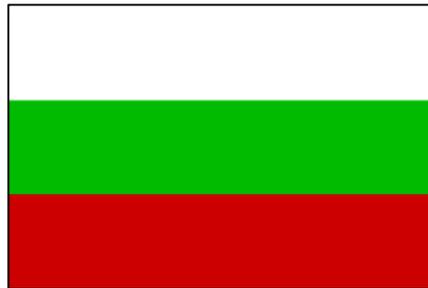




YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“INFORMATION”



BULGARIA

YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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1 Information services

1.1 Legal framework of the youth information service

In Bulgaria the priorities in young people policies at national level are implemented through programmes for youth activities drafted and put in practice by the State Agency for Youth and Sports (SAYS) The National Programme “Youth Information and Consultation Centers” (YICC) is aimed at providing services for young people (information, consultations and trainings, etc.). Under this Programme 31 Youth Information and Consultation Centers are established all over the country. They function as youth information offices and provide services to young people with regard to their needs and interests. The main aim of the YICC Programme is to offer conditions to young people to benefit from the partnership between the state, the NGO sector and the municipalities through modern and adequate services for their spare time. The project activities under the Programme are implemented by young people or non-profit organisations, working in the field of youth employment, civil activity, volunteering, health education and other forms of non-formal education for young people. The Programme was adopted by the Bulgarian Council of Ministers on 26 July 2007 and will be implemented in a four year period: 2007-2010. The strategic goal of the National YICC Programme is to develop and strengthen a sustainable device for provision of high quality accessible services in compliance with the needs and interests of young people in the country, based on the existing experience and practice. The funds for the Programme are allocated by the state budget. The National Coordinator for the Programme is the President of the State Agency for Youth and Sports (the Agency is ranked as a Ministry) or a Vice president appointed by him/her, who makes a proposal with regard to the amount of funds for the current year. The YICC network in the country has developed web-sites, which are interconnected and exchange youth information for partnership initiatives, work on projects, organisation of seminars and conferences, public discussions and other activities in the field of youth policy. The “National Information System for Youth” is a register for youth organisation. The system has been operating for two years. It supports the communication and interaction with non-profit organisations in the country and facilitates the exchange of information between youth organisations. Through the register young people can look for and receive information at the very moment and can promote the activities they are working on to the public at large. This service has already been used by 820 registered users, which are legal entities, registered as non-profit organizations (foundations, associations, youth organizations, cultural centers and clubs.

In order to present youth information better and in a more systematised way in the end of 2007 a specialized edition for youth information “Youth Guide” was prepared. The Manual presents useful web-sites for young people. The territorial division of the country is taken into account. The Guide is published on paper and on CD and is disseminated for free all over

the country through the SAYS regional coordinators, through the YICC and via Internet. The Youth Guide provides topical information for young people all over the country. In the Manual the regional towns are presented together with the practical opportunities, related to spare time activities for young people at the local level.

1.2 Youth information points at national and regional level

Besides the up-mentioned 31 Youth Information and Consultation Centres under the Programme a National Centre for Youth Information provides services in an accessible and animated place in Sofia. The Centre is part of the General Directorate “Policy for Youth” in the State Agency for Youth and Sports and is located in the same building. The Centre offers services for young people, youth and other non-profit organisations, working with young people, and also for municipalities, state organisations and institutions.

At regional level the action of the State Agency for Youth and Sports in the field of youth policy is implemented by coordinators for the relevant regional towns (17 in our country). They communicate directly with the NGO-s, local authorities and other state institutions as well as with structures, working with young people in order to optimize the communication and the effectiveness in the actions of the Agency.

A National Centre “European Youth Programmes and Initiatives” (NCEYPI) was established under the Council of Ministers. The authority administers the Youth in Action Programme 2007-2013 and EuroDesk Bulgaria. The main goal of the Centre is to encourage, consult, organise and coordinate the participation of Bulgarian NGO-s and young people in European and international programmes and initiatives. NCEYPI acts as a specific kind of information centre, because organisations, volunteers and individuals could receive information about implemented activities and initiatives, about the up-coming deadlines, related to the current calls for proposals, about organised events at national and international level, about training for trainers, seminars, etc.

1.3 Please list the specialised areas covered by youth information in your country (going beyond the general youth information, such as career guidance)

- Youth Mobility
- Intercultural dialogue and tolerance
- Youth creativity and initiatives, implemented by young people
- Prevention of young people risk behaviour
- Youth exchanges
- Volunteering
- Civil participation and social inclusion of young people and youngsters with special needs and deprived young persons
- Possible choices and further education
- Potential fulfilment at labour market and employment
- Youth entrepreneurship

- Healthy life style
- Youth initiatives implementation
- Social integration
- Project activities management
- Environment protection
- Projects drafting and implementation in the field of youth activities
- Participation of young people in the activities of local communities
- Promoting different ethnic communities and their cultures in order to build tolerance and understanding between people

The priorities of SAYS and the EU policies, the UN and Council of Europe policies with regard to young people

1.4 Youth portals:

In Bulgaria a great number of youth portals are developed and young people receive the needed information via their web-sites. Some of them will be listed below:

- <http://www.youthsport.bg> – the State Agency for Youth and Sports
- <http://www.youthdep.bg/register> - the National Information system for Youth
- <http://www.mikc.bg> – Youth portal Youth Information and Consultation Center
- <http://www.youthbg.info> – National Centre „European Youth Programmes and Initiatives“
- <http://www.europa.bg> - portal “Europe” (provides information and analyses about European policies and the Bulgarian involvement and in the debate about the goals and directions of public development.
- <http://www.euro26.org> – provides information about young people and youth card info in particular
- <http://www.hrdc.bg> – A Centre for development of human resources (organises, consults, coordinates and implements projects and researches in the field of education, professional education and training, labour market, and human resources in Bulgaria in cooperation with Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and other institutions, legal entities and individuals.

European portals:

- <http://www.eurodesk.org> – disseminates European information and consultation to a wide range of young people and youth organisations.
- <http://www.eryca.org> – European Agency for Information and Consultations of young people – promotes the right of young people to participate actively in civil society
- <http://www.coe.int> - the Council of Europe
- <http://www.eypej.org> – European Youth Parliament/information about the involvement of young people in the European development
- <http://www.youthforum.org> – European Youth Forum/ information about youth initiatives and events in Europe
- http://www.ec.europa.eu/youth/contact_en.html - National Agencies under the Youth in Action Programme
- <http://www.europa.eu/plotens> - Supporting students, looking for a job or young people who are already working, the parents, the councillors in orientation and the teachers to find information about education in Europe
- <http://www.enic-naric.net> – portal where a network of information centres in academic recognition and mobility is presented ENIC/NARIC, subsumes the following 2 networks – the Network of the Council of Europe UNESCO ENIC and the network of European Union NARIC

- <http://www.eurydice.org> – informational network for education all over Europe (collection, monitoring and dissemination of information about education in Europe/.

2 Access for young people

2.1 Number of young people using the information services

Every day the information offices, which are 32 in our country, are visited by 30 to 50 youngsters and young people between 14 and 35. In the centre of our capital a specialised front office is also located, called National Youth Information Centre.

Acceptance of the target group:

After holding nine regional meetings with the young people in the country the State Agency for Youth and Sports ascertained their need for wider access to information. This basic need was taken into account in drafting the Strategy for Youth Policy for the period 2003-2007, adopted by the Council of Ministers. The necessity of information for wide use is considered also in the Programme for Youth Activities (2004-2010) and in the National YICC Programme (2007-2010).

The beneficiaries of the two programmes are involved in providing information services. The young people (under Bulgarian legislation this group covers the individuals between 18 and 35 years) consider positive the information services, provided for them by the State Agency for Youth and Sports because they help them to spend their leisure time in a creative way, inform them about the opportunities to get funding for various projects and present proposals for youth activities organisation, if the beneficiaries belong to that very group

2.2 Is there any mobile information service?

N/A

3 Ensuring quality of information

3.1 Please list the places (training centres, universities, etc.) where you can get training and knowledge on youth information

N/A

3.2 What are the quality standards applied in youth information in your country (e.g. ISO 9000 Series, ERYICA charter, national standards etc.)

N/A

3.3 What existing monitoring systems are there on quality of information dissemination?

N/A

4 Participation of young people in information:

How are young people participating in the provision and dissemination of information?

- Via Internet
- Through the National Information System established for young people in particular. The system is administered by General Directorate "Policy for Youth" in the State Agency for Youth and Sports.

List the existing legal provisions and structures to enable participation of young people in the provision and dissemination of youth information

No legal acts and regulations for participation of young people in presenting and disseminating of information are available. The non-governmental sector is the main provider of youth information.