

## Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE  
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# COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN GREECE



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# 1. Context and principles of national youth policy

## 1.1 Context of national youth policy

Give a brief assessment of youth policy in your country (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies ...) and mention determining external factors (if applicable, e.g. post conflict situation, socio-economic crisis)

### 1.2. Principles of national youth policy

Please define national youth policy by referring to

its conceptual basis (view of young people)

the main target group (age group, specific groups of young people): Youth policy in Greece is targeted at young people aged 15 – 35 years, while in some cases extended till the age of 40. At the same time actions are taken for young people with fewer opportunities and those belonging to specific groups.

the political organisation of youth policy (territorial organisation, share of competences): The General Secretariat for Youth is the governmental body responsible for making and implementing youth policy. Nevertheless, youth policy is a horizontal one, as it reaches many fields that lie in the responsibility of different Ministries and as a result is exercised by all Ministries according to their thematic responsibilities. This is the reason why, there is a Ministerial Committee headed by the General Secretariat for Youth whose role is to coordinate actions targeted at young people.

## 2. Statistics on young people

Mention the number of all young people from the ages of 15 and 29 who live in the country: 1,977,947 (2010 data, Hellenic Statistical Authority)

(if you do not have statistics covering this age range, please give the number of young people specifying the age range used; for EU Members States the figure has been collected and made available by Eurostat)

Number and Percentage of young people in global population: 1,977,947 young people/11,305,118 total population = 17.50% (2010 data, Hellenic Statistical Authority)

Number and Percentage of young people by gender in global population: - women: 950,600/11,305,118 total population= 8.41% - men: 1,027,347/11,305,118 total population =9.09% (2010 data, Hellenic Statistical Authority)

Any other relevant figures

## 3. Actors and Structures

### 3.1 Public authorities

### 3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth: Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs

Minister: Mr Georgios Babiniotis

Duration of mandate: *Max 48 months*

Youth Department in the Ministry: *General Secretariat for Youth*

Main tasks of the Youth department

The General Secretariat for Youth of the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs is responsible for planning and implementing the national youth policy. It has:

- a) Wide responsibility for planning, developing and implementing youth policy strategies.
- b) Significant institutional status and functional continuity.
- c) Acceptance and recognition of its public and social role on youth issues.
- d) Ability to follow middle and long run planning and implementing of projects regarding the youth population.
- e) Ability to raise public funding for the support and completion of its goals.

The General Secretariat for Youth, being the only state organisation responsible for planning, developing and implementing the youth policy, works for the mainstreaming of the youth dimension in other governmental policies, given that all governmental organisations may develop policies that ultimately touch upon some needs of the younger generation. In this respect, the General Secretariat for Youth comprises departments covering employment and development, culture and leisure, education and social participation, international co-operation and information. Its main role is to promote a cross-sectoral youth policy taking also into consideration all the relevant developments in the youth sector at European and International level.

Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department: 70

Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry: General Secretary for Youth, Mr Yiannos LIVANOS

Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy:

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Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies:

- Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation

The Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation is supervised by the Ministry of Education, Lifelong learning and Religious Affairs and is responsible for:

The Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation aims to implement actions, programmes and projects for: a. Lifelong Learning as specifically defined in paragraph 1, Article 2 of Law 3879/2010 (Government Gazette A' 163) b. Youth, with emphasis on supporting young people in their career, promoting and supporting youth innovation, c. the management of any issues concerning pupil and student care.

The missions of the merged entities will be henceforth fulfilled by the acquiring entity. All responsibilities of the merged entities, as specifically defined in the provisions regarding the merged legal entities, are henceforth delegated and exercised by the Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation. Its responsibilities are mainly as follows:

The implementation of projects and actions aiming to promote youth innovation. By decision of the Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, published in the Government Gazette, the "Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation" may be delegated to undertake particular projects and actions, according to the previous subparagraph, and the terms of implementation of these projects and actions may be defined.

In addition, by decision of the Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs and the ad hoc competent Minister, published in the Government Gazette, the exercise of responsibilities, or the implementation of programmes, projects and plans and the development of special studies may be delegated, in the framework of youth innovation, on behalf of other public

sector bodies as well, as defined in paragraph 1, Article 1b of Law 2362/1995, and the General Secretariat for Youth, in particular, of the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs. Furthermore, the management of European Programmes for Youth and the operation of the EURO<26 Youth Card, lie within its responsibilities.

The technological, scientific, managing and logistical support of actions, programmes and projects implemented by the General Secretariat for Youth, as well as studies, research, information, development of activities and implementation of actions and research or other programmes and projects, concerning Youth, financed by national or european resources, which are delegated to it by the General Secretariat for Youth in the framework of its competences or by another body.

The Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation is managed by a Governing Board consisting of seven members from among persons of recognised standing, nominated by decision of the Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, with a three year term of office.

The Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation established the Youth Division, which consists of the following departments:

1. Programs Department which include:

(A) National Agency - Youth in Action & Eurodesk EU Programmes

(B) OP / NSRF (National Strategic Reference Framework 2007 - 2013)

(C) European Youth Card

2. Studies Department - Research

3. Department of Administration

4. Department of Financial Management

5. Faculty Development and Support Information Systems

In the Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation work 160 people.

President of the Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation is:

Mr Filippos LENTZAS

Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation

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#### Other Ministries

Various other ministries have responsibilities in the youth field: Ministry of National Education Lifelong Learning Education & Religious Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Development, Competitiveness and Shipping, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

#### Offices:

- National Children's Rights Observatory: through the work of this observatory, the promotion and implementation of the International Convention for Children's Rights is achieved and relevant research is promoted. Duration: on going

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

*Name:* Standing Committee on Cultural & Educational Affairs

*Name of president / chair:* Chrysi ARAPOGLOU

*Role and competence:* The Committee examines and elaborates or votes Bills and Law Proposals that belong to the competence of the ministries of a) Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, b) Culture and Tourism. It also discusses issues relevant to its competence.

For more information:

<http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/en/Koinovouleftikes-Epitropes/CommitteeDetailView?Committeeld=75a12105-a637-4b49-9a8b-09819965ef49&period=908c047e-6576-4a0c-aa3a-91e061ae4724>

*Name:* Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights (SPECIAL PERMANENT COMMITTEES)

*Name of president / chair:* Panagiotis ANTONAKOPOULOS

*Role and competence:* The committee is responsible for the research and the elaboration of proposals regarding the promotion (in the family, education and other social structures) of the principle of the equality of sexes. The committee monitors the safeguard and the implementation of this principle by the administration. The committee is also concerned with matters regarding the respect and protection of human rights.

For more information: <http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/en/Koinovouleftikes-Epitropes/CommitteeDetailView?Committeeld=2d342200-050c-484a-bdaa-ad979c9a9425&period=908c047e-6576-4a0c-aa3a-91e061ae4724>

### 3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Describe the structure of authorities on the regional (or federal) level (existing institutions and their competencies and mandate; relation with national authorities in charge of youth and with EU institutions).

Under the 3852 / 7.6.2010 Kallikratis law on decentralized government in Greece, the country is divided into 13 regions (peripheries) forming developed units of state administration. One of their responsibilities has to do with the elaboration and implementation of youth programmes. This law for the first time mentions that the municipalities are obliged to form a Municipal Committee for Consultation, in which to include representatives of their Local Youth Council (Article 76), as well as to create administrative units with different responsibilities, among which one under the responsibility of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth (Article 97).

### **3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

Describe the structure of authorities on the regional (or federal) and local level (existing institutions and their competencies and mandate; relation with national authorities in charge of youth and with EU institutions).

Under the 3852 / 7.6.2010 Kallikratis law on decentralized government in Greece, every five years there are local elections in order to form the first and second tier of local self – government, as follows:

- **First Tier of Local Self-Government:** In Greece, there are 325 urban and rural municipalities, which are run by their Mayor and Municipal Council, consisted of an Alderman, Commissioner of Youth Issues among others. Every municipality is divided into districts, called “municipal units”, and every district into communities, whose role is only consultative. The municipalities are entrusted with a wide range of responsibilities concerning children and young people, including equipment and maintenance of nursery, primary and secondary school buildings, family and youth welfare services, leisure (sport, etc) and out-of-school provisions to young people, etc. Furthermore, municipalities have undertaken, by law passed in 2007, responsibility for promoting the new institution of the Local Youth Councils at all levels (see description below).

Some of the municipalities have developed a Youth and Sports Organisation, which covers mostly sports activities. There are some exceptions in large municipalities, where one can find information on employment, participation, leisure time, cultural activities and volunteerism.

- **Central Union of Municipalities in Greece:** The 325 urban and rural municipalities have constituted the Central Union of Municipalities in Greece.

- **Second Tier of Local Self-Government:** There are 13 Regions in Greece, which are financially and administratively autonomous and are run by their Regional Commissioner and Regional Council. Every Region is divided into “regional units”. They are concerned with the socio-economic and cultural development of their region, as well as the running of services for the local authorities which are members of the Regions. Among their responsibilities are the elaboration and implementation of youth programmes.



- **Union of Regional Authorities in Greece (E.N.A.E.):** The 13 regions have constituted the Union of Regional Authorities in Greece (E.N.A.E.). The Union partially coordinates youth policy at regional level.

- **Decentralised Administrations:** Two or three regions constitute a third tier, the Decentralised Administration. They are not self-government institutions, because the Head of the Decentralised Administrations is appointed by the government and he is responsible for the decision-making.

### **3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)**

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

-Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals (KETHEA), [www.kethea.gr](http://www.kethea.gr)

-Hellenic Centre for Mental Health and Research, [www.hcmhr.gr](http://www.hcmhr.gr)

-Hellenic National Centre for the research, prevention and treatment of diabetes mellitus and its complications (H.N.D.C.), [www.hndc.gr](http://www.hndc.gr)

-Hellenic Company for the protection and rehabilitation of disabled children, [www.elepap.gr](http://www.elepap.gr)

-National Centre for social solidarity (EKKA), [www.ekka.org.gr](http://www.ekka.org.gr)

-Institute of Child Health, [www.ich.gr](http://www.ich.gr)

-Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind (C.E.R.B), [www.keat.gr](http://www.keat.gr)

-National Institute for Deaf People

-Organisation Against Drugs (OKANA), [www.okana.gr](http://www.okana.gr)

-Institute of Social Protection and Solidarity, [www.ikpa.gr](http://www.ikpa.gr)

-Greek Manpower Employment Organisation, [www.oaed.gr](http://www.oaed.gr)

-Employment Observatory, [www.paep.org.gr](http://www.paep.org.gr)

-National Centre for Vocational Orientation, [www.ekep.gr](http://www.ekep.gr)

-Children's Ombudsman, [www.0-18.gr/-1?set\\_language=en](http://www.0-18.gr/-1?set_language=en)

-Hellenic Association for Paraplegic Children, (ELEPAP), [www.elepap.gr](http://www.elepap.gr)

Please explain the structure of youth welfare services in your country and mention the major implementing institutions.

### **3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field**

Mention and describe non-public actors/structures who are directly or indirectly involved in youth policies, and have influence in the policy-making process and in the decision making process.

#### **3.3.1 Youth Councils**

Describe the national youth council. Please refer to its role and objectives as well as to its composition (member organisations). Please mention if there are youth councils on other

geographical levels and describe their role. Refer to their objectives and give a link to their website (and contact person).

#### National Youth Council (ESYN)

The National Youth Council was established in July 1998, as a “platform” of NGYOs and is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit federation of Greek youth organisations. Today, 59 NGYOs constitute the National Youth Council, representing the vast majority of young people organised in youth organisations.

The role of the National Youth Council is to be the official representative of Greek youth abroad and the main interlocutor of the Hellenic Government on youth issues at the national level, to participate in the Organisational committee for the Youth Parliament, to be member of the European Youth Forum, the Mediterranean Youth Forum, the UNESCO Youth Council, the relevant U.N. Youth Bodies, etc.

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#### Local Youth Councils

The Local Youth Councils are an institutionalised initiative by the General Secretariat for Youth, the Ministry of National Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Interior, founded under the law 3443/2006. The municipal councils of all municipalities in Greece bear full responsibility for the implementation of this institution. In every Municipality, registers of members are kept, that consist of young people, aged 15 to 28, providing them the opportunity to participate in collective actions and familiarize them with the principles of democracy. The aim is to give the chance to all young, especially to those belonging to the group of young people with fewer opportunities, to express their concerns and be active in their community.

Every two years, elections take place among the young who have registered to form the Council of the Local Youth Councils who is responsible for:

- detecting, highlighting and monitoring the youth needs and problems in local level,
- undertaking initiative and activities, in cooperation with the relative Local Administration Organisation, which aim at the free development of the personality of the young,
- taking care that measures are taken for the active and effective participation of the young in the local society and
- developing cooperation relations with other Local Youth Councils in national and European level.

Their operation is currently under reformation as there is a new law into force, concerning the first tier of local authorities, under the name “Kallikratis”, which introduces major changes in their operation and as a result there will be significant changes in the local youth councils coming into force late in autumn 2011.

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### 3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Please mention the most relevant youth NGO's which are not members of the national youth council. Please refer to their objectives and give a link to their website (and contact person)

There are some youth NGO's, not members of the National Youth Council:

Intermunicipality Health & Welfare Network, [www.ddy.gr](http://www.ddy.gr)

'Colour Youth', an NGO of active citizens who believe that homophobia should be eliminated, <http://colouryouth.gr>

'Child's Heart', an NGO focusing on the social and financial support of children suffering from heart diseases and their families, [www.kardiapaidiou.gr](http://www.kardiapaidiou.gr)

Therapy Center for Dependent Individuals (KETHEA), which provides therapy and prevention of addictive substance abuse in the wider area of central Greece, [www.kethea.gr](http://www.kethea.gr)

'Positive Voice', an NGO aiming at combating the HIV spread and at limiting its socio – economic impacts in Greece, [www.positivevoice.gr](http://www.positivevoice.gr)

'Be Strong', an NGO providing all existing information on cancer, [www.bestrong.org.gr](http://www.bestrong.org.gr)

'Athina', a civic non-profit company taking action in the areas of Mental Health and Social inclusion, mainly as far as young people and children are concerned, [www.athina.org.gr](http://www.athina.org.gr)

'Life Center', a recognised, non-profit society, covering a wide range of needs for people suffering from HIV, [www.kentrozois.gr](http://www.kentrozois.gr)

'Ioannis Kapodistrias', aiming at promoting volunteerism, <http://ioanniskapodistrias.blogspot.com/2011/05/special-olympics-athens-2011.html>

'Youthnet Hellas', aiming at promoting active participation at local, national, European and international level, <http://youthnet.gr>

'G700', the silent majority of young Greeks, who are overworked, underpaid, debt ridden and insecure, <http://g700.blogspot.com/>

'ARSIS', a social support organisation of young people, aiming at preventing and combating young people's social exclusion, especially in the ages between 15 to 21, [www.arsis.gr](http://www.arsis.gr)

'HCDI', Hellenic Center of Development and Innovation, [www.hcdi.eu](http://www.hcdi.eu)

'ELIX', aiming at cultivating volunteering consciousness and promoting volunteering offers, [www.elix.org.gr](http://www.elix.org.gr)

'K.E.P.E.A. "ORIZONTES" ', a Vocational Training Centre for Children with Special Needs, [www.keepea.gr](http://www.keepea.gr)

'MERIMNA', aiming at taking care of children and their families that face a serious disease, a loss or death, [www.merimna.org.gr](http://www.merimna.org.gr)

'Kids In Action', aiming at promoting active participation, promoting and recognising the value of non formal learning, promoting the volunteering idea and the alternative art expressions, <http://kidsinaction.gr>

There are also some university student clubs, sports clubs, and leisure time organisations etc. that do not belong to the National Youth Council.

### **3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?**

If yes, give names and contacts and explain its structure. Please also explain your role within this network (as EKCYP correspondent). If no such network exists, please explain why and if there have been any attempts to set up such a network.

-Youth Information Centres: The General Secretariat for Youth has promoted, since 1984, in cooperation with the Municipalities, the creation of Youth Information Centres, first in Athens and the next years in other Municipalities all over Greece, such as in Thessaloniki, Chalandri, Kallithea, Volos, etc. In 1997, the already existing Centres formed a pan-Hellenic network, which was internally linked with an intranet system and which provides:

1. Free information on issues of interest to young people.
2. Access to national and international data banks, by means of free use of computers to surf the Internet.
3. Presentations, seminars and exhibitions on issues of concern for the local youth on every region.
4. Access to youth festivals and other entertainment activities, cultural and sports events.
5. Information on programmes organized by the General Secretariat for Youth.

In addition, each Youth Information Centre compiles and organizes into a single electronic database any information relating to the following topics: education, vocational training, work and

employment, art and culture, social issues, sports, tourism, environment and preservation, exchange programmes and general information about Public Administration. Since 2000, the Youth Centres network has been linked to EURODESK, which is the coordinating body.

The General Secretariat for Youth participates in the following cross-ministerial working groups or committees:

Cross-ministerial Cooperation for the Implementation of a Joint National Policy on Drug Combating

General Secretariat's for Gender Equality Group for undertaking cultural activities on the promotion of gender equality

Law-drafting Committee for the reform of family Law, introduced by the Ministry of Justice

Central Scientific Council on the Prevention and Treatment of juvenile victimization and delinquency, Ministry of Justice

Working Group on the reform of the Local Youth Councils' institutional framework

Cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the formulation of articles concerning youth in Cultural Programmes or Agreements, contracted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with other countries.

The General Secretariat for Youth has created the following cross-ministerial working groups and committees under its own initiative:

Cross-ministerial Working Group on the reform of the institutional framework for volunteerism, with the participation of 7 ministries: Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Citizen Protection, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs

Working Group for developing cross-ministerial cooperation on youth issues, with the participation of 11 different authorities: General Secretariat for Youth, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, Hellenic Statistical Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Citizen Protection, General Secretariat of Lifelong Learning, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Justice, Employment Observatory.

The General Secretariat for Youth has undertaken the following activities in accordance to the principles of Civil Society:

1. Creation of a ten-member National Coordinating Committee of NGOs on the European Year of Volunteers 2011
2. Cooperation with 18 NGOs under the revised project "Sailing Weekends 2010" (WWF-Hellas, Environmental Initiative of Magnesia, Greek Marine Environment Protection Association Helmepa, Archelon, Friends of the Gulf, Greek Ornithological Society, Anti Nuclear Watch Rhodes Mediterranean Network SOS, Ilissos Ecological Movement of Kavala, Alcyone, Oikosylko, P. Faliro

Environmental Cooperation, Environmental Education Centre Gouves and the organization PRAKSIS)

3. Creation of a working group with 11 environmental organizations (NGOs) to design information and awareness campaign for young people to promote and protect biodiversity, as well as to stress the economic value of biodiversity conservation.

4. Establishment of a working group of 3 NGOs for the protection of sexual diversity.

5. Establishment of a working group, in the field of social participation, with 3 NGOs for the consideration of an alternative form of juvenile offenders' detention, in accordance with the model of Syros NGO "Roof".

6. Establishment of a working group with 3 Youth NGOs to reform the institution of Local Youth Councils

7. Creation of an informal Pan-hellenic Network with young people who have been distinguished in entrepreneurship or innovation.

8. Creation of an informal working group with 7 NGOs in the field of culture, to develop a plan to raise awareness and creative involve young people in society through innovative cultural activities.

9. Creation, in accordance with the guiding principle of the European Union and within the Trio Presidencies, a National Working Group with representatives from government authorities, non-governmental youth organizations and local youth councils, on " Youth Employment " and "Participation in the Democratic Life in Europe".

The General Secretariat for Youth participates in the following multi-member forms of cooperation:

Collaboration between the General Secretariat for Youth, the Association Internationale pour la Biennale des Jeunes Createurs de l' Europe et de la Mediterranee (BJCEM), Thessaloniki Municipality, Macedonian Museum of Modern Art, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the International Expo of Thessaloniki for mounting BIENNALE of Young Artists in the Mediterranean and Europe

Participation in the creation of a Network Against Bulling at School, with the Association for the Psychological Health of Children & Adolescents (A.P.H.C.A.), the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki, the Pedagogical Institute, the BBDO-Group, the Union "the cycle of the Greek children book", the Children's Ombudsman, the Hellenic Psychiatric Association and the Children's Health Institute.

Cooperation with Larissa's, Messologi's and Piraeus' Technological Institutions as well as with the Pan-hellenic Association of Young Farmers in the framework of the Pilot Programme for Young Farmers Support

Cooperation with 7 Hellenic Bar Associations in the framework of Young Legal Aid Programme

Moreover, the General Secretariat for Youth is in the process of forming a National Network of Researchers in the Youth field, aiming at a more evidence – based youth policy.

In addition, the General Secretariat for Youth signs memoranda of cooperation with other governmental bodies in order to facilitate the cross – sectoral nature of youth policy. Until today, the General Secretariat for Youth has signed the following Memoranda:

with the Greek Manpower Employment Organisation in the framework of the society's common attempt for the reinforcement of the youth employment and the encouragement of their active participation in the labour market.

A memoranda of cooperation was signed at 19/05/2010 between the General Secretariat for Youth and Ministry of Citizen Protection, for the joint promotion of activities and initiatives that will inform young people about natural disaster prevention and mitigation, in the framework of the "voluntary fireman" institution and civil protection voluntary service.

With 12 Technological Institutions – cooperation with Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

#### **4. Legislation**

Please explain the legal foundations of national youth policy / actions concerning youth.

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

The Greek Constitution, Article 16 (indirect reference to young people): It mainly concerns education and stipulates the role of the state in the intellectual, professional, ethical and physical development of young persons. It also sets as an aim their transformation into 'free and responsible citizens'. The exact content of the article is the following: 'Education constitutes a fundamental state objective and aims at the moral, intellectual, professional and physical instruction of the Greeks, the development of national and religious consciousness, and the formation of free and responsible citizens'.

The Greek Constitution, Article 21 (direct reference to young people): It refers to the obligation of the state to take measures ensuring the good health of the young people. More specifically, the exact content of the article is the following: 'The state shall be concerned with the health of the citizens and shall take special measures for the protection of youth, old age, people with special needs, and those in poverty'.

National legislation on youth

Existing national legislation in the youth field concerns the following issues: Youth Employment (e.g.: protection of juvenile employees; special measures for young employees), Sports (e.g.: special measures for young athletes with outstanding performance, such as easier entrance to State Universities), Education (legislation regarding the structure and function of the educational system including the participation of students in the governing bodies of state universities), Family (e.g.: special legislation which determines and protects the rights of the child, as well as particular measures against children's abuse within the family), Military Service (e.g.: exemption from the military service by providing an alternative social service), Deviant Behaviour (e.g.: special courts and treatment for juvenile delinquents), etc. In 1996, the Greek government passed a law on

intercultural education (Law 2413/1996), while in February 2006, it passed a new law instituting the Local Youth Councils (Law 3443/2006). Their founding and operation lies under the responsibility of its municipality and community. Their operation is currently under reformation as there is a new law into force, concerning the first degree of local authorities, under the name “Kallikratis”, which introduces major changes in their operation and as a result there will be significant changes in the local youth councils coming into force late in autumn 2011.

For the first time, under “Kallikratis” law, young people participate by the age of 18, not only with the right to vote but also with the right to be voted in the elections for the municipal and region counselors, because youth participation is now recognized as important, necessary and creative.

In addition, there are:

Law 3748/2009 concerning “performance incentives”: Creation of an excellent student record in order to give performance incentives to Greek pupils and students.

Law 2672/2009 of the Ministry of Education, Lifelong for the Entrepreneurship Support Structures

Joint Ministerial Decision 704/2008 for the settlement of young farmers

Joint Ministerial Decision 27621/895(1)/2009 for the Free Launchers’ Programme

Joint Ministerial Decision 27620/894(2)/2009 for “Young people and Entrepreneurship”

Joint Ministerial Decision 27623/896(2)/2009 for the Programme of “Young Free Launchers – Young Scientists”

Joint Ministerial Decision D/16020(2)/2009 for scholarships

Ministerial Decision 4072/2012 Article 242 §6 for granting scholarships for NSRF programmes, among which the General Secretariat’s for Youth programme “Entrepreneurship Hubs” is.

Regional and local legislation on youth: there are some decisions for the creation of municipal offices or companies offering community service and having in their jurisdiction the promotion of youth issues.

## **5. National Policy Programmes on youth**

National programmes on youth

Please outline their objectives and duration. If possible provide a link for further information.

The General Secretariat for Youth implements programmes and projects which are in relation to its three main policy areas:

unemployment, employment and labour relationships,

social exclusion (e.g. targeted at young people living in remote areas), social inclusion, youth rights and participation

environment, climate change and green development.

In particular, the General Secretariat for Youth implements the following:



## Employee Relations - Employment - Entrepreneurship

- "Entrepreneurship Hubs" Project: its objective is to support young people having been distinguished in entrepreneurial competitions by providing entrepreneurial training and developing entrepreneurial skills, as well as to support them in the implementation of their entrepreneurial plans in the open market. It aims at: a) promoting young people's entrepreneurship in order to help them develop their entrepreneurial spirit and their skills on organizational procedures management and unit administration as well as make them familiar with research and technology issues, and b) linking, in the most effective way, the education system with the labor market by strengthening pupils', learners' and students' entrepreneurial spirit. Duration: 2012 - 2014.

- "Scientific Support to Young Farmers" Program: It is a program which is in line with the main policy axes for the promotion of "green development", the decentralized youth policy and the horizontal co-operations at central and regional level. Its aim is to make young farmers more competitive by using co-operations with the University Community in order to train them in new methods and suggest them innovative practices in all stages of agricultural production.

- Pilot Program, under the name "Triptolemos", for young people up to the age of 40, who want to be professionally active in the agricultural sector. It is suggested that the program is implemented all over Greece from the General Secretariat for Youth in cooperation with the Ministry of Rural Development and Food in co-operation, through the Rural Development Program "Alexandros Baltatzis" or any other financing source, such as the Human Potential Development Operational Program of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, utilizing existing structures, such as the Organization of Agricultural Vocational Education Training and Employment "DIMITRA". It will aim at: a) strengthening and supporting the participation of young people up to the age of 40 in the agricultural sector and the agricultural economy, b) guiding the trainees in new cultivations, in sustainable agricultural and husbandry holdings and c) making them capable of advertising and distributing their natural or processed agricultural products both in internal and international markets. The objective of the Program is to train young people living in towns (urban population) who are looking seriously into the possibility of their returning in the peripheries in order to get involved with primary production.

-The Mediterranean Office for Youth (MOY) is a nonprofit organization that aims to promote attractive Mediterranean education options within a framework of supported global mobility, including :

postsecondary programmes in areas relevant to the region's development;

initial work experience;

deployment of newly acquired skills to benefit students' countries of origin.

The involvement of higher education institutions and of prospectively mobile students will be encouraged at the South-North, North-South, and South-South levels, while reinforcing the networks and student mobility that already exist in the northern Mediterranean region. The participating countries are: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece,

Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. The MOY program was established in order to help recognize the educational mobility as a decisive factor in the development and wealth, intercultural exchange and mutual understanding in the Mediterranean Region. In the first three years of operation (2011-2014) MOY will focus on the following objectives: a) a pilot program to promote youth mobility and b) and a Youth resource center for mobility issues in the Mediterranean region. The Resource Centre on Mediterranean Mobility will pursue the following objectives: provide information about all of the mobility programmes available in the Euro-Mediterranean area and to deliver a "Mediterranean Office for Youth" label to grant beneficiaries from participating countries as part of these mobility programmes. During the pilot phase of 2011-2014 MOY will publish call for proposals on a yearly basis. The first call for MOY labeling of Master's and PHD programmes was published on 1th October 2010 and the application submission deadline was on 12th December 2010. The Mediterranean Office for Youth (MOY) is a nonprofit organization aiming to promote youth mobility programmes in the Mediterranean region. Duration: 2010 – 2014.

#### Social Policy - Socially Vulnerable Groups

- National Children's Rights Observatory: a supervised body by the General Secretariat for Youth, aiming at studying and recording the biological-sociopsychological problems of the child, recording and interconnecting the child related bodies and in-depth drawing of conclusions for the policies to be implemented by the state, in the framework designated by the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child. It is the main policy tool of the General Secretariat for Youth which implements a broad range of actions aiming at giving information and raising public awareness on the issue of child protection. Duration: ongoing.

- Young Legal Aid Programme: It aims at providing free legal assistance to socially vulnerable groups of young people (target-groups) as well as when it comes to employment issues (minors' employment issues, employment disagreements for young people 16-24 years of age, conciliatory process for young people 18-30 years of age) young rehabilitated drug addicts and young abused women up to 35 years of age, covering both their extrajudicial and court representation while young lawyers up to 35 years are undertaking the cases of the beneficiaries. In addition, the programme covers unaccompanied minors when it comes to administrative differences. Duration: ongoing.

- '3-day Sailing Vacations' Programme: It includes information and awareness raising of young people in environmental issues as well as in combating social and financial exclusion issues. Priority is given to young unemployed and vulnerable social youth groups (age 18-30). Duration: has been postponed due to the economic crisis.

- Community service for Prisoners Programme: This alternative way of serving their sentence aims at offering community service, employment and social rehabilitation to prisoners, while supporting the decongestion of prisons.

- 'A Different Journey " Programme in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees: The General Secretariat for Youth in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Greece aims at organizing an innovative exhibition of experiences, entitled "A Different Journey ", which is primarily designed to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by Refugees (mainly by a scene simulation of the real conditions experienced by them), promoting in this way, social solidarity and acceptance of diversity. At the same time, an experiential play of role simulation has been launched, in cooperation of 20 schools. Duration: 2012.
- Panhellenic Competition of student creation in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees: this competition is conducted in all primary and secondary education schools as well as in the greek language learning courses in the welcome centres for the minor unattended refugees. Duration: ongoing.
- Online Event for AIDS: young people had the opportunity to express online their concerns and ask questions about HIV / AIDS, modes of transmission and treatment, as well as any other matter of concern. The responses were given live by a team of scientists, consisted of doctors, psychologists, entities and organizations dealing with the issue. All questions and answers were posted on the website of the General Secretariat for Youth in the form of an online information guide and was distributed free of charge to young people in printed form. It has also been translated in four languages and will be distributed free of charge to young immigrants in our country.
- Film and Theatre Education Programmes: it involves offering the opportunity to primary and secondary education pupils, parents and students to watch multi-award-winning movies, as well as to participate in the analysis of such movies, in as well as in workshops and seminars, while they are mainly oriented to people leaving in the regions and in remote areas. Duration: has been postponed due to the economic crisis.
- Campaign on sexual orientation of youth: The General Secretariat for Youth in cooperation with the Association of People Living with HIV in Greece "Positive Voice" organizes an information campaign regarding young people's sexual orientation, aiming at influencing positively the public opinion, young people's families and relatives who are currently under pressure on this subject. Duration: 2011.
- European Programme PROGRESS – Action "IRIS" – For combating stereotypes and discrimination: Actions for the promotion of participation, inclusion and diversity, with emphasis on promoting a change in mentality through seminars, workshops and consultative support in primary and secondary education schools on one hand and research, information and raising awareness supportive actions regarding the Roma population group in our country on the other. The General Secretariat for Youth implements the program in cooperation with the Greek Ombudsman and the NGOs «Schedia» and «K.E.P.A.D.». Duration: December 2010 – December 2011.
- Creation of a Network Against Bulling at School, with the Association for the Psychological Health of Children & Adolescents (A.P.H.C.A.), the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious

Affairs, the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki, the Pedagogical Institute, the BBDO-Group, the Union “the cycle of the Greek children book”, the Children’s Ombudsman, the Hellenic Psychiatric Association and the Children’s Health Institute.

#### Ecology, Green Development, Climate Change

-Environment Protection Development of Eco Conscience: an initiative to prepare an information and awareness campaign on the value and protection of biodiversity aimed at young people as a target group, falling within the policy framework of: (a) the third pillar of set priorities (Environment-Climatic change-Green development), (b) the implementation of intergenerational solidarity in environmental issues (among other issues) and (c) the pursuit of synergies between state and civil society. In addition, the programme aims at promoting the economic value of biodiversity conservation as well as the contribution of the latter to the mild touristic development of the regions.

#### Culture

- Biennale of Young Artists: the General Secretariat for Youth is one of the founding members of the Association Internationale pour la Biennale des Jeunes Createurs de l’ Europe et de la Mediterranee (BJCEM) and promotes, along with the other 61 members, the work of young artists, giving them the opportunity to participate in a Biennale (a well recognized cultural and artistic event). Duration: ongoing.

- Co-organization of Athens Video Art Festival: The General Secretariat for Youth chose, for the year 2010, a flagship programme of cultural content and with innovative character, which has already been realized for 4 years with success in Athens, to promote it in the regions and give the opportunity to young people from all over the country to get acquainted with the digital culture. The whole initiative was co-organized with the non-profit company Multitrab Productions, which has created the Festival in Athens since 2006.

- Co-organization of Very Short Film Festival “Micrography”: The General Secretariat for Youth in cooperation with the non-profit company “T-Short” co-organized a very short movie script and production competition, in order to promote young people’s artistic and creative expression and to designate young scriptwriters up to 35 years old. Duration: 2011

- Co-organization of “Shoot it mobile Festival”: The General Secretariat for Youth in cooperation with the non-profit company “Locomotiva” co-organized a Visual Image Festival with the use of cell phone cameras. Aim of the Festival is to combat digital illiteracy and promote the artistic and creative expression of young people with fewer opportunities via the use of modern technologies. Its core axes have to do with combating of social racism and developing and strengthening of eco-conscience. Duration: 2011

- Co-organization of an Action under the title “Workshops for Children and Young People under HULDA – The Arts and Sciences Sailing Festival”. Duration: August – September 2010.

- Co-organization of “Bicycle Film Festival”: The General Secretariat for Youth in cooperation with “Plenty Project” Organization co-organized the 1st international cultural festival having the bike as a main theme and aims at promoting the emerging bike culture via music, fashion, art and cinema. Duration: November 2010.
- Historical Archive of Greek Youth: a big research and publishing programme, regarding the past and as a result the present and future of the Greek youth. It aims at approaching the historical dimension of the youth term. Duration: ongoing.

#### Volunteerism

- Program Vacations and Volunteering: this programme is run in cooperation with the Hellenic Postal Services (ELTA) and the Hellenic Tourism Organization and targets at young people aged 18-28, who are called to cover the additional staff requirements of Post Offices during the summer months in Greek tourist resorts. The main objective is to promote Volunteerism. Duration: annually renewed.
- European Year of Volunteering 2011 – The General Secretariat for Youth, as the National Coordinating Body for the year, has made a national action plan, co-financed by the European Commission, which involved:
  - TV & Radio spot on volunteering
  - Leaflets, edgar cards, stamp and promotional material
  - Three one-day seminars on volunteerism
  - A study on volunteering
  - A documentary on volunteerism for pupils
  - A manual of environmental education for the promotion of environmental volunteerism for pupils

At the same time, the General Secretariat for Youth finances, twice a year, projects and programmes implemented in Greece by youth organisations or organisations which target young people. These projects and programmes have to fall into the three main policy areas abovementioned and at the same time they have to be in close relation to the main fields of action of the EU Council Resolution on the Renewed Framework of Cooperation in the Youth Field (2010-2018) as well as to the priorities of the Council of Europe as being highlighted in AGENDA 2020.

In addition, the General Secretariat for Youth has launched a Pupils’ Initiative Support Programme, which aims at supporting initiatives, actions and interventions organized on volunteering basis by secondary education pupils in cooperation with their educators in the broader framework of the educational programme and the school activities, under the supervision of the Schools’ Committees and the local School Community Councils. It is an attempt to strengthen pupils’ active participation to collective activities, support creativity and the undertaking of initiatives for actions, get them familiar to the volunteering spirit, promote responsibility in acting and the intergeneration

solidarity principle, implement actions that promote innovation and pursuit excellence as well as advertise sound juvenile models.

Moreover, the General Secretariat for Youth organizes one – day seminars on different subjects (i.e. volunteerism, intergenerational solidarity, young people and internet, prevention and treatment of Bulling and Violence at School, Employment Opportunities in the EU, Entrepreneurship and innovation etc), on-line live debates between young people and the Prime Minister.

Please outline their objectives and duration. If possible provide a link for further information.

Action plans i.e. official strategies

For 2011-2012, the General Secretariat for Youth is in preparation of establishing a working group consisted of researchers for collecting youth researches and studies as well as for proposing new youth studies depending on the youth needs.

Action plans i.e. official strategies

Name and describe (very shortly) the national action plans on youth

The General Secretariat for Youth, in an attempt to help young unemployed people will launch the following:

- Career Card: The "Career Card" will provide career guidance counselling and training services. The young person will be directed, through counselling, to choose an alternative set of training courses to complement and enhance the knowledge, skills and competences, while the same card will cover (a) the cost of some counselling visits and seminars by accredited consultants and (b) the cost of 2-3 training seminars. Still in planning phase.

- Guide for the new-entrants to the job market

This project refers to the creation of a printed and online guide for the new-entrants to the job market. The aim is to gather and encode all the information related to a new employee. Duration: 2012 – 2014.

- “Entrepreneurship Hubs” Project: its objective is to support young people having been distinguished in entrepreneurial competitions by providing entrepreneurial training and developing entrepreneurial skills, as well as to support them in the implementation of their entrepreneurial plans in the open market. It aims at: a) promoting young people’s entrepreneurship in order to help them develop their entrepreneurial spirit and their skills on organizational procedures management and unit administration as well as make them familiar with research and technology issues, and b) linking, in the most effective way, the education system with the labor market by strengthening pupils’, learners’ and students’ entrepreneurial spirit. Duration: 2012 - 2014.

The General Secretariat for Youth in cooperation with the Network Against Bulling at School launches in 2012 a panhellenic pupils’ competition for poster or video creation to be used in the

campaign of the Network Against Bullying at School for the school year 2012-2013. The title of the competition is “Bullying at school – Cohabiting at school”.

The Network Against Bullying at School is to organize internet events in the greek peripheries in order to inform children, their parents and educators on the bullying phenomenon and help them find solutions.

The General Secretariat for Youth is planning to launch a Students’ Initiative Support Programme, which aims at supporting initiatives, actions and interventions organized on innovative and entrepreneurship basis by students.

The General Secretariat for Youth is planning to launch a programme, under the name “We change mentality”, aiming at promoting young people’s voice through a scenario competition in the fields of health, environment, social character and economy.

In the first months of 2012, the new institutional framework of the Local Youth Councils’ operation will be voted and will come into force.

The youth unemployment rate relative to the total number of the unemployed, from 30.9% in the first quarter of 2010 amounted to 36.9% in the fourth quarter of the same year. The State is working hard to stem this alarming rise through institutional interventions and programmes, such as:

Continuous vocational training of the unemployed in the sectors of sustainable management and development, reduced energy consumption, green products trade, etc., to meet the need for developing new skills. The programmes last 400-800 hours, providing mandatory, guaranteed employment and focus on increasing the participation of young people.

Financial support for 10,000 unemployed aged 16-24 years, new entrants to the labour market, in private companies or employers of the private sector, in order to gain work experience, with a subsidy of social security contributions by the Greek Manpower Employment Organisation (O.A.E.D.). The contract may be up to 12 months. However, there is the possibility to continue the financial support for an additional 12 months, if the work experience contract is turned into an employment contract.

Promotion of employment in order to hire a total of 45,000 unemployed, subsidising their insurance contributions, with special emphasis on young people up to 30 years of age and especially young women, an action focused on geographic areas experiencing severe economic and employment difficulties and on small businesses clusters.

It should be noted here that almost 30,000 unemployed are already employed through the two and four-year programme for the promotion of employment.

Financial support programmes for business initiatives, under the name: "Young people and entrepreneurship" for the promotion of unemployed young people (aged 22-32 years) in employment. These are:

- The financial support programme for 4,000 Self-employed Young Women aged 22-64 years, under the name: "ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR UNEMPLOYED WOMEN AGED 22-64". Priority, among others, will be given to unemployed women: 1. entitled to unemployment benefits, 2. who will initiate business activities in innovative industries, particularly in green development.
  
- Programmes supporting young people who are self-employed and those starting up new businesses (Youth Entrepreneurship, Young Scientists, New Entrepreneurs and Women Entrepreneurship), with a total of 23,500 beneficiaries, mostly young people up to 32 years.

Actions that are also promoted:

- 1) Start up business financial support,
- 2) Action-specific counseling (drafting a business plan, sustainability principles, etc.) for those who receive financial aid,
- 3) Specific actions to support youth entrepreneurship in the sectors of tourism, culture and environment, according to the specific needs of the local economy and
- 4) Financial support actions for youth cooperatives and social enterprises.

Moreover, the Programme of the Manpower Employment Organisation (O.A.E.D) "One start, one Chance" provides the opportunity to 40,000 young people aged 16-25 years who have graduated or left school and did not intend to continue their studies, to be promoted in the labour market and new hirings are encouraged in the tourism sector through the conversion of seasonal unemployment benefits to employment benefits.

In the Education Sector, the government has set up and implements different programmes in order to establish closer links between education and vocational rehabilitation. The Greek State is already attempting to:

- reform education (New School project), especially higher education, to reduce the mismatch between the skills demanded in the labour market and those offered, as this mismatch is considered a major reason for the high rate of youth unemployment.
- develop lifelong learning in order to achieve an interaction with employment,
- implement programmes co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) for 2007-2013, which strengthen, directly or indirectly, the employability of young people, such as:



Expanding the financial and institutional support of internships at all educational levels leading to the labour market.

Development of Career Offices at all Higher Education Institutions, the Vocational Training Institutes (IEK), the Vocational High Schools (EPAL) and Vocational Schools (EPAS), in network with the Employment Promotion Centres of OAED and municipalities.

Promoting entrepreneurship at all post-compulsory education schools, creating, among other things - virtual enterprises, encouraging regular visits from students in business, entrepreneurship development shops, creating incentives for measures of social entrepreneurship for young people.

Promoting the establishment of a Social Economy Fund - a new financial tool is created to provide microcredit and micro-loans on concessional terms to vulnerable social groups.

Finally, Greece informs young people about the possibility to seek work in countries of the EU, an *acquis communautaire* and not a last minute option as it may appear, due to the country's current economic status.

Young people in Greece are informed that the European strategy "Europe 2020" encourages among others mobility, on the basis of employment:

A) Developing the EURES portal ([www.eures.europa.eu](http://www.eures.europa.eu)) which offers a database with direct access to almost half a million job vacancies.

B) Establishing from 2010, the monitoring system for job vacancies, which will provide an information system regarding demand in the labour market across Europe for job seekers and career counselors and

C) Monitoring the implementation of EU legislation to ensure that Member States shall take the necessary measures for young employees.

- The Ministry of Development, Competitiveness and Shipping, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs and the Greek Government, initiates an information, networking and cooperation movement under the name "startup Greece". Its aim is to provide to a young person any necessary information to start up his own business in Greece (motives, financing, legal framework, studies), to use the social media in order to bring together people, ideas, enterprises, universities and authorities, and create cooperations and investment plans, to answer on time and in depth to citizens' queries, as well as to promote e-governance, dialogue and accountability. More information on: <http://startupgreece.gov.gr/>

Additionally, many NGOs and governmental authorities have created and operate hot lines for support against any form of abuse.

## Programmes and actions for specific target groups

- Programmes implemented on disabled young people in collaboration with Associations, Special Schools, training centres etc:

- Creativity leisure programme: it includes dance, drama, counselling, cultural-entertainment events, excursions and modules on independent living. Duration: ongoing.

- Art Workshops: they include dance, drama, Fine Arts and the organisation of events, exhibitions, performances and mixed workshops for disabled and non-disabled young people. Duration: ongoing.

- Environmental Education for all: a programme for children with or without disabilities, that aims at informing, educating and sensitizing children on environmental issues. Duration: ongoing.

- "Nobody is left behind": a programme aiming at providing full term consulting and mediation services to young people up to 40 years old who face the danger of lack of housing, in order to maintain their house and their financial independence and keep them away of the potential to lose their housing. Duration: 2012

- The General Secretariat for Youth is about to launch the "We live as you do" programme on sexual diversity, with the aim to communicate the message both to young people and to the broader society that sexual diversity is a right and should not be a cause of discrimination and social exclusion. The programme has two strands: a) to plan and organize an information and raising awareness campaign in order to communicate the companionship idea between people of the same sex and make the public opinion familiar to the every day and human dimension of the relationship between people of the same sex and b) to create and organize a telephone supporting line for people with different sexual orientation or / and sex identity, providing specialized consultation to them, their families and to the educators that face victimization phenomena in their classrooms.

- The Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity has developed the following structures to combat children's poverty:

- lodging structures for unaccompanied minors applying for asylum

- lodging hostels for minors that are victims of domestic violence, child abuse, negligence, desertion, exploitation, trafficking

- actions for providing medical and pharmaceutical care to minor Roma

- hostels for families applying for asylum, in cooperation with the Hellenic Redcross and the Medecins Sans Frontieres

- a hostel for single parent families applying for asylum up to 30 years of age and unaccompanied minor girls

- hostels – shelters for women and their children, victims of domestic violence, abuse, exploitation, trafficking

- a social hostel for Greek Repatriates facing financial difficulties and people or families in crisis

- a social hostel for the homeless in cooperation with the Hellenic Redcross

- a hostel for temporary lodging of women and children in danger

## **6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth**

National level

Budget of the General Secretariat for Youth for 2012:

Public Investments Programme: 2,000,000.00€

Regular Budget: 2,998,500.00€

Regional level

## **7. European Dimension of youth policy**

This section should outline how European strategies, policy commitments and programmes are implemented at the national level.

- EUROPEAN YOUTH CARD: The General Secretariat for Youth and the Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation of the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, full members of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA), promote a unique tool of information, communication and entertainment, the European Youth Card.

The European Youth Card is available for all young people aged between 13 and 30. It is valid for one year, it costs 10 euro and it can be renewed annually, until the age of 30. This is not a credit nor debit card; it is a discount card, offering not only discounts but also the possibility to participate in events, competitions, cultural and athletic activities in Greece and in 37 other countries in Europe.

In Greece, there are 20,000 active members.

Important co-operations have been established with: the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Greek Railway Organization, the Thessaloniki urban public transport Organization, super market chains, recognized After-lyceum Education Centers all over Greece and Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Greece.

## **7.1 Council of Europe.**

Please describe how Council of Europe programmes or activities are implemented at the national level.

- International Youth Review: The General Secretariat for Youth will conduct the National Youth Review in 2012 in order for the Council of Europe to conduct the International Youth Review for the year 2013.

Does your country contribute to the European Youth Foundation?

## **7.2 European Union.**

### **7.2.1 Implementation of the Youth in Action programme**

Briefly explain how the Youth in Action Programme is implemented in your country and provide a link to the institution which implements this programme (National Agency or other).

Please also refer to European action in the field of youth information (national website of Eurodesk).

Youth in Action is the Programme the European Union has set up for young people. It aims to inspire a sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future. It promotes mobility within and beyond the EU's borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the employability and inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background: Youth in Action is a Programme for all!

Every year, thousands of projects are submitted by *promoters* in order to get financial support from the Programme; a selection process aims at granting the best projects.

The Hellenic National Agency (HNA) is responsible for the implementation and the management of the Youth in Action and Eurodesk EU Programmes.

The HNA is aiming at ensuring a consistent, stable and smooth national implementation of the Youth Programme.

This approach by the HNA is contributing to strengthening of the overall implementation of the Programme and to the development of the Programme's specific features, including the supportive approach, the inclusion strategy, the promotion of equal opportunities, dissemination and exploitation of results, recognition of non-formal learning experiences, etc. This is also contributing to further enhancing the quality of supported projects.

The HNA's improved web site ([www.ify.gr](http://www.ify.gr)) provides applicants with all necessary direct information. Accordingly, all information on the selection procedures is provided through HNA's web site, ensuring equal treatment of all applicants and taking all necessary measures to avoid any conflict of interest. Finally, at the beginning of each year, the National Authority supervising the

Hellenic National Agency launches an official call for the implementation of the YOUTH in Action Programme in the country. The launching is mainly based on the EU Official User Guide including all the national priorities plus information on the application evaluation processes and the total budget breakdown, including both Decentralized and Additional National Funds. Thus, the applicants have all the necessary information for the submission of applications under the framework of the YOUTH in Action Programme.

As far as Eurodesk Programme's implementation is concerned, the following tasks are the key priorities for Eurodesk Greece:

Research on European information for young people;

Co-ordination of European Youth Portal content and enquiry processes, including liaison with the E.C.;

Management of the Eurodesk website and database;

Communication management for the network partners and Eurodesk multipliers;

Network co-ordination – including circulation of the network activities calendar and network guidelines for the work planning process; support to the network meetings preparation;

Implementing the Eurodesk quality assessment procedure on an annual base;

Training for national partners and Eurodesk multipliers;

Co-operation with other information networks: e.g. ERYICA and EYCA;

Creation and production of new documents, materials, tools and projects at the disposal of the network.

In order to communicate the programme to young people all over the country a separate page in Facebook and Twitter has been created, where news and deadlines for submitting application for the programme are uploaded. At the same time, an information campaign has been launched, with a TV spot both in Greek and English. There is also a plan for a radio spot to be launched and a letter to be sent to schools and universities, informing them on the "Youth in Action" Programme by the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs.

Name of contact person: Ms Anastasia Filini Head of the Hellenic National Agency for YOUTH in Action & EURODESK Tel.: +30 210 2599363 Fax: +30 210 2531879 e-mail: [a.filini@neagenia.gr](mailto:a.filini@neagenia.gr)

Eurodesk EL is part of the Hellenic National Agency (HNA).

Name of contact person: Ms Ioanna TSOUKANA EURODESK-EL Coordinator in Athens Tel: +30 210 2599421 Fax: +30 210 2531879 E-mail: [i.tsoukana@neagenia.gr](mailto:i.tsoukana@neagenia.gr)

### **7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level**

Please describe if there is a national strategy for following up the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018).

The General Secretariat for Youth implements programmes and projects which are in relation to its three main policy areas:

unemployment, employment and labour relationships,

social exclusion (e.g. targeted at young people living in remote areas), social inclusion, youth rights and participation

environment, climate change and green development.

At the same time, the General Secretariat's for Youth policy is based on the philosophy of intergenerational solidarity. Moreover, the General Secretariat for Youth finances, twice a year, projects and programmes implemented in Greece by youth organisations or organisations which target young people. These projects and programmes have to fall into the three main policy areas abovementioned and at the same time they have to be in close relation to the main fields of action of the EU Council Resolution on the Renewed Framework of Cooperation in the Youth Field (2010-2018) as well as to the priorities of the Council of Europe as being highlighted in AGENDA 2020.

Actions and programmes that should be mentioned:

- The implementation of the Structured Dialogue, between the General Secretariat for Youth, other public authorities, young people and youth organizations. The National Working Group for the structured dialogue, in which the General Secretariat for Youth participates, is responsible for addressing young people and consulting them on the priorities and guiding questions of its EU Presidency.
- The General Secretariat for Youth participates in cross-ministerial working groups or committees, as above mentioned.
- The General Secretariat for Youth promotes young people's innovation and creativity, i.e. organisation of one-day seminars on this issue with the participation of young entrepreneurs who have created innovative projects. The General Secretariat for Youth collects good practises in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship, creates a pool of young entrepreneurs with innovative ideas and exchanges them to other countries via the bilateral Protocols of cooperation and other methods.
- The General Secretariat for Youth signs Bilateral Protocols of cooperation and exchange of good practices and experiences in the youth field.
- The General Secretariat for Youth participates in study visits on different issues of interest.
- The General Secretariat for Youth signs Memoranda of Cooperation with various public and semi-public bodies
- European Year of Volunteering 2011: undertaking actions for informing and raising awareness on volunteering issues.
- European Programme PROGRESS – Action “IRIS” – For combating stereotypes and discrimination: Actions for the promotion of participation, inclusion and diversity, with emphasis on promoting a change in mentality through seminars, workshops and consultative support in primary and secondary education schools on one hand and research, information and raising awareness supportive actions regarding the Roma population group in our country on the other. The General Secretariat for Youth implements the program in cooperation with the Greek Ombudsman and the NGOs «Schedia» and the Human Rights Defence Centre «K.E.P.A.D.».

Duration: December 2010 – December 2011.

- For 2011-2012, the General Secretariat for Youth is in preparation of establishing a working group consisted of researchers for collecting youth researches and studies as well as for proposing new youth studies depending on the youth needs
- Information by the Youth Information Centres on possible ways of participation.
- The “Youth in Action” programme.

## **8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Greece**

Please list relevant websites and print publications (not older than two years)

- [www.neagenia.gr](http://www.neagenia.gr)
- [www.ify.gr](http://www.ify.gr)
- <http://youthnet.gr>
- [www.oaed.gr](http://www.oaed.gr)
- [www.eommex.gr](http://www.eommex.gr)
- [www.minedu.gov.gr](http://www.minedu.gov.gr)
- [www.gsae.edu.gr](http://www.gsae.edu.gr)
- [www.gss.gov.gr](http://www.gss.gov.gr)
- [www.ministryofjustice.gr](http://www.ministryofjustice.gr)
- [www.culture.gr](http://www.culture.gr)
- [www.mfa.gr](http://www.mfa.gr)
- [www.ypakp.gr](http://www.ypakp.gr)
- [www.statistics.gr/](http://www.statistics.gr/)
- [www.ypes.gr](http://www.ypes.gr)
- [www.yyka.gov.gr](http://www.yyka.gov.gr)
- [www.paep.org.gr](http://www.paep.org.gr)
- <http://volunteers.neagenia.gr>
- [www.neageniavoice.gr](http://www.neageniavoice.gr)
- [www.europeanyouthcard.gr](http://www.europeanyouthcard.gr)
- [www.tosyn.gr](http://www.tosyn.gr)