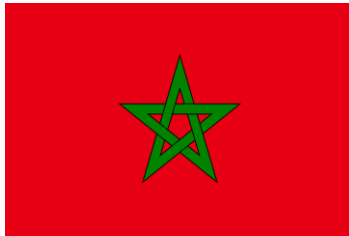


Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN MOROCCO



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1. Context and principles of national youth policy

1.1 Context of national youth policy

The Arab Awakening protests swamped in the Middle East and resulted in regime-change in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, and destabilized regimes in Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and initiated constitutional reforms in Morocco. The reform policy introduced by King Mohammed VI in March 9, 2011, led to the adoption in July of the same year of a new Moroccan constitution that has institutionalized youth participation and allowed for the creation of the Consultative Council of Youth and Community Work. The constitution also reinforced the freedom of the creation of associations and introduced the principle of democratic participation allowing civil society to be an integral part in state consultations from pre-planning to the evaluation of public policies. The constitution also allows citizens to participate in drafting legislations and presenting petitions. The King has also reduced some of his powers and state institutions (government and parliament) were strengthened by law.

The current government developed a national integrated youth strategy, planned to reform the job policy to make youth more employable, opened an over year-long national dialogue with civil society to amend and develop laws that would guarantee their liberty and participation in decision making, as well as giving them access to information, and creating national and regional youth councils.

Youth-led CSOs played a key role in mobilizing Moroccan citizens to take part in the constitution referendum and vote in the pre-matured Nov 25, 2011 legislative elections. They also took the initiative to organize several forums and public dialogues across the country to discuss citizens' needs and priorities and explaining the new constitutional reforms and the importance of participation. Youth organisations were also called upon to give their opinions about diverse topics such as youth employment policies. Therefore, following the government program, an integrated national youth policy was a must. After a series of consultations with youth and stakeholders, a national youth policy saw light after being approved by the council of Government on April 2014. The strategy is yet to be approved by the Council of Ministers, chaired by the King.

1.2. Principles of national youth policy

Although Morocco has a large number of sector strategies, a common strategic framework for youth policies did not exist until today at the national level. Also, the public efforts continue to face challenges in terms of coverage and efficiency. The purpose of the National strategy is to be a reference document that guides public policies and actions and efforts of youth actors in an integrated manner for the coming years.

The strategy aims at

- Ensuring coherence among governments actions related to youth
- Reinforcing quality investment for youth
- Completing and strengthening existing sectoral strategies and plans

The strategy emphasizes the economic and social inclusion of disadvantaged youth groups. Lack of access to jobs, informal employment, precarious working conditions, low participation in social and civic life, and poverty, among others, impact more young of low level education, youth in rural areas and young girls. The strategy therefore aims to reduce these inequalities for all young people of Morocco who should benefit from the same equal opportunities. The ministry of youth agreed to have target youth aged 15 to 29 but not excluding those up to 35 who missed life opportunities and were excluded from the system. The strategy has emergency measures and long terms goals on the horizon of 2020. More info can be found in this document

http://www.mjs.gov.ma/upload/MoDUle_1/File_1_319.pdf

2. Statistics on young people

In Morocco, youth aged 15 to 29 represent around 30% of the total population, with a total of 8.4 million Moroccan youth. The political definition of youth is youth aged under 40 for election purposes.

More information on demographics can be found on the Haut Commissariat au Plan official website. <http://www.hcp.ma>

Groupe d'âge	2014		
	Féminin	Masculin	Ensemble
00-04	1421	1482	2903
05-09	1400	1465	2865
10-14	1402	1454	2856
15-19	1471	1521	2991
20-24	1558	1617	3176
25-29	1497	1492	2989
30-34	1435	1372	2807
35-39	1228	1135	2363
40-44	1098	1002	2100
45-49	951	861	1812
50-54	932	872	1804
55-59	701	727	1428
60-64	567	588	1155
65-69	357	333	690
70-74	344	284	628
75 &+	390	347	737
Total	16752	16552	33304

http://www.hcp.ma/Projections-de-la-population-totale-par-groupe-d-age-et-sexe-en-milliers-et-au-milieu-de-l-annee-1960-2050_a676.html

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth

Minister: [Mohand Laenser](#) by interim

Duration of mandate: Jan 2015 until appointment of new Minister

<http://www.le360.ma/fr/politique/exclusif-mohand-laenser-prend-linterim-douzzine-30301>

Structure of the Ministry of Youth & Sports: http://www.mjs.gov.ma/files/organigramme_fr.pdf

Youth Department in the Ministry

Main tasks of the Youth department: The Directorate of Youth, Children and Women's Affairs is responsible for all socio-educational activities for youth. It aims to ensure the development, advancement, social integration and improvement of youth and child's environment as well as training, education and awareness of women and girls. The Directorate has three divisions of nine Services and the National Institute of Youth (INJD) and Democracy and the National Center for Information and Documentation Youth (CNIDJ)

Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department: at the central level, there are 166 people. The ministry has 75 delegations across the country
<http://www.mjs.gov.ma/fr/Page-132/sites-delegations>

Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry: Mohammed Gherras (newly appointed) **Tél.** : 05 37 68 04 81 - **Fax** : 05 37 68 25 55

Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy: Yacine Bellarab: bellarab@mjs.gov.ma

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

Other Ministries

Ministry of National Education www.men.gov.ma

Ministry of Employment www.emploi.gov.ma

Ministry of Health www.sante.gov.ma

Ministry of Interior (General Directorate of Local Collectivities)
<http://www.pncl.gov.ma/fr/Pages/default.aspx>

Offices that fund, or have youth programs, or conduct research & studies on Youth

- Entraide Nationale www.entraide.ma
- Initiative Nationale du Développement Humain : www.indh.gov.ma
- Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme : www.cndh.org.ma
- Agence de Développement Social : www.ads.gov.ma
- Conseil Economique Social et Environnemental : www.ces.ma

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

There is no such a commission in the parliament

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Apart from the Ministry of Youth and Sports regional delegations, there is no such a public authority with competencies in the youth field (check websites of the delegations here <http://www.mjs.gov.ma/fr/Page-132/sites-delegations>)

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Apart from the Ministry of Youth and Sports regional delegations, there is no such a public authority with competencies in the youth field (check websites of the delegations here <http://www.mjs.gov.ma/fr/Page-132/sites-delegations>)

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

Entraide Nationale is a welfare institution under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development, Family and solidarity (check the link for more information <http://www.entraide.ma/article/menuview/77>)

Also see link of NGO that have public utility in Morocco, many whom provide welfare services http://www.sgg.gov.ma/Portals/1/association_pdf/liste_Associations_RUP.pdf

There are also many volunteering organisations in Morocco. It is worth to mention that youth and civil society have presented memorandums within the framework of the national dialogue on civil society and constitutional prerogatives stressing on the legal and institutional framework of volunteering in Morocco. Currently, there is a draft law presented to the government on volunteering.

CorpsAfrica provides young adults across Africa the opportunity to serve as “Peace Corps Volunteers” in their own countries and help drive solutions to poverty at the community level: <http://www.corpsafrica.org/>

Maroc Bénévolat, first social network of volunteering and humanitarian actions (online recruitment of volunteers) <http://www.marocbenevolat.org/>

Association Marocaine des Jeunes Bénévoles, Moroccan organisation that promotes the culture of volunteering in Morocco and develops capacity building of young volunteers <http://www.marocbenevoles.org/>

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

3.3.1 Youth Councils

Article 33 of the 2011 constitution allowed the creation of the **Consultative Council of youth & community work**. The Ministry of youth and sports led-consultative commission on youth has just developed a draft law on this council. The draft law was presented to the government for review. Along with its main prerogatives outlined in the constitution, the Ministry envisions that this council will be in charge of implementing the national youth policy.

Article 33 (in general provisions) stipulates that:

“It is incumbent upon public institutions to take all the appropriate measures with a view to: (1) Stimulate and make general the participation of youth in the social, economic, cultural and political life of the country; (2) To aid the young to establish themselves in [an] active and associative life and to give assistance to them in the difficulty of scholarly, social or profession adaptation; (3) To facilitate the access of youth to culture, science, technology, art, sports and leisure, all in creation of propitious conditions for the full deployment of their creative and innovative potential in all these domains. A Consultative Council of Youth and of Associative Action [Conseil consultatif de la jeunesse et de l'action associative], is created.”

This council is a consultative body that will be specialized in all matters related to youth. The council will contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of all policies related to youth.

As far as **local youth councils** are concerned, there are over 50 local youth councils. However, they are not legally recognized as youth councils. Some were created at the initiative of some NGOs' through a contract with the local commune of a given city, some took the form of NGO, and others were created at the initiative of international organisations in partnership with the General Directorate of Local collectivities. Article 14 of the communal charter allows the president of the

commune to create temporary committees. Based on this article, several youth councils were created. But with the absence of clear legal framework of the creation of local youth councils, these initiatives depend on the political will of each president who has the sole authority to keep it or not. Also in terms of funding, there is no specific mention to funding these councils. Supporting these councils remains either through international organisations, or commune funds allocated to NGOs via specific contracts. And this also impacts the independence of the work of the councils created. It is worth to mention that each of these councils has its own internal bylaws (no common agreed upon bylaw for all).

Therefore, youth councils should be recognized as spaces for dialogue, training, participation, exchange and advocacy. Currently, a coalition of youth councils formed a network to advocate for the establishment of specific institutional and regulatory frameworks for youth councils as well as their access to public and private grants to strengthen their autonomy and independence.

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

In Morocco, there is a total of 100,000 NGOs. There is an estimation of about 3000 youth-led organisations. Each sector and international organisation has a database of NGOs they deal with. There is no such a real legal or institutional definition of what is a youth NGO. Also, there is no consolidated mapping of youth organisations. <http://www.tanmia.ma/> which previously had a mapping of NGOs including youth ones is currently re-conducting a new mapping to be uploaded soon on their website.

Examples of three NGOs working with youth:

Institut Prometheus pour la Démcoratie et les Droits Humains
<http://www.facebook.com/institutprometheus> POC Yassin Bazzaz yacin.yacin@gmail.com

Association Jeunes pour Jeunes <http://www.facebook.com/AJJMaroc> POC Ahmed Rizki, Executive Director Tel/Fax :(+212) 0 537 77 68 46

Chantiers de la Citoyenneté : <http://www.facebook.com/ChantiersDeLaCitoyennete>
contact@cdmaroc.org POC Jamal Touissi Touissijamal@gmail.com

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

There is no such a network in Morocco. The new Consultative Council on Youth and Community Work after adoption of its law, should serve that purpose **(see constitutional provisions on the council in the sections that follow)**

4. Legislation

1- Youth policy in Moroccan law

Morocco adheres to international laws and UN resolutions, the Kingdom is one of the signatories of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Morocco showed commitment to develop a national youth policy since the announcement of the programme. Yet, the Integrated National Youth strategy came to life only until 2014.

Though there is no clear mention in the constitution about the word national youth policy, but the articles related to youth indicated the necessity of having such a policy. The new youth rights refer to it as well as the 2012 government program.

2- Constitutional prerogatives

Article 33 institutionalized youth participation and allowed for the creation of the Consultative Council of youth & community work **(Page 16 of the Moroccan Constitution of 2011)**
http://www.amb-maroc.fr/constitution/Nouvelle_Constitution_%20Maroc2011.pdf

Article 12 reinforced the freedom of the creation of association & introduced the principle of democratic participation allowing civil society to be an integral part in state consultations from pre-planning to the evaluation of Public Policies. **(Page 9 of the Moroccan Constitution of 2011)**

Article 13-14-15 states the right of citizens to participate in formulating draft legislations, and present petitions, and fully participate in designing, implementing and evaluating public policies **(Page 10 of the Moroccan Constitution of 2011)**

Article 139 allows for the establishment of participative mechanism at the regional level to allow local citizen to participate in local decisions **(Page 50 of the Moroccan Constitution of 2011)**

3- Youth law

Morocco does not have an official youth law. However, in 2013, the Ministry of Youth & Sports entrusted a consultative commission composed of youth and law experts, academia, civil society representatives and government bodies to draft a law on youth. The law was presented in mid-2014 to the government for review and adoption before moving to the parliament.

The law aims at regulating a unified political, legislative, and institutional framework of all public policies and programs related to youth protection, participation and empowerment. The law will also ensure complementarity and synergy between these policies. The law also identifies approaches, principles, frameworks, objectives and commitments of a national youth policy meanwhile specifying its human, administrative, logistical and financial resources

The law will serve as a guide to youth rights, freedoms and responsibilities. It will also provide mechanisms to protect these rights and ways to promote them and effectively implement them.

The law will also specify the missions and tasks of different actors intervening in youth policy and work. It will also regulate the institutional mechanisms for developing, implementing, managing and evaluating the national youth policy at the national, regional and local levels.

The law will also define youth-led organisations and organisations working with youth, their roles, capacities, rights, duties and governance system.

The law will also identify public spaces and centres for youth (whether be it cultural educational, social, sports, entertainment, or touristic), their roles, and criteria for building, equipping, managing and distributing them at the national level.

The law stipulates that every policy program, legislation, public institution related to youth will be based on principles of freedoms and constitutional rights more specifically:

- Freedom & responsibility
- Equality and Justice
- Dignity and protection
- Participation and inclusion
- Solidarity and volunteering
- Tolerance and dialogue
- Creativity and Innovation

4- Youth in political parties' law

After the adoption of the 2011 constitution, the new organic law N 29.11 on political parties as published in the official bulletin on Oct 22, 2011 stipulates in its Article 5 that the legal age of creating a political party is 18, which is also the legal age of presenting candidacy to elections and voting.

Law 36.04 on political parties (2006) in its article 22 indicates that political parties need to specify in their bylaws the percentage of youth and women that will be included in their organisational structures. Some political parties complied with youth inclusion regulations through their national congresses, others mentioned it only in their internal regulations instead of their initial laws, and some didn't comply with it. This only shows a significant gap between the legislation and the practice

5- Youth in Election Code

Regarding the legal age of presenting candidacy to elections, it was 23 according to Article 41 of the Royal Decree N 83.1.97 issued in April 1997 to implement the law N 9.97 on elections code.

After the Royal directives to lower the age of election candidacy from 23 to 21, Law 36.08 in its article 41 identified the age at 21. The legal age of election candidacy to the second chamber of parliament (House of Councilors) is 30 according to article 8 of its organic law N 32.97.

The legal age of voting is 18 according to the constitution and also to the election code.

House of representatives organic law N 27.11 issued on Oct 2011, reinforced the representation of youth under 40 (political definition of youth) by reserving 30 seats for them in national elections list (quota system).

6- Youth in decentralized laws regulating local governments

Decentralized laws are ambiguous as to youth rights and policies. Law 07.08 regulating the communal charter provides several mechanisms for citizens' participation in general. Though, it doesn't specify youth, but those tools allow youth to take part in local decision making.

Most important is Article 14 which allows for the creation of permanent and temporary commissions. Based on this article, the commission on equity and equality of chances was created allowing civil society and youth from different gender and social backgrounds as well as those with special needs to take part in local policies. Also the same article allows the creation of local youth councils on a contractual basis. Youth are currently advocating for the amendment of the law to have a clear mention of youth participation and the creation of youth councils in the new communal charter of 2015.

7- Youth in Parliament organic law

The organic law of the parliament (Upper House/House of Representatives) includes 30 seats of youth representation in the parliament on the basis of a quota system. Political parties have to nominate youth in the national list to be represented in the parliament. Other than that, there is no specific article in that organic law clearly mentioning consultation with youth or civil society. However, the leadership of the parliament expressed publically in several occasions that the institution is open to collaborate with youth and civil society. The parliament organizes thematic conferences where youth and civil society are invited. Also, youth wings of political parties are allowed to assist some of the plenary parliamentary assemblies. There are suggestions presented to the government regarding civil society inclusion as observers in the parliament, allowing them to play a watchdog function to monitor the performance of the parliament. Yet, there is no guarantee that it will be approved.

8- Other laws

In response to the new provisions of the 2011, several laws for involving citizens are under development. These include but not limited to:

Draft law on public consultations: The law should enable the institutionalisation of public consultations to sound out citizens' views, expectations and needs concerning a project, plan or a public policy throughout its drafting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages.

Draft law on access to information: The law should outline the right of citizens to require information from public institutions. It should also enable citizens to effectively participate in decision making and monitor and evaluate public policies

Draft law on legislative motions: This should allow citizens with eligibility requirements to present motions as physical persons, as initiators or within the framework of "a Motions Committee" in charge of collecting signatures and communicating with the competent authorities.

Draft law on petitions: This will enable citizens to move beyond a mere grievance to a proposal mechanism for an effective participation in the development, implementation and evaluation of public policies.

New civil society draft law: The new draft law is a revision of the Dahir (decree) 58 that regulates civil society. The new draft law after approval should improve the legal enabling environment of CSOs and provide them with more freedom and participatory rights.

Draft ethical charter on participatory democracy: This would be a guiding principle of a new social contract between civil society, including youth, and the state.

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

The national integrated youth strategy has been approved in April 2014 by the council of government, but not yet by the council of ministers, chaired by the King. This strategy is meant to be integrated ensuring synergies and complementarities with all sectors intervening in the youth sector.

Prior to the 2011 reforms, the Ministry of Youth and Sports launched a national youth consultation with the support of UNFPA, UNICEF and the National Directorate of Local Collectivities (DGCL) with the aim of developing a youth strategy. Yet, the process undertaken by the ministry did not include all the stakeholders. This led the whole process to fail with less or no support from civil society. The strategy has never been adopted nor turned into action. However, in 2012, the same ministry launched another consultation with around 35,000 youth across the Kingdom with a new vision to have an inclusive process in developing a strategy for youth. The Ministry then released the draft strategy and formed a committee end of 2013 to work on suggesting a draft bill for the creation of the Consultative Council on Youth and Community work and preparing a law on youth rights.

The strategy aims at

- Increasing economic opportunities for young people and promoting their employability
- Increasing youth access to quality basic services and reducing geographical disparities
- Promoting the active civic participation of youth in social life and in decision making
- Promoting the respect of Human Rights
- Reinforcing institutional measures for effective communication, information, evaluation and governance system

The strategy has emergency measures and long terms goals on the horizon of 2020. For more info on the detailed elements of the strategy please check the complete document in the ministry of youth and sports website: http://www.mjs.gov.ma/upload/MoDUle_1/File_1_319.pdf.

National programmes on youth.

Currently since the National Youth policy is not yet implemented, each ministry has its own program related to youth.

For more information on programs of the Youth Department of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, please check the following link: <http://www.mjs.gov.ma/fr/Page-72/programmes> (The ministry has its own national plan for youth but it is not made public on their official website).

More information on the Ministry of Employment strategy to promote employability of youth can be found in this link: <http://www.emploi.gov.ma/index.php/fr/emploi/politique-de-l-emploi.html>

Also, you can find a factsheet on youth employment strategy here: http://www.emploi.gov.ma/attachments/article/433/PolicyBrief-emploi_jeunes_FR.pdf

National health strategy that include measures for young people can be consulted here: <http://www.sante.gov.ma/Docs/Documents/secteur%20sant%C3%A9.pdf>

Yet, the National Youth Policy http://www.mjs.gov.ma/upload/MoDUle_1/File_1_319.pdf will be the reference document for future programs

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

The ministry of youth and sports budget for 2014 is 1,27 billion dirhams (110.739.672 Eur). There is no specific budget break out allocated to youth publically communicated. Most of the budget goes to sports and operational budget.

7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1 Council of Europe.

Within the framework of the [South program](#), the Council of Europe organized several trainings and seminars in Morocco related to youth democratic participation and human rights education. The latest seminar was organized within the framework of the World Forum on Human Rights organized in Marrakech between Nov 27 and 30.

7.2 European Union.

Implementation of Euro- Med programme

The Euro-Med Youth Programme Phase IV has been designed to facilitate meetings, youth partnerships and networks in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

On the one hand, the Euro-Med Youth Programme Phase IV encourages youth mobility, focusing on activities that promote non-formal education, intercultural learning, mutual understanding and active citizenship of young people and, secondly, it aims to consolidate the ownership of the Programme by the Mediterranean partner countries.

Phase IV of the Euro-Med Youth Programme (2010-2013) aims to consolidate the decentralization process and the participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of the program, to strengthen the role of technical assistance, tailor activities to different national situations in the field of youth and contribute more to the development of national youth policies.

The program is managed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (Check the website for detailed information www.maroc.euromedyouth.net)

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Morocco

References

Morocco 2011 constitution

http://www.amb-maroc.fr/constitution/Nouvelle_Constitution_%20Maroc2011.pdf

King Mohammed VI March 9, 2011 speech on constitutional reforms

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-nNedwfoQ>

Moroccan National Youth Policy

http://www.mjs.gov.ma/upload/MoDUle_1/File_1_319.pdf

Morocco National Dialogue on Civil society and Constitutional Prerogatives

www.hiwarmadani2013.ma

Law 07.08 regulating the communal charter

<http://www.fec.org.ma/Textes/Loi17-08.pdf>

Royal Decree N 83.1.97 issued in April 1997 to implement the law N 9.97 on elections code.

Law 36.08 on elections

Second chamber of parliament (House of Councilors) organic law N 32.97.

House of Representatives organic law N 27.11 issued on Oct 2011

Moroccan Parliament

www.parlement.ma

Royal Decree N 18.1.06 issued Feb 14, 2006, implemented by law N 36.04 on political Parties,

The organic law N 29.11 on political parties as published in the official bulletin on Oct 22, 2011

Law 36.04 on political parties (2006)

National survey conducted in 2007 by the Moroccan High Commissariat of Planning on civil society

National Initiative of Human Development

<http://www.indh.gov.ma/>

www.maroc.euromedyouth.net