

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: BELARUS YOUTH POLICY GOVERNANCE

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1.1. Target population of youth policy

The Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on Foundations of State Youth Policy¹ (Zakon Respubliki Belarus ob osnovach gosudarstvennoy molodejnoj politiki) defines the lower and higher legal age limits for youth, stating: “young citizens are nationals of the Republic of Belarus, foreign nationals, or stateless persons permanently residing in the country who are aged between 14 and 31”.

The above-mentioned Law also defines a young family as one in which one of the spouses (in a single-parent family) or both are under the age of 31. Therefore, the actors that operate in the field of youth policy mainly target their actions at this age group.

Besides, the Law identifies specific target groups within the youth population that are guaranteed state support. In particular, specific policy measures are established for schoolchildren and students; talented or gifted pupils and students; young employees; young families; and young people from vulnerable categories.

Inter alia, [the Education Code of the Republic of Belarus](#) No. 243-Z of 13 January 2011 stipulates the obligations, rights and guarantees for students and schoolchildren as well as measures of social support and protection for them.

The special funds of the President of the Republic of Belarus for the support of talented and gifted youth were established to provide prizes, scholarships and financial assistance. Support measures for talented and gifted young people are guaranteed by the Presidential Decrees.²

In addition, several other legal acts, such as [the 1994 Constitution of the Republic of Belarus](#) (Articles 32, 64); [the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus](#) No. 275-Z of 9 July 1999 (Article 27); the [Law of the Republic of Belarus](#) No. 305-Z of 9 November 1999 on State

¹. The Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on the Foundations of State Youth Policy, available at [www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300\(017-034\).pdf&oldDocPage=9](http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300(017-034).pdf&oldDocPage=9), accessed 22 July 2021.

². The Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 18 of 12 January 1996 on Special Fund of the President of the Republic of Belarus for Support of Talented Youth, available at <https://president.gov.by/ru/documents/ukaz-prezidenta-respubliki-belarus-ot-12-janvarja-1996-g-18-red-ot-09082011-1589>, accessed 22 July 2021. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 19 of 12 January 1996 on Special Fund of the President of Republic of Belarus for Social Support of Gifted Pupils and Students, available at <https://president.gov.by/ru/documents/ukaz-prezidenta-respubliki-belarus-ot-12-janvarja-1996-g-19-red-ot-29022008-1605>, accessed 22 July 2021. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 199 of 26 April 2010 on Some Issues of Developing, Record-Keeping and Using the Databank of Gifted and Talented Youth, available at www.academy.edu.by/files/Ykaz%20Prez%20%20199-2010.pdf, accessed 26 July 2021.

In line with the Law (Article 1),⁵ state youth policy is defined as a system of social, economic, political, organisational, legal and other activities aimed at supporting young citizens and undertaken by the state to ensure social formation and development of youth, and ultimate implementation of their potential for the sake of the society as a whole.

The objectives of state youth policy are as follows:

- comprehensive education of young people; contribution to their ethical, moral and physical development;
- creation of conditions for free and effective participation of young people in the political, social, economic and cultural development of the society;
- social, financial, legal and other types of support for young people;
- youth empowerment in their choice of way of life (Article 3).⁶

As stated under the Law (Article 4),⁷ state youth policy is guided by the following principles:

- protecting youth rights and their legitimate interests;
- combining state and public interests as well as individual rights and freedoms in shaping and implementation of state youth policy;
- providing youth with legal, social and economic guarantees that compensate for the limitations in their social status due to their age;
- evidence-based youth policy;
- transparency and publicity;
- encouraging youth to participate directly in the formation and implementation of state youth policy;
- giving priority to competitive tools when implementing programmes in the field of state youth policy;
- interdepartmental interaction and co-operation.

In line with the Law (Article 5),⁸ the key actors of state youth policy are as follows: youth; young families; youth associations; state bodies and other organisations, participating within their competence in the implementation of state youth policy.

The chapter “State regulation and management in the sphere of state youth policy” sets out the mechanism of state youth policy regulation and management. The articles of the chapter determine the authority of the President of the Republic of Belarus; the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus; the Ministry of Education; and regional public authorities in the field of state youth policy.

⁵. The Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on the Foundations of State Youth Policy, available at [www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300\(017-034\).pdf&oldDocPage=9](http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300(017-034).pdf&oldDocPage=9), accessed 22 July 2021.

⁶. Ibid.

⁷. Ibid.

⁸. Ibid.

The chapter “The main directions of state youth policy” defines key policy domains relevant to the field of youth, namely:

- civic and patriotic education of young people;
- promotion of a healthy lifestyle among youth;
- state support for young families;
- assistance in exercising young people’s right to work;
- state support for gifted and talented youth;
- assistance in exercising young people’s right to association;
- support of development and implementation of socially significant youth initiatives;
- international youth co-operation.

The chapter “Financing and guarantees of the implementation of state youth policy” covers general sources of state youth policy financing; defines responsibility for its information and scientific support; determines the mechanism of youth participation in the processes of youth policy decision making and implementation; and lays down the basis for community youth centre development.

The chapter “Final provisions” determines measures for the implementation of the Law.

Revision/updates

The latest updates to the Law of the Republic of Belarus on the Foundations of State Youth Policy (Zakon Respubliki Belarus ob osnovach gosudarstvennoy molodejnoj politiki) No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 were made in October 2016. In particular, new terms and definitions, such as mentorship and youth personnel policy, were introduced in the Law.

Besides, amendments were made in relation to improving the effectiveness of youth policy decision-making processes. Namely, according to Article 25, youth consultative and advisory bodies are encouraged to be established under the state bodies. To shape and implement state youth policy, and develop youth policy decision-making processes, state bodies are to co-operate with youth non-governmental organisations, including those listed in the national register of youth and children’s associations that enjoy state support.

Additionally, a new paragraph was introduced into Article 20, stating the guarantee of the economic independence of young citizens, and the realisation of their right to work. The state encourages fostering of youth entrepreneurial initiatives by acquiring necessary skills and carrying out activities aimed at developing the interest of young citizens in entrepreneurial activity.

1.3. National Youth Strategy

Existence of a National Youth Strategy

The Strategy for the Development of State Youth Policy of the Republic of Belarus until 2030 (Strategiya razvitiya gosudarstvennoy molodejnoj politiki Respubliki Belarus do 2030 goda)⁹ was approved by Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 349 of 19 June 2021. The Strategy for the Development of State Youth Policy of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as the National Youth Strategy) is in compliance with the previously developed Law of the Republic of Belarus on Foundations of State Youth Policy.

It is a comprehensive document that consolidates the system of official views and approaches to improving the conditions for effective youth participation in political, social, economic and cultural development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030.

The National Youth Strategy sets out the long-term national goals and priorities in the youth field in Belarus for a period of 10 years. The target group of the Strategy is the population aged between 14 and 31. The content of the National Youth Strategy is based on needs and expectations of young citizens and is aimed at increasing the effectiveness, efficiency and visibility of youth policy.

Scope and contents

The National Youth Strategy is structured into six chapters, encompassing the most important social and economic aspects, youth policy priorities and forms of youth participation in public life. It specifies objectives, principles and priorities of state youth policy; sets out the mechanism of its realisation; and defines expected outcomes.

The National Youth Strategy is based on the government's strategic orientation to work with and for young people. It seeks to ensure conditions for enabling young people to reach their full potential and participate actively in social life while contributing not only to their own development but also to the development of the society.

Therefore, the following objectives and principles are identified for the implementation of the National Youth Strategy:

- creating conditions for youth demand;
- strengthening the involvement of young citizens in the implementation of state tasks on socio-political and socio-economic developments;

⁹. The Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 349 of 19 June 2021 on the Strategy for the Development of State Youth Policy of the Republic of Belarus until 2030, available at https://pravo.by/upload/docs/op/C22100349_1624395600.pdf, accessed 22 July 2021.

- attracting young citizens to direct participation in the development of the country;
- shaping and implementing priority areas of state youth policy, programmes for youth and society as a whole;
- developing legislation in the field of state youth policy;
- establishing co-operation of all actors and stakeholders of state youth policy.

The National Youth Strategy defines 12 strategic priorities which aim to enable the improvement of:

1. quality of the national education system and opportunities for acquiring qualifications and development of competences of young people;
2. civic and patriotic education of young people;
3. youth employability and employment;
4. youth health and well-being;
5. family values and young families;
6. active youth participation in social and political processes;
7. youth NGOs;
8. creative and scientific potential of young people;
9. legal education of young people;
10. youth safety;
11. informing young people, and knowledge about young people;
12. youth policy governance.

The objectives of the National Youth Strategy are clustered into 12 policy domains accordingly and are presented below.

In the field of quality improvement of the national education system and training of qualified personnel:

- implementation of educational programmes;
- improvement of the rules for admission to educational institutions;
- improvement of the quality of training of specialists and workers (employees).

In the field of civic and patriotic education of young people:

- to introduce new forms and methods of implementing a system of measures for civic and patriotic education of young people;
- to increase the motivation of young people to serve in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus, other troops and military formations, internal affairs bodies, bodies and units for emergency situations.

In the field of youth employment:

- forming and developing universal competences of young personnel;
- reducing youth unemployment;

- improving the mechanism for stimulating the recruitment of young people;
- ensuring the rights protection of working youth;
- developing youth entrepreneurship, including in the social sphere.

In the field of youth health:

- preserving and strengthening physical and mental health;
- preventing crisis conditions, mental and behavioural disorders;
- forming of responsible behaviour and value attitudes of young people to their health;
- ensuring widespread involvement of young people in the adoption of environmentally friendly decisions.

In the field of preserving family values and supporting a young family:

- improving the system of targeted social and financial support for young families;
- improving the quality of family leisure time;
- strengthening ties between generations;
- supporting and promoting of a positive image of marriage, family, conscious and responsible parenting, as well as the institution of adoption;
- providing social and psychological preparation for family life and supporting a young family at various stages of its development.

In the field of active youth participation in social and political processes:

- introducing innovative forms and methods of solving urgent youth problems;
- increasing youth participation in solving problems at local and national levels;
- improving the mechanisms of interaction between the public and state sectors in the field of youth work;
- stimulating youth participation in youth advisory and representative structures;
- supporting youth movements, associations and youth leaders;
- raising the level of youth political culture;
- improving the system of career guidance for young people.

In the field of development of creative and scientific potential of young people:

- creating conditions for the disclosure of the creative and scientific potential of youth;
- strengthening the role of youth in the preservation of historical memory, cultural heritage and traditions of Belarus.

In the field of legal education of young people:

- forming legal competence of young people;
- ensuring legal protection of young people and improving conditions for legal rights implementation.

In the field of youth safety:

- increasing the number of young people involved in productive activities;
- developing a state-level system for youth protection from violence and external threats;
- creating living conditions that minimise the risk of youth involvement in committing offences;
- reducing the level of criminalisation among youth;
- preventing extremism and radicalism;
- forming critical thinking in young people;
- creating a safe environment for young people, including young citizens with special needs, their active inclusion in all spheres of the society;
- improving and strengthening the practice-orienter of educational programmes aimed at developing a culture of safety.

In the field of information work with youth:

- using media resources and the internet to popularise youth policy measures, inform about the conditions created and the opportunities provided for young people;
- increasing youth trust in state-owned mass media, information and internet resources by improving the quality and efficiency of their activities based on digital transformation and introduction of modern media technologies.

In the field of the state youth policy governance:

- raising the status of state youth policy;
- strengthening the human resources of specialists working with youth.

The main intended outcome of the implementation of the National Youth Strategy is an increased participation in various forms of social, political, economic and cultural life (up to 90% by 2030) of young people who obtain creative and project thinking, communication and entrepreneurial skills, having a formed holistic worldview with a stable value guideline.

The target group of the National Youth Strategy is the population aged between 14 and 31. Besides, it identifies specific target groups within the youth population that are guaranteed state support. In particular, it stipulates that specific policy measures are to be established for schoolchildren and students; talented or gifted pupils and students; young employees; young families; young people from vulnerable categories: young people in difficult life situations due to disability, illness, orphanhood, neglect, poverty, unemployment, homelessness, conflicts and abuse in the family, asocial behaviour and other social problems.

Responsible authority for the implementation of the National Youth Strategy

The top-level authority responsible for the implementation, co-ordination and monitoring of the key youth policy domains and priorities defined in National Youth Strategy is the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Education). The Ministry of Education is to provide an evidence-based monitoring of the implementation of the National Youth Strategy and to report annually the main results to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

As the National Youth Strategy was introduced in 2021, it hasn't yet been integrated into the overall national development policy but it will be in the future.

Revision/updates

The National Youth Strategy has not yet undergone any revisions or updates.

1.4. Youth policy decision making

Structure of decision making

[The Ministry of Education](#) of the Republic of Belarus is the responsible top-level authority for the overall development, co-ordination and drafting of the national development plans on youth issues in central government.

In line with the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 1049 of 4 August 2011 Regulations on the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus (Polozhenie o Ministerstve obrazovaniya Respubliki Belarus),¹⁰ the Ministry of Education is in charge of the implementation of state youth policy.

The main functions of the Ministry of Education in the field of state youth policy are as follows:

- to co-ordinate the activities of state authority, organisations, individual entrepreneurs and all the stakeholders implementing state youth policy;
- to oversee quality assurance in the field of state youth policy;
- to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the state of affairs in the youth field and to predict its trends;
- to analyse contemporary trends in the youth field;

¹⁰. The Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 1049 of 4 August 2011 Regulations on the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus, available at <http://cis-legislation.com>, accessed 27 September 2021.

- to co-operate with local executive and administrative bodies in decision-making processes on youth policy issues and child protection;
- to provide organisational support and to conduct fundamental and applied scientific research in the field of youth policy and to ensure implementation of its results in the field.

The main responsible authority within the Ministry of Education is the Directorate General of Educational Work and Youth Policy of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus, [the Office for Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus](#).

The key tasks and objectives of the Office for Youth Affairs are as follows:

- ensuring implementation of state youth policy, creating ultimate socio-economic, organisational and legal conditions for the development of state youth policy;
- setting up conditions to develop creative initiatives, to make young people more socially and politically active;
- ensuring that state authorities are co-ordinated on issues of state youth policy implementation;
- supporting talented youth;
- co-operating with national youth and children's public associations on issues of state youth policy implementation;
- contributing to the development of international relations in the field of youth policy, co-operation with international organisations on issues relating to governance as well as facilitation of international exchanges;
- developing civic and patriotic education, prevention of asocial behaviour in young people;
- assisting youth employment, improving activities of student work teams;
- enabling activities of the Council of Youth Affairs in the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Encouraging youth participation in the formation and implementation of state youth policy is one of the guiding principles of state youth policy.¹¹ In this regard, under the Ministry of Education, two youth councils have been set up to participate in decision-making processes addressing youth issues.

[Republican Youth Council at the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus](#). This public organisation introduces and reviews proposals to improve legislation and shape normative legal frameworks for youth policy in the Republic of Belarus, discusses relevant issues and problems of young people, develops recommendations aimed at increasing the efficiency of

¹¹. The Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on the Foundations of State Youth Policy, available at [www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300\(017-034\).pdf&oldDocPage=9](http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300(017-034).pdf&oldDocPage=9), accessed 22 July 2021.

state youth policy decisions, and facilitates co-operation between various organisations and state structures working with youth. The council is formed from representatives of state authorities, public associations and unions, young teachers and scholars, researchers, and pupils and students.

[Public Republican Student Council at the Ministry of Education](#). The council unites representatives of all higher education institutions. The main objective of the council is to provide support to stakeholders and decision makers in development of the education system and ensuring dialogue with young people.

At the level of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, youth policy issues are entrusted to [the Parliamentary Commission for Health, Physical Training, Family and Youth Policy](#). The areas of its consultation competence cover youth policy issues, marriage and family legislation, health legislation, physical training and sports legislation, and tourism legislation.

[The Youth Parliament at the National Assembly of Belarus](#) started working in 2020. Members of the Youth Parliament participate in sessions of the House of Representatives, work with MPs at the local level, and take part in decision-making processes.

All regions of the Republic of Belarus have established youth parliaments that develop proposals on major directions of state youth policy. The parliaments are formed from the representatives of children's and youth public organisations, general secondary schools or higher education institutions, children's and youth self-governance bodies established in education institutions.

Co-ordination of state youth policy at the regional level is carried out by the Central Offices of Ideology, Culture and Youth Affairs in regional executive committees. Offices (departments) of ideology, culture and youth affairs in the executive committees implement state youth policy, taking into account the features and characteristics of social and economic development of regions and cities. Their duties also relate to youth policy regulation, management and control, as well as financial support to subordinate institutions.

Main themes

The [National Youth Strategy](#)¹² defines the scope, objectives and priorities in the 12 key areas: quality of the national education system and opportunities for acquiring qualifications

¹². The Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 349 of 19 June 2021 on the Strategy for the Development of State Youth Policy of the Republic of Belarus until 2030, available at https://pravo.by/upload/docs/op/C22100349_1624395600.pdf, accessed 29 July 2021.

and development of competences of young people; civic and patriotic education of young people; youth employability and employment; youth health and well-being; family values and young families; youth active participation in social and political processes; youth NGOs; creative and scientific potential of young people; legal education of young people; youth safety; informing young people and knowledge about them; youth policy governance.

The Youth Policy sub-programme within the State programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-2025 (Gosudarstvennaya programma obrazovanie i molodezhnaya politika) is a guiding document for youth policy implementation in Belarus. It was adopted by [the Resolution of Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus](#) No. 57 of 29 January 2021.

The key policy domains identified in the Youth Policy sub-programme for 2021-2025 are the following:

- patriotic, spiritual and moral development of active youth citizenship;
- youth social participation and initiative;
- youth professional self-realisation, carrier promotion, entrepreneurship;
- family values;
- promotion of healthy lifestyles among youth;
- assistance in exercising young people's right to work.

To implement [the State programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-2025](#), an Action Plan¹³ has been developed and enacted. The Action Plan specifies the titles of activities, initiators, and terms of implementation by years and sources of financing.

Within the framework of the Action Plan, two key objectives are identified:

- objective 1, through the system of patriotic, spiritual and moral education to create conditions for effective self-realisation of young people, formation of their active civic position, love for the Motherland, pride in its past and present, responsibility for the fate of Belarus;
- objective 2, to form responsible behaviour and value attitude of young people to their own health as a condition for personal well-being and health of future generations.

The National Agency for Youth

The National Agency for Youth, which is responsible for youth policy at a central level, does not operate in Belarus. Youth-oriented tasks are carried out by central government as well as national and local government authorities in accordance with their competences.

¹³. The State Programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-2025, available at <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=C22100057&p1=1>, accessed 29 July 2021.

1.5. Cross-sectoral approach with other ministries

Mechanisms and actors

There is no permanent inter-ministerial working group operating but interdepartmental co-operation is an inseparable mechanism of the development and implementation of state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus. The Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on the Foundations of State Youth Policy (Article 4)¹⁴ stipulates that interdepartmental interaction and co-operation is a guiding principle of state youth policy.

All the ministries in the Republic of Belarus take part in shaping and implementing state youth policy within their competences. They are invited to draft legislation and strategic papers relating to youth policy, propose measures to achieve the goals of national youth policy and discuss other questions relating to youth policy implementation.

In particular, when developing the [National Youth Strategy](#) and ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy, an inter-ministerial working group was established. The procedure of interministerial approval of the National Youth Strategy by different ministries was carried out in 2020. After all the comments and suggestions had been integrated in the draft document, it was approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

Furthermore, in line with [the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus](#) No. 349 of 19 June 2021 on the Strategy for the Development of State Youth Policy of the Republic of Belarus until 2030, the implementation of the National Youth Strategy is carried out by national government bodies and other government organisations subordinate to the Government of the Republic of Belarus, regional executive bodies within their competence, youth public associations, and other interested entities.

The Youth Policy sub-programme within [the State programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-2025](#) strives towards inter-institutional and cross-sectoral co-operation in developing a coherent, evidence- and knowledge-based youth policy.¹⁵ It defines the Ministry of Education as a responsible initiator of the programme. Besides, pursuant to the above-mentioned document, other ministries are identified to take part in the implementation of state youth policy within their competences, namely:

- [the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus;](#)

¹⁴. The Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on the Foundations of State Youth Policy, available at [www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300\(017-034\).pdf&oldDocPage=9](http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300(017-034).pdf&oldDocPage=9), accessed 22 July 2021.

¹⁵. The State programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-2025, available at <https://pravo.by/document/?guid=12551&p0=C22100057&p1=1>, accessed 29 July 2021.

- [the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [Ministry of Architecture and Construction of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Belarus;](#)
- [Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Belarus.](#)

Furthermore, state committees, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Higher Attestation Commission, the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus, Belarus President Property Management Directorate, Belarusbank, Regional Executive Committees, and the Minsk City Executive Committee are identified as initiators and co-partners in the implementation of [the State programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-2025](#). Co-partners are obliged to report to the Ministry of Education on the state of affairs of the implementation process.

In addition, the joint implementation of interdepartmental action plans has proved to be an efficient measure for enhancing cross-sectoral co-operation. In particular, the Ministry of Education, in co-operation with relevant ministries and departments, is implementing the [Complex action plan aimed at taking effective measures to counter illegal drug trafficking, prevention of drug consumption, including among children and the youth, and social rehabilitation of people with drug addiction, for 2021–2022](#); [the Complex action plan against spread of alcohol, drugs and psychotropic substances among schoolchildren and students](#), et al.

1.6. Evidence-based youth policy

Political commitment to evidence-based youth policy

The Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on the Foundations of State Youth Policy (Zakon Respubliki Belarus ob osnovach gosudarstvennoy molodejnoj politiki) (hereinafter referred to as the Law) (Article 4)¹⁶ stipulates that evidence-based

¹⁶. The Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on the Foundations of State Youth Policy, available at [www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300\(017-034\).pdf&oldDocPage=9](http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300(017-034).pdf&oldDocPage=9), accessed 22 July 2021.

youth policy is a guiding principle of state youth policy implementation. Furthermore, the [National Youth Strategy](#) specifies that development of youth policy legislation should be based on a scientific approach, on analysis and predicting the trends in the youth field.

As stated under [the Law](#) (Article 10),¹⁷ the Ministry of Education is responsible for:

- providing information in support of the youth policy system;
- conducting fundamental and applied scientific research in the field of youth policy and ensuring implementation of its results;
- drafting an annual report on the situation of youth in the Republic of Belarus.

Furthermore, the [National Youth Strategy](#) states that scientific support of the strategy is carried out by:

- conducting fundamental and applied research, including internationally, aimed at solving urgent socially significant problems in accordance with the priorities of the [National Youth Strategy](#);
- expanding the practice of conducting sociological research and monitoring the situation of youth in the Republic of Belarus.

Therefore, political commitment to evidence-based practices of youth policy is guaranteed by law.

Co-operation between policy making and research

There are no institutionalised mechanisms of co-operation with the research community in the country. The co-operation between policy making and research is mainly on an ad hoc basis. Nevertheless, there have been several modes of co-operation between researchers and policy makers:

- research serves as a basis for the development of legal and other official state documents relating to youth policy;
- researchers are invited to participate in the process of drafting the documents relating to youth policy issues;
- researchers whose scientific interest focuses on a specific aspect of youth policy provide consultations to policy makers.

One of the most recent examples of research in the youth field, conducted in synergy with policy makers, is titled “To scientifically substantiate and elaborate a strategy for the development of state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus”, performed by a research group from the National Institute for Higher Education. The research was conducted with the aim of analysing challenges, needs and expectations of all the stakeholders, including

¹⁷. The Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on the Foundations of State Youth Policy, available at [www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300\(017-034\).pdf&oldDocPage=9](http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300(017-034).pdf&oldDocPage=9), accessed 22 July 2021.

young people, and providing recommendations on implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Youth Strategy. Researchers were involved in drafting the National Youth Strategy as regular members of expert working groups.

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus provides organisational support and carries out fundamental and applied scientific research in the field of youth policy and ensures implementation of its results.¹⁸ In this regard, the ministry co-operates with various organisations, institutions and researchers carrying out scientific research on youth-related topics as well as conducting ongoing monitoring and evaluation on the implementation of state youth policy.

Youth research is conducted by national and international organisations, such as the Ministry of Education, the [National Institute for Higher Education](#), [the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus](#), [Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus](#), [Centre for Sociological and Political Research](#), and [the Belarusian State University](#).

The Youth Policy and Sociocultural Communication Department at the [National Institute for Higher Education](#) carries out fundamental and applied research on the issues of state youth policy implementation in Belarus. Since 2016, the department has been carrying out scientific research titled “Professional and Competent Culture of a Youth Work Specialist”. In addition, the department publishes the annual academic journal “Contemporary youth and society”.

The [Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus](#), the Department of Sociology of Culture, conducts sociological studies on young people’s social and cultural life. The Department of Sociology of Culture has been working on a joint Belarusian-Lithuanian scientific project, “The Specificity of Youth as a Subject of Socio-Cultural Space in the Context of Globalisation and Informatisation of Modern Society”, since 2015.

The Belarusian State University actively contributes to data gathering on youth issues. In particular, the [Centre for Sociological and Political Research, the Belarusian State University](#) (CSPRBSU) conducts research in the youth field.

The [National Youth Strategy](#) states that evaluation of the effectiveness of its implementation is carried out:

¹⁸. The Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on the Foundations of State Youth Policy, available at [www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300\(017-034\).pdf&oldDocPage=9](http://www.pravo.by/document/?guid=2012&oldDoc=2009-300/2009-300(017-034).pdf&oldDocPage=9), accessed 22 July 2021.

- within the framework of state and other programmes that regulate activities in the field of youth policy;
- on the basis of sociological studies on youth situation, analytical statistical data, and assessment of the efficiency in the work of state bodies and state organisations.

National statistics and available data sources

The most important actors collecting statistical data on youth are the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus and the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

The National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus publishes extensive statistical reports on the situation of young people in Belarus. The key statistical document that presents the official information that characterises various life aspects of children and youth is the Statistical book “Children and youth in the Republic of Belarus”.¹⁹ The book provides data on the number of children and youth, their composition by gender, as well as the data on marriages and divorces, youth employment and unemployment, on educational institutions teaching pre-primary, general secondary, vocational-technical, secondary specialised, and tertiary education programmes; on cultural and supplementary education institutions, summer recreational camps, sanatorium, health resort and recreational institutions that provide services to children and youth, and other information that reflects the situation of children and youth in the Republic of Belarus.

The Ministry of Education in co-operation with other relevant ministries publishes annually the National Report “On the situation of youth in the Republic of Belarus”²⁰ (hereinafter referred to as the National Report). The National Report is drafted on the basis of the data submitted by all governmental institutions relating to youth issues within their competence. The aim of the National Report is to inform the general public on the situation in the field of youth. The National Report presents contemporary statistical and sociological data on a wide range of issues: demographic characteristics of the Belarusian youth; health of the young generation; education and science in young people’s lives; the socio-economic situation of young people; criminality among young people; and youth participation in social and political processes.

¹⁹. Children and youth in the Republic of Belarus, 2018. Statistical book, National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus, Minsk, 2018, available at www.belstat.gov.by/en/ofitsialnaya-tatistika/publications/statistical-publications-data-books-bulletins/public_compilation/index_10765, accessed 29 July 2021.

²⁰. On the situation of youth in the Republic of Belarus, 2017. National report, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus, Minsk, 2018, available at <https://nihe.bsu.by/index.php/ru/natsionalnyj-doklad>, accessed 29 July 2021.

Budgetary allocations supporting research in the youth field

Budgetary allocations supporting research in the youth field are demand-driven, i.e. data is collected by commissioning ad hoc research addressing specific youth problems.

1.7. Funding youth policy

How youth policy is funded

In line with the [Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 on the Foundations of State Youth Policy](#) (Article 22) (Zakon Respubliki Belarus' ob osnovach gosudarstvennoy molodejnoj politiki), the process of financing state youth policy implementation is carried out at the expense of the state and/or local budgets and other sources that are not forbidden by law. Besides, special funds may be established for the purpose of financing activities in the field of the state youth policy, including support for talented and gifted youth.

[The State programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-2025](#) provides a range of different measures in the fields of youth education, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being, social position, youth participation. The budget available for a wide set of measures defined in the Youth Policy State Sub-Programme for 2021-2025 amounts to 15 208 298 Belarusian roubles (BYN) (€5 114 611).

What is funded?

Within the framework of the Action Plan to [the State programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-2025](#), actions and events which aim to meet the two key objectives are identified for funding (see more on Youth policy funding in [Chapter 1.4., Main themes](#)).

There are other state programmes targeting youth issues that are run by other ministries – some of them are much larger in scope and budget even than the government's national youth policy budget: *inter alia*, [the State Programme on Social Protection and Employment Promotion for 2021-2025](#), [the State Programme Small and medium-sized business for 2021-2025](#), [the State Programme Culture of Belarus](#).

In the scope of [the State Programme on Social Protection and Employment Promotion for 2021-2025](#) the following activities are financed: organisation of temporary employment for unemployed youth (the Youth Practice programme); temporary employment of students; labour and social adaptation of young workers (employees); monitoring of young workers' adaptation; vocational guidance for young people.

In the scope of [the State Programme Culture of Belarus](#) for 2021-2025 in accordance with the Sub-programme Art and Creativity, the organisation and holding of cultural events,

support for art and creativity, and strengthening international cultural co-operation are financed.

Furthermore, state youth policy gets additional funding from the programmes supporting young specialists, young families and families with many children, talented and gifted youth, temporary employment of young people, etc. In particular, the regional councils of deputies and the Minsk City Council of Deputies allocate the funds transfer from the relevant local budgets to financial support for young and large families in repayment of their debts on loans issued by banks for construction (reconstruction) or purchase of residential premises.

Financial accountability

The laws of the Republic of Belarus establish mandatory requirements concerning financial records of all state institutions and business entities. State institutions provide mandatory financial accountability reports each year.

Use of EU funds

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus itself did not use any EU funds.

1.8. Cross-border co-operation in the youth field

Co-operation with European countries

International youth co-operation is carried out in many directions: the Union State of Russia and Belarus, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the European Union, the Youth Department of the Council of Europe et al.

International co-operation

The Republic of Belarus carries out multi-vector policy in the field of youth co-operation. Intending to widen international co-operation in the field of education, science, youth policy and sport, the Republic of Belarus has signed bilateral co-operation agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Georgia, Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Turkey and other countries.

The key documents on international youth co-operation in the country are as follows: the Decision of the Council of the Heads of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) of 29 May 2020 on the Strategy of International Youth Co-operation between the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States for 2021-2030; the Agreement signed by the Commonwealth of Independent Member States on Co-operation in the Field of Youth (adopted on 6 November 2005 at the Meeting of the Council of Heads of the CIS Member States held in Moscow).

International youth co-operation within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is managed by the Council for Youth Affairs of the CIS member states. The Council has a mandate to develop co-operation among authorities in charge of youth issues in the CIS. The Council carries out its activities on the basis of the Intergovernmental Agreement of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States on co-operation in the sphere of work with youth as of 25 November 2005.

As Belarus is not a member state of the Council of Europe, it is not obligatory for the country to adopt and implement youth sector strategy and Belarusian young people have limited access to the Council of Europe youth sector programmes. Nevertheless, at the Council of Europe level, Belarus is represented by a national delegate at the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the Joint Council on Youth. Interaction with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe is carried out through study visits with the support of the information point of the Council of Europe in Minsk.

The UN Youth Advisory Panel has been established in Belarus. The Belarusian UN Youth Panel comprises 13 representatives aged from 14 to 31. One of the Panel's aims is to spread information on the activities of the UN in Belarus and raise awareness about Belarus.

A number of youth NGOs, education institutions and organisations take part in mobility programmes for young people, students and youth specialists within the framework of European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ Youth, including projects of the European Voluntary Service (EVS). Nevertheless, Belarusian representatives are able to take part in the EU youth programmes only via their third country status.

1.9. Current debates and reforms

Taking into consideration that the strategic documents in the field of youth policy – the Strategy for the Development of State Youth Policy of the Republic of Belarus until 2030 (Strategiya razvitiya gosudarstvennoy molodejnoj politiki Respubliki Belarus do 2030 goda) and [the State Programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-2025](#) – were adopted in 2021, no legislative amendments or adoption are foreseen in the near future. Therefore trends, risks and further youth policy developments are stipulated in [the National Youth Strategy for 2030](#) and in [the State Programme on Education and Youth Policy for 2021-2025](#).

Additionally, the current debates in the country are centred on the socio-political crisis following the presidential elections in 2020, particularly with regard to youth participation in unauthorised events (actions, street marches, processions, strikes, pickets, etc.) and violations of law and order during mass events.

