

## Youth Partnership

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



# COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN MONTENEGRO



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# 1. Context and principles of national youth policy

## 1.1 Context of national youth policy and youth work

Young people used to have an important role in the former Yugoslavia, in which the communist system provided important youth programmes and conditions for the participation of youth representative bodies in decision making processes. The period during and after the war in the nineties, in newly formed states, was marked by a youth policy vacuum. Young people in the region were bearing consequences of the post-conflict period and an important socio-economic crisis. An important date for the re-establishment of the youth policy in Montenegro was 16 October 2006, when the five year long strategy - **National Youth Action Plan** (NYAP) was adopted by the government. The plan was developed through a two year participative, evidence based approach, in partnership between the government and civil society sector. NYAP envisaged social measures in nine areas (culture, education, employment, family, health, human rights, information and mobility, leisure time and participation). In order to monitor and evaluate NYAP implementation, a **National Steering Committee on Youth** was established the same year.

In the framework of two and a half year project **Youth Social Revitalization** (YSR), the **Directorate of Youth and Sports** (former Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media/Ministry of Education and Sports) in partnership with the **International Organization for Migration** (IOM), made a series of efforts aimed at creating conditions for youth policy implementation both at national and local level. The YSR Project was aimed at building capacities of national authorities in charge of youth policy, as well as all other stakeholders, and promoting and strengthening youth participation. The Youth Office, which was established within this project and whose staff will be systematized in the new workplace division, has continued to work after the project and formed a professional, sustainable human resources basis for youth policy implementation. From 2009 to 2012, the Youth Office continuously worked on the implementation of annual action plans, dissemination, awareness raising, capacity building, support to youth participation, support to local youth policy development, cross-sectoral cooperation, cooperation with NGOs, funding NGO and local self-government projects, regional and international cooperation, legal and policy framework.

Based on national priorities and the reality of youth, as well as identified challenges in implementation of youth policy, there are certain policy, legal, and practical steps that will be especially in focus in the forthcoming period: the Law on Youth is expected to be adopted by the end of 2016; the new National Youth Action Plan will be developed by the third quarter of 2016. These strategic documents will be harmonized with the EU acquis, as Montenegro has started negotiations with the EU in 2012.

The new National Youth Action Plan will be developed on the basis of evaluation results of the previous one (NYAP 2006-2011), and will be evidence based. This project started identifying the needs of young people in Montenegro in 2014, with special emphasis on the impact of the previous Youth Strategy (NYAP 2006-2011). Findings are the basis for the development of youth policies and action plans in the upcoming period in accordance with the standards of European youth policy. In order to achieve continuity in the development and implementation of youth policy, the Directorate for Youth and Sports, UNDP and the NGO *Civic Alliance (Građanska alijansa)*, have organized the consultation with young people and evaluation of previous NYAP. The Directorate for Youth and Sports has engaged two national experts in order to provide consultancy services in this process. In cooperation with UN System in Montenegro an international expert has been engaged for the purpose of ensuring the harmonization of the document with the EU Youth Policy. Currently, Directorate for Youth and Sports/Ministry of Education have established a working group on this strategic document. Considering that the Directorate for Youth and Sports/Ministry of Education encourages participation of the civil society in the process of creating national youth policy, three NGO representatives have been selected to participate as the members of this working group. The Law on Youth and NYAP will cover measures for improving and setting up solid basis for the areas of youth research and cross-sectoral cooperation, youth work, youth information, youth participation and non-formal education for young people etc.

The Faculty of Philosophy (University of Montenegro) and NGO Forum MNE were working on establishing Master Studies in Community Youth Work, within the framework of the TEMPUS IV Project 'Introduction and Implementation of Academic Programme in Community Youth Work (CYW) through Enhancing Inter-regional Cooperation in the Countries of Western Balkans'. The Memorandum of understanding on TEMPUS IV Project has been signed with the Directorate for Youth and Sports and the project implemented by Forum MNE and the Faculty of Philosophy.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that the whole documentation for MA studies was developed and sent to the University, the programme was not accredited and due to lack of interest from the University the project was finalized without this result.

In addition to this, Forum MNE in cooperation with the Centre for Vocational Education (Ministry of Education) is working on the process of recognition of the occupation youth activist[1] . This initiative will contribute to the professionalization of youth work and enhance youth services at both national and local level. Additionally, it will provide an opportunity for young people who have no university education to be engaged in youth work in a responsible and professional manner. This process takes a long time and the reason is the fact that during 2014 the regulations have changed and, therefore, the documentation had to be adapted in line with new regulations. At the same time, in 2014, there was a change of the Minister of Education. It is expected that Youth Activist occupation will be formally recognized and adopted by the relevant institutions by the end of 2016.

Nevertheless, standards of the youth activist occupation are adopted, and some of them are:

- Ensure quality in accordance with the standards in youth work;
- Organize youth exchanges, festivals, events, campaigns, youth education camps, educational and entertainment programs and leading info centres;
- Devise and create project proposals in line with international recommendations and charters on the participation of young people in accordance with the needs of the communities in which they work;
- Provide support initiatives of young people and children;
- Detect, direct and use leadership potential in others and themselves young and transmits it to activism in communities;

## **1.2. Principles of national youth policy**

According to the National Youth Action Plan (2006-2011), young people belong to the age group between 15 and 29. They represent 21,4% (132 702) of the citizens of Montenegro.

**Directorate for Youth and Sports**, in charge of youth policy on the national level, has the mandate to develop and coordinate implementation of youth policy and legislation, coordinate cross-sectoral cooperation, support local youth policy development, develop cooperation with NGOs, international partners etc. Other relevant government institutions (line ministries, agencies, bureaus) have been developing and implementing sectoral policies related to youth, cooperating with and reporting to the Directorate for Youth and Sports.

**National Youth Steering Committee** had a five year long mandate to monitor, evaluate and advise for the improvement of National Youth Policy. Its mandate and composition will be redefined by the Law on Youth.

In terms of administrative division, Montenegro has 23 municipalities and has no regions. Through funding local youth policy development projects, the Directorate and national and international NGO partners supported the establishment of Local Youth Councils (4), Local Youth Offices (3) and development of Local Youth Policy Plans (11). Political organisation of youth policy and share of competences will be further regulated by the Law on Youth, which is expected to be adopted by the end of 2016.

## **2. Statistics on young people**

The number and percentage of young people by gender in total population in Montenegro, women per 100 men is 102.5. The number of young people in total population (620 029) is 132 702 (Monstat 2011), which is 21,4%.

## **3. Actors and Structures**

### **3.1 Public authorities**

### **3.1.1 National public authorities**

Ministry of Education is supervising the Directorate for Youth and Sports, in charge of youth policy development and implementation. Minister *Predrag Bošković* took office in March 2015. Directorate for Youth and Sports is responsible for tasks related to: the promotion and implementation of national youth policies and strategies and action plans and programmes for youth, collaboration with youth organizations and associations in organizing international events of young people in Montenegro, assistance and cooperation with organizations and youth associations and their promotion, enabling youth organizations from Montenegro to participate in meetings and events for young people abroad, fostering international cooperation related to youth, encouraging the development of youth policy and youth offices at the national and local level. Since June 2013, director (ad interim) of the Directorate for Youth and Sports is *Igor Vušurović*.

### **Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies**

**National Youth Steering Committee** (National Youth Steering Committee = NYSC) was a co-management body which consisted of members from NGO sector, ministries and other government institutions. The Committee was established by the Government, on 2 July 2007, in order to monitor, evaluate and advise on the improvement of National Youth Policy, and work on cross-sectoral cooperation. NYSC was initiating conferences for the creation of Annual Youth Action Plans, and delivering other initiatives of significance for youth policy (such as establishing National Youth Council), as well as enhancing international cooperation. This body composition and mandate will be redefined by the Law on Youth.

**Office for the cooperation with NGOs** is an important stakeholder for youth NGOs.

The Parliamentary Committee in charge of youth issues is Committee for Education, Science, Culture and Sport. Committee for Education, Science, Culture and Sport examines the proposals of laws and other regulations, general acts and other issues related to the formal education and upbringing, science and scientific and research activities, culture, arts, international cooperation in these areas, sports and physical culture. At this stage, all members of the Committee voted for the Law on Youth to be put on the agenda of the Parliament at the next assembly. Some NGOs' representatives were present during the work of the Committee and emphasized some aspects of the Law that would need to be changed through amendments before the assembly. Still, it was not put on the agenda of the Parliament due to complex political situation in the country.

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

N/A

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

In terms of administrative division, Montenegro has 23 municipalities and has no regions. Local self-governments (secretariats, youth offices, offices for drug prevention and youth, local youth councils, steering committee on youth) are responsible to develop youth policy and provide conditions for its implementation. Accordingly, great majority of municipalities appointed officials to deal with youth issues. **Local Youth Action Plans** (Local Youth Action Plans = LYAPs) were adopted or are in the process of adoption in fourteen municipalities. **Youth Offices** are opened in three municipalities, whereas in two municipalities **Offices for Drug Prevention and Youth** are also dealing with mainstream youth policy. In three municipalities there are **Local Youth Councils**, while in two there are **Steering Committees on Youth**. Several municipalities have secretariats which are dealing with youth. LYAPs are created by the local self-government, on the basis of all relevant national and international documents and strategies, in cooperation with non-governmental and international organisations. LYAPs define strategic aims and activity plans in following areas: education, employment, participation, health, mobility, information, human rights, family, leisure time, security and culture.

Political organisation of youth policy and competences at the local level will be further defined by the Law on Youth, which was expected to be adopted by the end of 2016.

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

Youth social welfare services are exercised in the field of social protection, protection of children and youth with disabilities, juvenile delinquency, protection of human rights, drug prevention and employment. In these terms, there are institutions such as **Centres for Social Welfare and Resource Centre for Children and Youth** aimed at educating and rehabilitating children, youth and adults. In the field of employment, among other programmes and services targeting young people, the **Employment Agency of Montenegro** started developing **Centres for Information and Professional Counselling** (CIPS) in 2007. So far eight centres have been established. These centres offer various programmes for supporting youth employment initiatives.

In 2014 Directorate for Youth and Sports started opening **Youth Clubs/Centers**. The Directorate in partnership with Foundation for Active Citizenship opened two Youth Clubs in Tivat and Pljevlja. Through youth initiatives in cooperation with business sector and municipalities, Youth Clubs are opened in Herceg Novi, Rozaje, Niksic, Cetinje, Kotor and Andrijevica. The Directorate is in the process of opening one more Youth Club in Berane, and a Youth Center in Podgorica.

In 2012, the National Employment Agency and University of Montenegro opened a **Career Centre** at the University.

Regarding the protection of children and youth with disabilities, there is a network of nine **Day Care Centres**. In the next period, the opening of day centres is expected in other municipalities in cooperation with local governments and NGOs.

**Offices for Risky Behaviour and Drug Prevention** are established in all municipalities in order to implement various leisure time activities for children and young people, which strengthen their life skills, information, creativity and resilience against risky behaviour.

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

In the last decade, a big number of activities and programmes with and for young people in Montenegro were carried out by international and local non-governmental organizations. The role of NGOs is very important when it comes to providing expertise for a certain number of municipalities, especially when it comes to the creation of strategic documents such as Local Youth Action Plans, the establishment and functioning of the Youth Offices, and the establishment of other mechanisms for youth participation. NGOs, *Forum MNE*, *Proactive and Better Life for Countryside (Da zaživi selo)* were the most active ones when it comes to developing strategic documents on national and local level. Some of these NGOs derived from international organizations *Catholic Relief Service* and *Proni-Forum Syd* and were the initiators of the process of creating the National Youth Action Plan (2006). Since 2006, they have been providing support and expertise to local authorities when it comes to the development of Local Youth Action Plans.

NGO *Center for Youth Affirmation* was associate member of **European Youth Card Association** (European Youth Card Association = EYCA) from 2012 to 2015. Currently, Directorate for Youth and Sports is in process of finding a new associate member of EYCA. Directorate for Youth and Sports was financially supporting the membership.

**National Youth Council** – *Montenegrin Youth Forum* was created in June 2012 and has been involved in all important policy making processes and consultations until fall 2014.

So far, the Directorate/Ministry in charge of youth policy has nurtured a continuous dialogue and consultations with youth organisations. Mechanisms of their involvement were National Youth Action Plan development, Annual Action Plans development, National Youth Steering Committee membership, of the Working Group on Youth Law, EU Youth Report Consultations.

Directorate for Youth and Sports was providing financial support to NGOs in order to implement youth programmes. However, according to *the Law on NGOs*, which has a centralized financial system, all national NGOs are now applying for the annual unified competition from the National Lottery Fund.

### **3.3.1 Youth Councils**

Directorate for Youth and Sports, together with National Steering Committee, was financially and politically supporting the creation of the National Youth Council (NYC) – **Montenegrin Youth Forum** (MYF) through: allocation of funds for its creation, joint organization of events, providing information (both directly via round tables, conferences, trainings and via websites and involvement in all activities related to youth policy and youth participation, where they could directly present their work to relevant stakeholders (representatives of ministries, municipalities, international and national organizations, youth organizations etc.). MYF was involved in the creation of the Law on Youth. The models of the future partnership and support to the Council will be defined by the Law on Youth. MYF was created in June 2012 and was composed of: non-governmental organizations (youth led and youth oriented) and alliances of NGOs, youth wings of political parties, youth sections in trade unions, student parliaments, students' and pupils' organizations. MYF main objectives were to promote and increase the participation of youth and youth organizations in society and in decision-making processes and to influence policies affecting young people and youth organizations at the local and national level; MYF main role was to advocate and lobby for the interests and needs of young people and to create policies and give expert opinions in the field of youth policy, to cooperate with state and local self-governments, to network and cooperate with local, national and international organizations, in terms of programme with the same or similar goals and values. Since fall 2015, MYF is no longer operative.

### **Local Youth Councils**

The Directorate for Youth and Sports is cooperating with municipalities on the creation of Local Youth Action Plans, and supporting the process in terms of financing and providing information to the establishment of Local Youth Councils. The Council is a representative body of youth on local level with the aim to advocate and lobby for the interests and needs of young people on the municipal level. So far, they have been established in three municipalities (Cetinje, Berane and Pljevlja).

Youth participation mechanisms, both on local and national level, will be defined by the Law on Youth which is planned to be adopted by the end of 2016.

### **3.3.2 Youth NGOs**

Montenegrin Youth Forum (MYF) was founded in June 2012 and has had two assemblies since then. The most numerous member organizations of the MYF are: student parliaments, Montenegrin High School Students Association, National Scout Organization and Red Cross Youth. MYF gave contribution to the drafting of the Law on Youth but has not been operative since fall 2015.

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

The research area of youth policy needs additional development, systemic and systematic approach. However, certain steps in the field have been taken, through the creation of National and Local Youth Policy Plans, which are based on youth needs and field research. Also, through activities of Directorate for Youth and Sports and its partner *International Organisation for Migration* (IOM), research on youth participation and youth entrepreneurship feasibility study in Montenegro were realized. In 2015, Directorate for Youth and Sports, UNDP and the NGO *Civic Alliance (Građanska alijansa)*, have been jointly evaluating National Youth Action Plan (2006-2011). The evaluation results with comprehensive research will be the basis for the development of the new National Youth Action Plan, which includes strategic measures in the youth research area.

Apart from conducting some research in partnership with other actors for the purpose of evaluating and creating the core strategic and legislative documents, the Directorate for Youth and Sports provides information to all researchers and organisations conducting youth related research. The most important research papers, reports, strategic documents and information on youth can be found on the Directorate's website [www.infomladi.me](http://www.infomladi.me). The information on all important actors in the youth sector will be available on the website [www.sebizelim.me](http://www.sebizelim.me) where youth researchers, youth workers, youth policy makers have the opportunity to post their own research and other relevant information for those active in youth policy field.

## 4. Legislation

### National legislation on youth

Young people in Montenegro receive care and social protection in accordance with the Law on Social and Child Protection and family care in compliance with the Family Law of Montenegro. In addition to this, other laws and strategy documents cover specific areas, namely:

- Law against Discrimination,
- Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination against Persons with Disability,
- Law on Travel Privileges of Persons with Disabilities,
- Law on Social Protection and Children Welfare,
- Law on Juvenile Justice, Law on Education of Children with Special Educational Needs,
- Law on Higher Education,
- Law on Voluntary Work,
- Law on National Vocational Qualifications.

There are several laws that treat participation of young people in a broader sense. General Law on Education treats participation of students, Law on Local Self-Governments treats participation of citizens at local level, while Law on NGOs treats right to association, with special reference to the right of young people from the age of 14 to establish an NGO. This is a very important clause, enabling high school student to formalize their emerging participation initiatives.

General Law on Youth, which will define youth policy and its implementation, support to youth organisation and youth participation, was planned to be finalized by the end of 2016. During 2012, a working group was established, composed of government and non-governmental actors/youth organizations. The working group analyzed European and regional experiences, as well as the national situation, went on study visits (Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia) and based on that, developed a draft law, which was submitted to a wide consultation process, later it was finalized and adopted by the Government on 25 June 2015, after which it has to be adopted by the Montenegrin Parliament as well. In 2016, the Directorate for Youth and Sports and the UN System in Montenegro will work on drafting bylaws provided by this strategic document. The work on the Law has been participatory from the very beginning, when, according to the law, two NGO representatives were involved in the working group in charge of drafting it.

### Local legislation on youth

Local authorities have been in the process of creating Local Youth Action Plans (local youth policy and action papers) since 2006, during which all relevant national and international documents and strategies are taken into consideration, including the EU Youth Strategy. Local Youth Action Plans define strategic aims and activity plans in following areas: culture, education, employment, family, health, human rights, information, mobility, participation, leisure time and security, which were accordingly harmonized with relevant national and international documents. Local Youth Action Plans were adopted or are in the

process of adoption in fourteen municipalities; in three municipalities Youth Offices are opened. In two municipalities there are Offices for Drug Prevention and Youth which are also dealing with mainstream youth policy, in three municipalities there are Local Youth Councils, and in two other ones there are Steering Committees on Youth.

Participation of citizens at the local level is defined by the Law on Local Self-Government, adopted in 2003. Youth participation on local level is further stressed through decisions of the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro on the models of citizen participation in public affairs.

## 5. National Policy Programmes on youth

### National programmes on youth.

Action plans i.e. official strategies

*National Youth Action Plan* (NYAP), the main governmental five-year strategic document, was adopted on 12 October 2006, by the Government of Montenegro. NYAP 2006-2011 was designed through extensive cooperation, coordination and consultations with relevant government institutions, non-governmental organisations and young people. Main partners to Ministry of Education in the process were international organisations (Catholic Relief Service and Proni-Forum Syd).

NYAP has envisaged social measures in nine areas (culture, education, employment, family, health, human rights, information and mobility, leisure time and participation). Directorate for Youth and Sports was particularly in charge of participation, leisure time, information and non-formal education for young people and youth work, as other ministries do not have these areas in the main scope of their work. Ministries of culture, labour and social welfare, human rights and health are supposed to include young people's interests in their respective policies, and to implement and report on the measures in their respective domains.

Still, the necessary level of effective involvement of government institutions was not achieved during the process of NYAP development. However, this challenge was treated during the process of NYAP implementation, and involved mechanisms such as appointment of focal points for NYAP in line ministries, communication with them, reporting on the sectorial measures and activities related to youth.

Directorate for Youth and Sports conducts annual reporting, involving ministries, municipalities and NGOs, on the implementation of annual action plans.

In addition to this, the new National Youth Action Plan will be developed on the basis of evaluation results of the previous one (NYAP 2006-2011), and will be evidence based. This project aimed at identifying the needs of young people in Montenegro in 2014, with special emphasis on the impact of the implementation of the previous Youth Strategy(NYAP 2006-2011). More information can be found in the section

1.1.Context of national youth policy and youth work.

**Programmes and actions for specific target groups**

Other relevant programmes and strategies on youth: Strategy of Voluntary Work, Strategy for Social and Child protection (2008-2012), Strategy for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), Strategy for protection against domestic violence (2011-2015), programme for traineeship of graduates (2012/2013).

## 6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level

Directorate for Youth and Sports has supported annually youth organisations, through Annual Open Calls for Projects, financing more than 70 projects with 280.000€ between 2009-2012.

From 2012 until now youth work projects are funded through other government funds, such as annual **National Lottery Fund**. The government is regularly financially supporting sports activities and young sports talents. Directorate for Youth and Sports is granting financial awards to young prospective athletes. The government is, on annual basis, financing work of sports organizations, clubs and associations, through several Open Calls for Projects. Two of the Calls are managed by the Directorate for Youth and Sports (sports clubs and associations), while the other one is National Lottery Fund, which finances sports and healthy lifestyle activities of sports clubs and NGOs. These Open Calls involve several million € worth of government investment in sports each year. Also, Montenegrin Olympic Committee is, through its funds, supporting associations and young Olympic athletes.

In accordance with the Law on scientific research activity, the **Ministry of Science** stimulates scientific productivity and enhances quality of scientific research activity through national yearly awards for best performers in science and innovation. In 2010, the Ministry of Science established a programme of small grants for enhancing promotion of science and innovation in schools and wider public, through which a number of initiatives, mainly from the civil sector, were supported.

The **Ministry of Culture** publishes annual Calls for projects, through which cultural projects are financed. Special section in the Call is Youth Cultural Projects, which supports projects implemented by youth organisations or non- formal youth groups, which is a unique opportunity for young people who do not belong to formal organisations to receive support to their ideas and projects. Other ministries have programmes and funds for youth, but data on exact amount is neither available, nor systematised.

**The Employment Agency of Montenegro** (part of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare) in 2015 started implementing the program “Youth in winter tourism” which is designed for young people up to 24 years of age, as well as for the employers from the municipalities in the north of the country (less developed region of the country). The program will be implemented from December 2015 to March 2016 and financially supported in total amount of 50.000 €. Earlier, the Employment Agency from Montenegro initiated the programme “Let’s employ our youth in seasonal jobs “in order to stimulate greater employment of young people. The abovementioned programme was implemented in the period 2011-2014. In 2014 the number of approved subsidies to the employers for new seasonal employment of 1719 young people during the period 1<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were 3618 and the total subsidized amount 300.000 €.

The **Directorate for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Development** implemented in 2013 a project: Youth in Business, aimed at the promotion of youth innovation and creativity. The sub-project,

“Competition of the Best Idea” was also implemented, within which 21 ideas were awarded, while 10 were financially supported through credit line in total amount of 300.000 €.

In September 2013, **the Government of Montenegro** adopted the Report on Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in Montenegro 2010-2013. The Report concludes that Montenegro is on the right track to attain most of the goals by 2015. However, the same Report cited the reduction of relative poverty and other poverty dimensions as the key challenges. With a view of assisting individual countries in addressing new structural challenges, the UN has developed the Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Framework (MAF), which provides national stakeholders with a systematic approach to identify and recognize bottlenecks which prevent progress in pursuing MDGs showing stagnation or negative trends, then identify and prioritise solutions to speed up progress. Given that reducing unemployment is one of the key country priorities, the Government of Montenegro, in cooperation with the UN system, decided for the MAF process in Montenegro to be focused on the MDG 1: Reducing relative poverty and other poverty dimensions, within which special focus will be given to youth unemployment (aged 15-24) within Target 4: Reduce unemployment down to 9% by 2015. The final product of the Government's dialogues with civil society is the Youth Employment Action Plan which was adopted in November 2013. During 2014, the Directorate for Youth and Sports was monitoring the activities defined in the abovementioned Action Plan and prepared the report about its implementation which has been submitted to and adopted by the Ministry of Education, after which it was shared with other stakeholders involved within the process. The overall financial projection for the implementation of the activities within the Action Plan are 897,500 € and are partially the funds which have already been planned through regular activities of the stakeholders along with the additional funds.

In addition to this, there are other funds that young people can use, even though they are not allocated to youth only. This is the reason why the information about the budget/public expenditure allocated to youth cannot be precisely given.

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

### **7.1 Council of Europe**

Does your country contribute to the European Youth Foundation?

Montenegro contributes to the European Youth Foundation and to the Partial Agreement on the Mobility through the Youth Card.

### **7.2 European Union**

Montenegro has started negotiations with the EU in 2012 and so far opened 20 chapters out of which two are temporarily closed (Chapter 25 Science and Research, and Chapter 26 **Education and Culture**). As for the Chapter 26, which also includes Youth and Sports, EU has praised the participation on the voluntary basis of Directorate for Youth and Sports in the creation of the 2012 EU Youth Report.

#### **7.2.1 Implementation of the Erasmus + Youth in Action Programme**

Based on available data, Montenegro is progressively using ERASMUS+ Youth in Action Programme (ERASMUS+ Youth in Action=E+YiA). Still, further activities should be undertaken in order to improve approval rate, based on analysis of reasons for quite high rejection rate, as well as improving cooperation between Directorate and E+ contact point in Montenegro, underpinned by national cooperation and coordination for Erasmus for All implementation.

The NGO *ADP – Zid* as Contact Point for E+YiA Programme, conducts numerous activities with the aim of promoting the programme, such as: promotion of EVS on faculties, as well as the opportunities offered by the Western Balkans Window workshops and discussion sessions, organizing trainings, conferences and providing consultations and need assessment research for NGOs.

Directorate for Youth and Sports also promotes the programme through web sites [www.sebizelim.me](http://www.sebizelim.me) and [www.upravazamladeisport.me](http://www.upravazamladeisport.me) and other dissemination tools to all partners in NGO sector and young people who contact this institution. The Directorate has also participated as a partner on several E+ projects.

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

The previous National Youth Action Plan was adopted in 2006, which was prior to EU Youth strategy adoption. However, the EU Youth Strategy complies with NYAP priorities and other measures that the government takes towards young people, such as employment or education programmes. National activities in youth policy field in 2010 and 2011 were to a great extent, focused on youth participation, in line with the EU Youth Strategy.

The draft of the new National Youth Action Plan started with the aim of identifying the needs of young people in Montenegro in 2014, with special emphasis on the impact of the National Youth Action Plan (NYAP 2006-2011). Findings are the basis for the development of youth policies and action plans in the upcoming period, in accordance with the standards of European youth policy. In order to achieve continuity in the development and implementation of youth policy, the Directorate for Youth and Sports, UNDP and the NGO Civic Alliance, organized the consultation with young people and the evaluation of previous NYAP. In the upcoming period additional consultation with young people are also planned. Finalization of the new NYAP is planned for the third quarter of 2016.

Furthermore, new National Youth Action Plan and the Law on Youth will be aligned with the EU Youth Strategy and other relevant European youth policy standards.

Montenegro has already been participating in various OMC events, such as presidency youth conferences during the Presidency of the Council of the EU and evaluation of the EU Youth Strategy. Montenegro is also participating in EU-CoE Youth partnership programme, through the European Pool of Youth Researchers and the network of the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy Correspondents. Finally, Montenegro participates in the European Youth Policy Indicators Expert Group.

## 8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Montenegro

- **KAP Survey- Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey on Youth employment and participation**

Montenegrin version <http://bit.ly/1TAs0nT>

English version <http://bit.ly/1PYuC13>

- **GAP Analysis of strategic, legal and institutional framework related to youth employment and participation**

English version <http://bit.ly/21OkNX8>

- **MAF- Millenium Acceleration Framework**

Montenegrin version <http://bit.ly/1RDXHOE>

English version <http://bit.ly/1U2mCuw>

- **Evaluation of National Youth Action Plan (2006-2011)and Need assessment report for developing new National Youth Action Plan**

Montenegrin version <http://bit.ly/1OQ6X1h>

- **Recommendations for National Youth Action Plan**

Montenegrin version <http://bit.ly/1XuBqY9>