

Youth Partnership

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



CONTRIBUTION OF PARTNER COUNTRIES TO EU YOUTH WIKI

CHAPTER I: ARMENIA YOUTH POLICY GOVERNANCE

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1.1 TARGET POPULATION OF YOUTH POLICY

The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (RA) N54 of 25 December 2014 on Approving the Youth State Policy Concept of the RA for 2015-2025 (the Concept) defines “youth” as follows: “Young person: a 16-30 (inclusive) year old citizen of the Republic of Armenia, as well as 16-30 (inclusive) year old foreign citizens residing in Armenia and having residence permits (residency status), persons with no citizenship and those with refugee status in the Republic of Armenia (under appropriate grounds established by the law).”¹

Article 1.1 of the Concept defines the following subjects of youth policy:

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 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.

1.2 NATIONAL YOUTH LAW

Existence of a National Youth Law

Armenia has not yet adopted a national youth law.² There were several attempts to adopt a

1. 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), available at www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=96116.

2. As of September 2021.

national youth law (see the [draft Law of the RA on Youth State Policy](#)³ or the [draft Law of the RA on Youth](#)⁴); 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.⁵

1.3 NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

Since 2019 the RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoESCS) has been a state-authorized body responsible for youth state policy in Armenia.⁶ Youth state policy programmes are developed by the Unit of Youth Policy, Supplementary and Continuing Education at the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport.

State youth policy is a system of priorities, programmes, measures and mechanisms aimed at creating the necessary conditions for youth participation, socialisation and self-realisation; engaging and developing youth potential to contribute to the strengthening of national security, socio-economic and cultural development of the Republic of Armenia.⁷

The government programme is based on the perception that young people aged between 16 and 30 years, who number in total 577 600 (20% of the entire population) as per the National Statistical Service of the RA data of 1 January 2020, are important resource for the society and they must be allowed to become happy and responsible citizens.⁸

Youth state policy has been implemented in the Republic of Armenia on a systematic basis since 1995. Since then, Armenia has adopted two youth state policy concepts:⁹ one in 1998 covering the period [1999-2001](#) and the other in 2014 covering the period [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

3. Draft Law of the RA on Youth State Policy, K-102-29 August 2007-GK-010/0 (Petakan Eritasardakan Qaghaqakanutyun masin Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Orenqi Naxagits, K-102-29ogostosi 2007-GK-010/0), available at www.parliament.am/drafts.php?sel=showdraft&DraftID=2430&Reading=0.

4. Draft Law of the RA on Youth, P-311-08 August 2008-GK-010/0 (Yeritasardutyun masin Hayastani Hanrapetutyun orenqi naxagits, P-311-08 ogostosi 2008-GK-010/0), available at www.parliament.am/drafts.php?sel=showdraft&DraftID=2959&Reading=0.

5. Jan S. et al. (2009), *Youth policy in Armenia, An international perspective*, Council of Europe, pp. 24-25.

6. The RA Law on Structure of Government (HH orenqy karavarutyun karucvacqi ev gorcuneutyun masin), available at www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=150622 [02.09.2021].

7. Government Programme 2021-2026, Tsragir Hayastani Hanrapetutyun karavarutyun, available at www.gov.am/files/docs/4586.pdf [28.08.2021].

8. Ibid., Article 4.7.

9. Concept is a brief document consisting of the research results and recommendations (active or passive). Article 1.2(1) of the Government Decision N2 of 22 January 2015 on Methodological Guidance on Drafting Concepts, Strategies and Action Plans, available at www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=95885.

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.¹⁰

Armenia adopted three national youth strategies, 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](#),¹¹ (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](#),¹² 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](#).¹³

The latest Strategy comprises the following sections:

- Section 1. General Provisions
- Chapter 1. Objective of the Strategy
- Chapter 2. State Youth Policy Analysis of the Current Situation
- Chapter 3. Review of the Youth Situation
- Section 2. Key Priorities
- Action Plan

The Strategy is based on the following key priorities:

- Priority 1. Promotion of youth participation in political, economic and cultural life
- Priority 2. Youth employment and socio-economic issues
- Priority 3. Promotion of healthy lifestyle among youth
- Priority 4. Development of youth spiritual and cultural values and military-patriotic upbringing
- Priority 5. Sustainability of education and recognition of non-formal education.

10. Introduction, the Concept on Youth State Policy (2015-2025).

11. 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 Qaghvatc, 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), available at www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=35898.

12. 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 Qaghvatc, 25 septemperi 2008 tvakani N39, Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Eritasardakan Petakan Qaghaqakanutyun 2008-2012 tvakanneri Razmavarutyun Havanutyun Talu Masin) available at www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=45781.

13. 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), available at www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=80598.

The monitoring and assessment results of the latest Youth 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](#).

Issues relating to youth are also integrated into other legal acts, such as the RA 2014-2025 Strategic Programme of Prospective Development (the RA Government Decision N442-N as of 27 March 2014).¹⁴ Issues relating to youth employment were included in the previous National Strategy on Human Rights Protection (Government Decision N303 of 27 February 2014 of the RA).¹⁵

1.4 YOUTH POLICY DECISION MAKING

Since 2007, the RA Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has been the authorised body co-ordinating state youth policy. Before that, the sector was co-ordinated by the Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs. Within the framework of the 2019 RA Government structural reforms, youth sector co-ordination has been transferred to the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport.

[The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the RA](#) is the main authority in charge of elaboration and implementation of the youth policies in Armenia. Its functions are regulated by the Prime Minister's Decision of the RA N 661-L of 1 June 2019 on Statute of Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport.¹⁶

For the implementation of its goals and objectives in the field of youth policy, the Ministry drafts legislative and other normative acts, combines practical implementation of legal acts and develops 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 development 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

14. The Republic of Armenia 2014-2025 Strategic Programme of Prospective Development (Hayatsani Hanrapetutyan 2014-2025 tvakanneri herankarayan zargacman razmavaran tsragir) available at www.gov.am/files/docs/1322.pdf.

15. Article 22 of the Strategy, available at http://moj.am/storage/uploads/HR_table_Gov_approved_3Apr14_FINAL_Arm-1.pdf.

16. Prime Minister's Decision of the RA 661-L of 1 June 2019 On Statute of Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyan Varchapeti Voroshumy N 661-L, 1 hunisi 2019 tvakani "HH krtutyan, gitutyan, mshakuyti ev sporti Nakhararutyan kanonadrutyan"), available at www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=142270.

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, 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.

The Youth Policy, Supplementary and Continuing Education unit of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport defines trends of the youth state policy objectives and priorities, conducts policy analysis, studies trends, develops strategies and implements other functions. Other ministries, like the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the RA and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development are also involved in the development and implementation of youth policies.

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 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”.¹⁷

1.5 CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACH WITH OTHER MINISTRIES

There have been positive trends towards cross-sectoral (inter-ministerial) co-operation, alongside the formation of the new government. The Ministries of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Labour and Social Affairs, and Healthcare directly and actively participate in practical discussions on the development of an inclusive education system. The process of development of cross-sectoral youth policy has not been moving forward at full speed, which makes it difficult to present the overall picture as fully as possible.¹⁸

Although there is an interagency social co-operation that is carried out by regulation

17. RA Constitution, Article 2(3).

18. The Right to a Future: Youth that Transforms Armenia, National Human Development Report 2018/2019, UNDP, Armenia, 2019, available at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2019_nhdr_armenia.pdf [28.08.2021].

established by the RA Government, it does not specifically target youth.¹⁹

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 co-ordinated. Sometimes several programmes are implemented in the same area, and in another area, such programmes are not implemented at all. The lack of co-operation and co-ordination also concerned inter-sectoral co-ordination among the agencies at regional and local levels.

1.6 EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH POLICY

There is no clarity in terms of evidence-based youth policy either. Until 2019, research and surveys conducted by the Youth Studies Institute served as the basis for youth policy development. On 10 January 2019, however, by government decree the Youth Events Holding Centre state non-commercial organisation (SNCO) was dissolved, terminating the Youth Studies Institute that operated within the structure of the SNCO. The dissolution of the Institute has put evidence-based youth policy making in Armenia under threat, since no equivalent institution or mechanism has been established since then.²⁰ The Youth Studies Institute (YSI) was founded in 2013 with the support of UNDP and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. The YSI functions within the “Youth Events Holding Centre” SNCO acting under the MoSYA. The goal of the YSI was to regularly conduct studies among young people promoting the development of evidence-based youth policy. The main functions of the YSI included identifying urgent problems among young people through the implementation of thorough research, developing recommendations for the solution to these problems, carrying out regular surveys and studies among young people aimed at the implementation of a grounded and consistent youth state policy.

From 2013 to 2019, the YSI conducted several studies²¹ including those funded by the MoSYA. Thus, the policy themes included 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

19. The Decision of the RA Government of 10 September 2015 N 1044-N on Setting Regulations for Interagency (cross-sectoral) Social Co-operation, available at www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=112629.

20. The Right to a Future: Youth that Transforms Armenia, National Human Development Report 2018/2019, UNDP, Armenia, 2019, available at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2019_nhdr_armenia.pdf [08.09.2021].

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

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.²²

The ministry provides research in the field of youth to implement its goals and objectives.²³ But there is no separate budget allocation for youth research.

The RA Statistical Committee presents youth-related data based on the following age categories: 16-19, 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34, while research papers on the labour market present youth-related data for the 15-29 age group. Because of this, it is impossible to ensure completeness of youth-related statistical and subsequent research data for the 16-30 age group on the national level.²⁴

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 budget which shall be approved by the Council of Elders of the community upon submission of the head of the community.²⁵ The powers delegated to communities by the state shall be subject to mandatory financing from the state budget.²⁶ The government submits the draft state budget to the National Assembly (NA) at least 90 days before the beginning of the fiscal year. Budget drafts are formed in accordance with RA Government activities, medium-term expenditure framework and community development programmes. The state budget is adopted before the beginning of the fiscal year by the NA upon submission by the government.²⁷ 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 the availability of an opinion of the Audit Chamber, discusses and adopts a decision on the annual report relating to the

22. The strategy was not approved.

23. Prime Minister’s Decision of the RA 661-L of 1 June 2019 On Statute of Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Varchapeti Voroshumy N 661-L, 1 hunisi 2019 tvakani “HH krtutyán, gitutyán, mshakuyti ev sporti Nakhhararutyán kanonadrutyán”), available at www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=142270.

24. The Right to a Future: Youth that Transforms Armenia, National Human Development Report 2018/2019, UNDP, Armenia, 2019, available at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2019_nhdr_armenia.pdf [28.08.2021].

25. Article 185(1) of the RA Constitution.

26. Ibid., Article 185(2).

27. Ibid., Article 110.

performance of the state budget submitted by the government.²⁸

The state budget allocated for youth programmes is 1 846 million Armenian dram (AMD) for 2021²⁹ of which only AMD 170 million is assigned for youth programmes. Most of the funding is directed to the programme “Available housing for young families”, which aims to support young families by improving their housing conditions.

But it should be taken into account that the allocated initial amount mentioned above decreased due to COVID-19 and the war and post-war situation in Armenia. The budget for youth programmes decreased by AMD 100 million and for the “Affordable Apartments for Youth” programme by AMD 300 million. In 2020 the youth budget was 1 533 million³⁰.

It should be noted that social protection, sport and education are funded from separate lines.

The RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport provides reimbursement for plane ticket expenses to youth aged 16-30 (inclusive) or members of five-member groups aged 16-30 (inclusive) to participate in the following events:

1. International youth programmes: forums, meetings, round-table discussions, seminars, trainings, conferences, summits, sessions
2. International conferences, scientific conferences and sessions
3. International scientific-technical competitions
4. International cultural competitions, festivals, exhibitions
5. International intellectual competitions
6. International start-ups.

To get a reimbursement for a plane ticket expense, participants in the event must submit an application to the RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport according to the regulation and application form³¹.

Since 2013 the ministry has been running the “Armenian Youth Capital of the Year” contest, which aims to contribute to the development and implementation of youth programmes in communities, to develop a partnership between the cities in the youth policy field as well as youth organisations and infrastructure in regions.

The European Union in Armenia supports access to quality education, facilitates the mobility of Armenian youth, offers training for a successful start of professional engagement in the labour market, and creates opportunities for youth to express their opinion, participate to good governance.

28. Ibid., Article 111(1-2).

29. Law of the RA on State Budget for 2021, available at www.gov.am/files/docs/4337.pdf [07.09.2021].

30. Law of the RA on State Budget for 2021, available at www.gov.am/files/docs/3929.pdf [07.09.2021].

31. Decision of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport N 614-A/2, 5 September 2019.

The main ongoing and recently finalised projects in the youth sector funded by the EU are presented below.

The Development and Strategic Studies Project, funded by the EU with €2.9 million contributions during 2015-2018. The main purpose of the project is to support the formulation of enhanced development strategies and policies in Armenia. The project works with the EU delegation to Armenia, the EU member states and development partners present in Armenia to support the development of a shared vision for development aid. In addition, the project supports policy analysis and development processes in Armenia in the areas which are a priority to the Government of Armenia through providing policy expertise and implementing the Young Experts Scheme – YES Armenia Programme – in a number of ministries and government agencies.

An EU4Youth project titled “Fostering potential for greater employability” with €1 330 000 funding from the EU has been implemented in 2018-2021 in Armenia, Belarus and Georgia.³²

The overall objective is contributing to improve educational opportunities and development potential of youth in Armenia, Belarus and Georgia in line with Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 8. The action will specifically aim to contribute through the SDG target 4.4: “By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship”.

The specific objective of the projects is supporting access to employment of marginalised youth groups in Armenia, Belarus and Georgia through partnerships, targeted skills development and promotion of entrepreneurship.

The EU4Youth: Better skills for a better future project was implemented from 2018-2020 with EU funding of €1 500 000 in Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia.³³

The overall objective was contributing to developing the entrepreneurial potential of disadvantaged youth, ensuring their increased access to education and training opportunities for greater employability and advocating for coherent and cross-sectoral youth policies at local, regional and national levels.

The EU4Youth: Empowering young entrepreneur project is being implemented in Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine with EU funding of €1 500 000 during 2018-2021.³⁴

The overall objective is contributing to creating better prospects for employment and

32. www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/projects/eu4youth-fostering-potential-greater-employability [08.09.2021].

33. www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/projects/eu4youth-better-skills-better-future [08.09.2021].

34. www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/projects/eu4youth-employability-and-stability-armenia-belarus-and-ukraine [08.09.2021].

entrepreneurship for disadvantaged youth and increasing their active participation in the labour market in Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine.

The EU4Youth: Skills for jobs project is being implemented with EU funding of €1 466 484 in Armenia and Georgia.³⁵

The overall objective is contributing to the (self)-employability of young women and men aged between 15 and 35 years, particularly those with fewer opportunities as the most vulnerable among youth, as well as enhancing formal and non-formal education to increase opportunities for youth to develop adequate key and professional competences for integration in the labour market, strengthening support structures for youth employability at local and national levels and enhance the development of formal and non-formal education for fostering youth (self) employability, through cross-sectoral co-operation.

1.8 CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

The state supports the development of international youth partnerships, youth exchange programmes and programmes for intercultural dialogue, as well as the 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 and cultural, scientific-educational, socio-economic, social and other relations considering them as one of the main directions of state policy.³⁶

The ministry is actively involved in cross-border co-operation programmes.

There are a number of examples of successful bilateral and multilateral international co-operation, which have a great potential for continuous development and expansion. Different forms, platforms and agreements of co-operation are presented below:

- agreement of co-operation on youth work between state parties of the Commonwealth of Independent States (2006);
- comprehensive and enhanced partnership agreement between the European Union and the European atomic energy community and their member states, of the one part, and the RA, of the other part;
- platforms with the accession of Armenia to the Council of Europe (25 January 2001) represented by the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the Joint council on youth – CMJ, which in turn, includes the Council of Europe Standing Committee on Youth and the Non-Governmental Advisory Body (Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ));

35. www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/projects/eu4youth-say-yes-skills-jobs [08.09.2021].

36. Article 7 of the Concept.

- agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the RA on co-operation in the humanitarian sphere (2011);
- agreement on co-operation in the field of youth between the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the RA and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia (2012);
- memorandum of understanding in the field of youth between the Ministry of sport and Youth Affairs of the RA and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Arab Republic of Egypt (2017);
- agreement between the Government of the RA and the Government of the Czech Republic on co-operation in the fields of culture, education, science, youth and sports (2011);
- memorandum on co-operation in the field of youth policy between the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the RA and the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Ukraine (2009);
- agreement between the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Lebanon on co-operation in the fields of physical culture, sport and youth policy (2012);
- agreement between the Ministry of Sports, Tourism and Youth Policy of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on co-operation in the field of issues related to youth (2012);
- agreement between the Government of the RA and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on co-operation in the field of youth work and sports, etc. (2018).

As an authorised body responsible for youth policy, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a number of international organisations and established a 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.

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 other initiatives reflect the EU's commitment to supporting education and employment opportunities for young people in Armenia.³⁷

Through the efforts of CSOs working in the youth field, local and international training courses, experience exchange visits, and other co-operation initiatives at various levels have been

37. Youth transition to work in Armenia, ETF, 2019, available at www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2019-07/youth_transition_armenia.pdf [09.09.2021].

regularly organised in the Republic of Armenia.

1.9 CURRENT DEBATES AND REFORMS

The Youth state strategy covering the period 2021-2025 is currently in the process of approval.³⁸

The draft of the strategy was prepared by the working group with technical support from the EU.³⁹ Several working sessions were implemented to discuss the draft of the strategy with the participation of youth NGOs, international organisations, and youth.

The draft strategy was published on the www.e-draft.am website enabling CSO representatives and other interested citizens to actively participate in the discussions on and drafting of the strategy before 3 June 2021.

The reviewed draft action plan of the Youth Policy 2021-2025 Strategy has been submitted by the RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport to the RA Prime Minister's Office for approval. Taking into account all the observations and considerations made, the Department of Youth Policy, Supplementary and Continuing Education of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport organises discussions aimed at introducing cross-sectoral clarifications (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of the Economy, Ministry of Territorial Administration, Ministry of Infrastructure, etc.).

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 strategy.⁴⁰ 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 plans.⁴¹ The monitoring results also highlight the need for improvement of the process of

38. Based on information from Gohar Mamikonyan, Head of the unit, Youth Policy, Supplementary and Continuing Education, RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport.

39. www.e-draft.am/projects/3268/about [30.08.2021].

40. Policy brief based on the Results of Monitoring and Assessment of the 2013-2017 Strategy of Youth State Policy of the RA, Youth Studies Institute, 2017, <http://ystudies.am/reports/3768> [05.09.2021].

41. Ibid.

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.⁴² 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 as well as improvement of the efficiency and inclusiveness of the functions of already operating platforms.⁴³

42. Ibid.

43. Ibid.