; Polish Youth Council (association of biggest youth organisations) site: www.prm.org.pl; Biggest scouting organisation in Poland: www.zhp.org.pl;

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

The Youth Policy in Poland is settled on well established basis. In 2003 there was accepted and introduced #National Strategy on Youth#. It becomes the main leading act for all actors developing youth policy in the country. Right now it becomes clear that some of priorities of #National Strategy on Youth# need revision and over thinking. Among advantages of youth policy in Poland we may account the very well organised, vital and active NGO sector, consisting of youth organisations and organisations working in the youth field. The cooperation of Ministry of Education (Department of Youth and Informal Education) and several youth organisations works very well and brings evident positive results for young people. Young people in Poland can to use a wide offer of international exchange and cooperation. The level of participation in several forms of international cooperation increases year by year. In 2005 the youth information system was formed, it is based on NGOs, with youth information experience. The youth policy in Poland is and in the near future still should be focused on elimination inequalities, cultural, economical and social disadvantages and exclusion among numerous part of young population # especially from rural and underdeveloped part of Poland. Among #things to be done# the most important gap is lack of legislation basis for functioning youth representations on local, regional and national level. There are several subjects (different youth councils, self-government etc.), but of different structure, position and



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competencies. There is a need of education on youth participation importance and benefits addressed to administration and self-governments on regional and local level. Second important issue is the problem of participation of non-organised youth. This part of young population has no representation in youth councils and not benefits from youth actions on high level. The system of collecting information on youth issues, proposed in #National Strategy on Youth# was not implemented, so there is no efficient organisation for youth research planning and proceeding.



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