

Youth Partnership

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



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Information sheet

YOUTH AND THE WORLD

Bulgaria



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1. Implementation of a new field of action: “Youth and the World”

How is the field of action “Youth and the World” of the current EU youth strategy transposed in your country?

The field of action “Youth and the World” of the current EU Youth Strategy is implemented in our country mainly through the Youth in Action programme 2007-2013 of EC, the Eurodesk network and the National Youth Programme (2011-2015).

The National Centre “European Youth Programmes and Initiatives” (NCEYPI) - Bulgarian National Agency for “Youth in Action programme” provides support and financing, fostering the same time Bulgarian NGOs to build new partnerships with neighboring EU countries. NCEYPI aims at turning this activity to national priority in order to establish a network of multipliers which aims to encourage the cooperation and to promote the programme on local and national level. The National centre also supports organizations in finding partners from neighboring EU countries.

The objectives of NCEYPI are through different projects to establish a fruitful cooperation between youth workers, multipliers and youth organizations. Thus, the popularization of YiA programme and the exchange of good practices between organizations and young people with neighboring EU countries will be reinforced.

Under the National Youth Programme (2011-2015), subprogramme “Youth information and counseling centers”, 31 Youth information-consultative centres have been established and are working on the territory of 28 districts in the country as in the bigger cities work more than 2 centres and they are 3 in the capital. These informational and counseling centers disseminate information to young people and for their opportunities in order to strengthen the cooperation between them, youth organizations and decision makers on local level.

Through the Eurodesk network, YiA programme is popularized and information is provided for possible cooperation with neighboring EU countries as well as the cooperation and the exchange of good practices is being encouraged.

2. Awareness raising on Global issues

Awareness raising on Global issues is implemented by different campaigns and initiatives. Such activities are set in the National calendar for out-of-school activities of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, for example:

- International ecological forum “Srebarna” (National competition for pupils’ projects in ecology and safe environment);
- International competition for drawing, essay, poem, story on theme “The Earth is Our Home”;

- International competition I Love Black Sea
- XIII International Workshop "Tradition, Ecology, Creative work";
- Week of mobility and Day with no motor cars;
- National competition in civil education: "People – equal and different";
- Earth day.

2.1. Promotion of Global Education

Is there any national/regional policy document which lays the legal basis for the promotion of Global Education? If yes

In the State educational requirements for civil education, established with Regulation N 2 for school contents from 18th of May, 2000, a main body of content is set: The Global Challenges of Contemporaneity. As an expected results the students should understand the role of cooperation between cultures for global unity of the world as well as they should assess the importance of sustainable development and give arguments for globalization of the economy.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science has prepared a draft of Law for preschool and school education. After its adoption, the State educational requirements for civil, health and intercultural education will regulate the obligatory requirements for results in the system of preschool and school education as well as preconditions and processes for their achievement.

How is Global Education promoted?

The Global education in schools and kindergartens is encouraged by different extracurricular and school activities:

- Activities from the National calendar for out-of-class activities of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science
- Activities from the campaign "I Participate and I Change";
- Activities in implementation of projects under the operational programmes of EU.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science supports the Centre for Open Education in the implementation of international project for developing programmes for upper training courses on problems of Educational development, respectively Millennium Development Goals. The project is financed by EuropeAID and it is realized by the Centre for Open Education in Bulgaria. In its implementation in Bulgaria (which is one of the project partners), many of the Bulgarian schools are involved, associated with the world school network of UNESCO. Thus the schools develop their potential for work on different topics which are very important for UNESCO and cover part of the obligatory criteria of the world network – to take an active part in Millennium Development Goals' activities as well as in working out and popularization of school materials, resources and

practices with emphasize on human rights, education for development, education for piece, education on sustainable development etc. The trainings will begin in September in partnership with the Open Education Centre for teachers in civil and social competences under the Programme for civil education – in the city of Pleven.

The forthcoming activities are scheduled by the end of the year:

- Determining the working teams on textbook for civil education which will be used in class for the teacher's lesson and textbook for work with pupils on projects in the sphere of civil education
- Two-days training for teachers on global education and for organizing of teachers' association on civil education
- Two-days training for youth councils and school councils representatives in the sphere of students' self-government problems
- Establishment of information data base for projects and initiatives in the sphere of civil education
- Conducting Days of civil education in December.

In the framework of "Pestalozzi Programme" - for organizing and conducting of short term qualification trainings for teachers and professionals in the sphere of education trainings dedicated to global education and Millennium development goals are being conducted every year in Bulgaria. The theme of the training in 2012 was "The Global Dimension of Democratic Citizenship". Two international trainings which will be held in Bulgaria are planned for 2013 as the themes are: "The Social Justice and Human Rights in the Global Education" and "Teaching of Human Rights in the Context of Global Education". The trainings are conducted in partnership with Open Education Centre as well as with some municipalities in the country.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science organizes Olympiad on civil education and a competition for teachers with good pedagogical practices in civil education. The students solve casuses connected with globalization problems. Parts of good practices of teachers are connected with the global education.

What are the most tackled aspects of Global Education?

Development Aid – law maintenance of the concept.

Human Rights – requires high level of civil awareness and entire social support.

What are the main stakeholders in the field of Global Education?

Presently, the Global education in our country is not examined independently. It is considered to be a civil education and therefore the main stakeholders in that sphere are all the international

organizations, governmental institutions, NGOs, Universities, schools and research networks. The main stakeholders are those that focus on Global education and civil education.

**Is there any report/survey available on Global education and young people in your country?
If yes what is its focus of research and what are the main outcomes?**

N/A

2.2. Young people and sustainable development

What are the most relevant initiatives/projects at regional/national level encouraging green patterns of consumption and production with young people?

Different initiatives and campaigns are implemented in the country in the sphere of green energy like:

- International ecological forum „Srebarna” (National competition for students’ projects on ecology and safe environment);
- International competition for drawing, essay, poem, story on theme “The Earth is Our Home”;
- International competition “I Love Black Sea”;
- XIII International Workshop Tradition, Ecology, Creative work
- Week of mobility and Day with no motor cars;
- National competition on civil education: “People – Equal and Different”;
- The Earth Day;
- National school competition “The Nature is our Home”;
- School conference on theme “Energy of the Future”;
- National competition Green planet 2013 as a part of International children ecological forum;
- National competition Cosmos – “The Present and Future of Mankind”
- The World day of the Environment;
- Project “The change outside starts inside”;
- Project “Young people for green Europe”;
- Project “Equilibrium in the nature”;
- Project “Become familiar with the world around and find out new horizons – Green behavior for next generations II”
- Project “Let’s talk about the nature”;
- Project “ECONomy 2012”;
- Project “Be eco! Be youth!”;
- Project “Green thinking”.

Initiatives on local and regional level encouraging green models of consumption and production are implemented also by the established Youth information-counselling centres under the National Youth Programme, (2011-2015), working on the territory of 28 districts in the country.

Is there any report/survey investigating the awareness of environmental issues among young people in your country? If so what are the main outcomes?

N/A

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to environment issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

N/A

2.3. Young people and human rights

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to global human rights issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

N/A

3. Cooperation with third countries in the field of youth

3.1. Agreements and areas of cooperation

Are there any bilateral or supranational agreements with countries / regions outside Europe in the field of youth?

The general framework of cooperation in the youth sphere is the following:

- ✓ Exchange of government experts and representatives of youth organizations;
- ✓ Participation in youth forums, festivals, conferences, seminars, trainings etc. in order to be deepened the cooperation in the youth sphere
- ✓ Exchange of information and good practices in the sphere of youth policy;
- ✓ Cooperation in youth issues like: the transfer from education to employment, volunteering, youth work etc.

Republic of Bulgaria has concluded agreements in the sphere of youth activities with the following countries:

- Azerbaijan;
- Chile;
- India;

- China;
- Marocco;
- Mongolia;
- South Africa;
- South Korea;
- Tunisia.

Cooperation in the field of youth policy and /or youth research

Different exchanges and cooperation between Bulgarian NGOs and youth organisations from EU countries and third countries are being implemented as well as with international NGOs under the Youth in Action programme of the European Commission. Different trainings for youth work for young people are also being funded under the Programme. The spheres of cooperation cover all priorities of the Youth in Action Programme.

Under the projects of Youth in Action, conferences on various topics are carried out where representatives of international institutions, NGOs, etc. take part. For example:

- International Conference of the national coordinators of the Eurodesk information network;
- International Conference on the subject Dissection of Democracy
- International Conference of the representatives of the European Youth Centres, etc.

Support to the development of youth work on other continents

The implementation of the projects under the Youth in Action Programme and the popularization of the results at conferences, meetings and round tables, contributes to exchange of good practices between youth workers in the country, as well as with representatives of third countries from Asia (Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Lebanon, etc.) and from North Africa (Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco).

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science provides different information to the representatives of third countries from other continents in the sphere of strategic and operative programming of youth policies and normative acts.

An active exchange of information and good practices in the sphere of youth work is realized with the Republic of South Korea.

3.2. Support measures for young people

What are the opportunities offered to young people to explore and enhance global understanding by going abroad such as volunteering and youth exchange programmes)?

The opportunities for research and raising the global awareness through traveling abroad are realized and funded by the EU programmes.

Promotion of youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities with regions/countries outside of Europe

During the past years the education and training in entrepreneurship is an essential component of the overall policy in Bulgaria. The aim is to teach in business and entrepreneurship at all educational levels both in high schools and universities and in the programmes for entrepreneurs, adults and unemployed people. In the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science operates a Center for educational and training companies which supports the establishment and the work of school educational-training companies in vocational schools in the country.

The Center for educational and training companies is a member of the World Organization of training enterprises EUROPEAN/PENINTERNATIONAL since 2003. A constant informational exchange is carried out within the World Organization where the Center actively participates. Through the Global Network, the training companies in Bulgaria gain access to the software products of EUROPEAN/PENINTERNATIONAL; use the Clearance Center for international payments, use the opportunities to be certificated under the standards of the World Organization and to realize business contacts with international school companies.

As an example of the promotion of youth entrepreneurship and the employment opportunities with countries beyond Europe, the annual international fairs of educational-training companies can be noted - TF Fest – “Young Entrepreneur Fair”, which has been organized for the 15th time in 2011. During the fair 14 competitions were conducted for example: for professional service, for best stand, catalogue and advertising materials, for tourist offer and presentation. The students prepare themselves for participation in the competitions throughout the whole school year. Specialized classes for preparation and participation in the fair are set in the programme for educational and training companies of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science. The participation in these competitions develops the creativity, initiative, competitiveness and entrepreneurship of the young people. In the fair the young people from Bulgaria meet their peers from the whole country, as well as with youngsters from other participating countries, establish contacts, do business deals and payments, practice their informational technology skills and foreign languages etc.

4. Participation of young people and youth organisations in policy making on global issues

Have young people and youth organisations been given political and financial support to be individually or collectively involved in the policy regarding dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues?

Every year the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science carries out a longitudinal survey among young people on the topic “Determination of the impact of youth policies on young people in the country” in nine priority spheres such as: employment, access to services, healthy lifestyle, participation in voluntary activities, international and intercultural exchange, civic activities etc. The aim of the survey is to determine the impact of policies’ implementation and to achieve a feedback on various topics, concerning the young people in the country.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science conducts also the coordination on implementation of the Structural dialogue within the Renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field. National consultations and discussions on various topics are also being realized, where youth organizations and young people take part.

National Center “European Youth Programmes and Initiatives” organizes the “open door days”, which is organized on certain dates and during the European Youth Week. There the young people have the possibility to meet politicians and decision makers so that the dialogue between youth NGOs, young people and politicians can be reinforced. By organizing such events the National Centre becomes the direct contact between beneficiaries and youth policy makers.

National Center European Youth Programs and Initiatives carry out surveys also among young people, such as “Entrepreneurship among young people and conditions for its development”.

On local level meetings are organized regularly between representatives of youth organizations and local government representatives on issues related to youth policy and young people.

Under the Youth in Action Programme projects are being funded for encourage the dialogue between young people and youth organizations with decision makers as well as various discussions and conferences are also being organized. For example, every year in Varna an Annual national meeting which bring together more than 150 delegates, representatives of young people, youth workers and representatives of the governmental institutions from Bulgaria and abroad is being organized. The meetings are on different topics like: youth employment, youth volunteering, youth entrepreneurship, etc.

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in campaigns regarding global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

N/A

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in non-governmental organisations active in the domains of global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

N/A