

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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TURKEY, 2006

1 Statistics on young people

1.1 Total number of young people in global population

23.841.894 *young persons*

1.2 Percentage of young people in global population

35,16 %

1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets

| 13-15 | 16-18 | 19-21 | 22-24 | 25-27 | 28-30 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 6,13 % | 6,41 % | 6,38 % | 5,60 % | 5,43 % | 5,21 % |

1.4 Percentage of young people by gender

| Male | Female |
|---------|---------|
| 51,04 % | 48,96 % |

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 | 2,96 % | 3,14 % | 3,10 % | 2,74 % | 2,69 % | 2,58 % |
| Male | 3,17 % | 3,27 % | 3,28 % | 2,86 % | 2,73 % | 2,63 % |

1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population

10,87 %

1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population

35,46 %

1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population

22,35 %

1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population

38,79 %

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

N/A %

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

Prime Ministry General Directorate of Youth and Sports

Name of minister

Mehmet Ali Sahin (Deputy Prime Minister)

Duration of mandate

41 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

27 *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

Adnan Gul adnangul61@hotmail.com

Function, role and competence of youth department

The General Directorate for Youth and Sports is a governmental body under Prime Ministry. It is a huge public institution with 47 sports federations and 11 departments, one of which is the Department of Youth Services responsible for youth issues. The Department of Youth Services 1. Opens and operates youth centres, hostels, camps and facilities; 2. registers and supervises youth associations/clubs; 3. provides in-service trainings for the officials and honorary authorities who will serve for youth activities; 4. acts as the official institution in national and international youth activities on behalf of the General Directorate; 5. Ensures that the youth spends its leisure time for social and cultural activities and provides service for this regard; organizes courses to improve their level of knowledge and skills in fields of necessity; 6. Coordinates and cooperates with the relevant institutions in order to take the necessary measures to protect the youth from bad habits; 7. conducts the activities and proceedings related to the Youth Week; 8. Carries out the works and proceedings related to the provisions of protocols between Turkey and other countries; 9. Participates in meetings, courses, seminars and similar activities held abroad; 10. Performs, assesses, publishes and documents researches related to the problems of youth; 11. Opens Consultancy and Guidance Offices for the Youth; 12. Carries out the works and proceedings related to the participation of Turkish youth living abroad in the youth activities held in Turkey; 13. Coordinates activities of Youth Tourism; 14. Render services for the good use of the leisure time by the youth.

2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies



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Prime Ministry State Planning Organization Tulay Dogan, +90 (312)294-6601 Children and Youth Department Coordinator tdogan@dpt.gov.tr

2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

The Commission of National, Education, Culture Youth and Sport Tayyar Altikulac Ph: +90 312 420 53 34 egtkom@tbmm.gov.tr

2.1.4 Other national public authorities

1. Ministry of National Education 2. General Directorate for Social Services and Child Protection 3. National Agency of Turkey

2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities

2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field

The Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) Regional Development Administration is a multi-sector and integrated regional development effort approached in the context of sustainable development. Its basic objectives include the improvement of living standards and income levels of people so as to eliminate regional development disparities and contributing to such national goals as social stability and economic growth by enhancing productivity and employment opportunities in the rural sector. It runs programs to ensure the social development of the disadvantaged groups such as women, working children and youth. Contact: Willy Brandt Sok. No: 5 06680 Çankaya-ANKARA Ph: +90 312 442 2324 (Pbx) REGIONAL DIRECTORATE P.K. 155 Urfa Tünel Ağzi 63000 Sanliurfa Ph: +90 414 347 9385

2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field

Both the General Directorate for Youth and Sports and the Ministry of National Education have local directorates all over the country. Besides, most of the Municipalities have structures in the youth field.

2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation

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

N/A

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



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1. Youth for Habitat Turkey National Youth Parliament
2. Turkey Youth Council Initiative

2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

1. The Association of Support for Contemporary Life (www.cydd.org.tr)
2. Educational Volunteers (www.tegv.org)
3. Community Volunteers Foundation (www.tog.org.tr)
4. Umut Foundation (www.umut.org.tr)
5. Turkish Education Trust (www.tev.org.tr)
6. Turkish Education Association
7. Ankara Youth Exchange Club (www.gencim.org)
8. History Foundation of Turkey (www.tarihvakfi.org)
9. TRT Child and Youth Foundation (www.trtcgv.org.tr)
10. Sema Yazar Youth Foundation (www.semayazar.org.tr)

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 for Habitat Turkey (www.youthforhab.org.tr) gencnet (www.gencnet.org) youth knowledge bridge (www.yib.gen.tr)

2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

N/A

3 Legislation

3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

IX. Youth and Sports A. Protection of the Youth ARTICLE 58. The state shall take measures to ensure the training and development of the youth into whose keeping our state, independence, and our Republic are entrusted, in the light of contemporary science, in line with the principles and reforms of Atatürk, and in opposition to ideas aiming at the destruction of the indivisible integrity of the state with its territory and nation. The state shall take necessary measures to protect the youth from addiction to alcohol, drug addiction, crime, gambling, and similar vices, and ignorance. B. Development of Sports ARTICLE 59. The state shall take measures to develop the physical and mental health of Turkish citizens of all ages, and encourage the spread of sports among the masses. The state shall protect successful athletes.

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

Turkey has ratified all the major international human rights treaties and The European Convention of Human Rights was ratified by Turkey in 1954. In 1970 the Convention has been operation. There is a "Human Rights Monitoring Commission" in Turkish Parliament. Besides, there are large NGOs dealing with the application and the processes of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms as well as Research Centers on Human Rights in Universities.



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3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Childrens Rights

Turkey has ratified the European Convention on Children's Right in 1989 and since then has been implementing various activities to develop and support the Convention. There are numerous NGOs dealing with children's rights and most of them are gathered under the "Children's Rihgt's Coalition".

3.4 National legislation on youth

The Constitution of Turkish Republic includes Article 58 (protection of the youth) and Article 59 (development of sports).

3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth

Article 6.b in the Municipalities Law (Law 5393) and Articles 14 and 85.e in the City Administrative Law (Law 5302) are related with the regional or local legislations on youth. On the other hand, the General Directorate of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Education have regional and local branch offices which have impact on the legislation on youth on regional basis.

3.6 Guidelines

N/A

4 Programmes

4.1 European programmes

Leonardo, Socrates, Youth

4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

Sefa Yahsi sefa.yahsi@ua.gov.tr +90 312 409-6131

4.1.2 Eurodesk

N/A

4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

The projects are being held throughout the country and particularly supported in the cities where there are considerable lack of opportunities. There are youth agencies and/or associations that their projects have been accepted from the disadvantaged regions of Turkey and this brings not only a youth support action but also a community development as well. In 2004 of the 280 projects 181 were accepted, in 2005 of the 914 projects 347 were accepted. And in 2006 by June, there were 702 projects which 318 of them were accepted.

4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth



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Euromed, Cedefop, Lingua

4.2 National Programmes on youth

As the Law of combination of the legislation number 430, the Ministry of National Education is commissioned with the duty of realizing on behalf of the government the goals of Turkish National Education in line with the basic principles.

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people
N/A

5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth
Although there are various action plans throughout the country in terms of education and career planning of young people, two campaigns are basic. First is the "100% Support for Education" by the Ministry of Education and the second "Go Girls" by the Ministry in cooperation with UNICEF which aims to increase the number of schooling of girls. They are are national campaigns.

6 Budget

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

7800000 *Euros*

6.2 Main beneficiaries

All kind of organisations and institutions related to child and youth services can apply for financial support, however considerable amount of the budget is spent for education, sports and employment.

6.3 Tendencies

there has been an increase of budget for youth policies and actions for the last years but there is still a need for financial support in the youth field.

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

There is an attempt to unificate the plans, programmes and implementations of 14 youth institutions at a national level. Among the responsibilities of the Youth Services Department of the General Directorate of Youth and Sports, the following are basic; 1. conducting, evaluating and publishing research related to youth 2. opening, evaluating and controlling youth centers, camps, hostels, etc 3. promoting leisure and cultural activities of young people 4. Prevent and protect young people from drugs, alcohol and smoke. 5. Establishing national and international relations.



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

"Youth Assembly" is planned for the year 2007, however there is no exact date and schedule yet.

9 Useful links

1. General Directorate for Youth and Sports (www.gsgm.gov.tr) 2. GSGM Youth Services Department(www.genclikhizmetleri.gov.tr) 3. Ministry of National Education (www.meb.gov.tr) 4. General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection (www.shcek.gov.tr) 5. Prime Ministry State Planning Organization (www.dpt.gov.tr) 6. National Agency (www.ua.gov.tr) 7. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (www.calisma.gov.tr)

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

There is not yet a youth policy in Turkey. It is difficult to define the national youth policy whereas it is a mosaic of very different cultures and there are big differences in the cultures of the people living in different regions. Thus, it is hardly possible to talk about a single youth policy. Every single activity is being considered as a different policy. However, there has been an attempt in education, development, protection and participation opportunities for youth. Turkey is now in the process of reviewing the cultures and the traditions so that a national policy could be set up.