

Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH WORK in Armenia

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1. Context of youth work

Youth work in Armenia started after 1991, when Armenia was declared as a sovereign state and took the path of building a democratic, social and legal state. By 1991, nearly 70 years, Armenia was part of the USSR, where youth work played a major role. There were respective governmental structures, mechanisms, programmes and financing. However that work was highly ideological and political.

After the independence Armenia was in a difficult transition period and it was only since 1995 that state youth policy was implemented. There were no terms "Youth Worker", "Youth Work" in it, but the state actually supported youth work.

In 1990, non-governmental and international organizations began to operate in Armenia. The main target was youth and the goal was to support the solution of youth problems. During these years they have multiplied, expanded their activities.

The historical background and traditions of youth work in Armenia are partially reflected in the order of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of 2016 implemented «Research on Youth Work and Youth Worker. Study: Current State of Youth Work and its Development Perspectives ».

2015 The regulations of the Youth Worker Institute have been developed on the basis of numerous materials on local and international youth work experience.

2. Strategic and legislative framework of youth work

The concept of "Youth Worker" in the Republic of Armenia was officially incorporated in the State Youth Policy (SYP) in 2015 by the Concept of State Youth Policy 2015–2025 of the Republic of Armenia (RA Government Decree of 25 December 2014) where a youth worker is a subject of the SYP and is defined as follows: **"YOUTH WORKER: a person who carries out youth work (work with young people, groups of young people, or work which aims to address youth issues) to foster young people's personal, social and educational growth, to develop their full potential and help them to fully establish themselves in society. Youth worker is well aware of young people's real life, current local conditions, can assess the situation and needs of young people, choose and apply appropriate work methods, carry out an analysis of the impact of the work. He/she works with young people and youth groups, develops, implements and evaluates youth programs and projects, cooperates with interested persons, groups and organizations in various sectors."** Implementation of the Youth Worker Institute started in 2015 on the basis of the "Regulation of the Youth Worker Institute" approved by the RA Government Decree N 56 of December 24, 2015, which set out the goals and objectives of the Institute of Youth Workers in the Republic of Armenia, the scope of youth work activities, the system of training and training of youth workers. (an unofficial translation of the Regulation is attached).

Youth Worker Institute's Regulations

I. Introduction

1. Currently there is not any training system for youth workers in the Republic of Armenia, which has a negative impact on the effectiveness of youth state policy and implementation of youth state programs. In order to implement and effectively operate the system of youth workers in Armenia, it is necessary to regulate the goals and objectives of the Youth

Workers Institute, the sphere of activity of the youth worker, as well as the methods and tools for training and preparing the youth worker.

2. Youth Work has been an important factor in improving social and community life in many countries around the world over the past three decades. Since the independence of Armenia, a number of youth NGOs have begun to implement youth work.
3. The existence of a state program on youth work development will unite the efforts of state and individual organizations to support youth, will promote participation of youth in community affairs and the recognition of youth work.

II. General Provisions

4. This Regulation defines the purpose and objectives of the Youth Worker's Institute in the Republic of Armenia, the field of activity of the youth worker, the system of training and retraining of the youth worker.
5. Youth work is a tool for young man's personal development, social inclusion and active citizenship. It includes social, cultural, educational, civic and political events with youth, for youth and by youth. These are mostly out-of-school activities that are often informal.
6. One of the main tasks of youth work is to help youth build opportunities for their future.
7. Youth work can take a variety of formats and content ranging from youth centers, sporting events to social entrepreneurship, civic activism, leisure activities, and more.

III. Basic Concepts

8. The key terms used in this Regulation are:

- 1) Young man - 16-30 years old citizen of the Republic of Armenia, as well as 16-30 years old foreign citizens who live in Armenia and have right of residence in the Republic of Armenia, stateless persons, as well as refugees in the Republic of Armenia, if there are grounds established by law.
- 2) Youth non-governmental organization - those NGOs registered in the Republic of Armenia who, in accordance with their statutes, deal with youth affairs and / or carry out youth work.
- 3) Youth work - work with youth, youth groups or work aimed at solving youth problems.
- 4) Youth Worker - a person who carries out youth work to promote the personal, social and educational growth of young people, develop their potential and help young people to become fully integrated in society.

IV. The Aim and the Purpose

9. The aim of the Regulation is:

- 1) to promote the institutional development of youth work in Armenia based on the knowledge and skills acquired in this field, taking into account international experience
- 2) establish a youth worker institute

10. The purpose is:

- 1) ensuring the recognition of youth work at all levels
- 2) Continuous improvement of the skills and abilities of the youth worker
- 3) Ensuring increased youth work efficiency

V. Youth Work Activity

11. Youth worker aware of real life of youth, its local conditions, can assess the situation and the needs of young people, select and apply appropriate methods of work, conduct impact analysis of the work being done.
12. Youth Worker works with youth and youth groups, develops, implements and evaluates youth programs and projects, collaborates with stakeholders, groups and organizations in a variety of fields.
13. The youth worker actively participates in public processes, helps to increase the level of youth engagement and participation in public processes.

VI. Training and preparation of a youth worker

14. Training and preparation of a youth worker can be organized in combination with three educational methods: formal education modules, non-formal education and e-learning.
15. As youth work mainly uses the non-formal education toolkit, the training of professionals in this field should also be largely based on the application of non-formal education principles and methodological approaches.
16. Particular emphasis should also be placed on the combination of teaching and practical work, as the knowledge and methods gained can only be fully mastered in the case of practical work with different communities of youth in the field of youth.
17. The preparation of youth work professionals may include a basic course that will be organized in the form of long-term multidisciplinary training. The program will consist of several available courses, between which the participants will work on their

practical assignments, as well as undergo an e-learning course designed and built for the respective e-learning platform.

18. In addition to the basic course, thematic courses in the various areas of youth work can also be designed, as well as work with specific target groups and communities.

19. The process of training and preparation of the youth worker is organized and coordinated by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter: the Ministry).

20. Training and preparation procedure, the program and educational guide for the youth worker is developed by the Ministry.

21. Youth worker training and preparation program and the guide consist of a combination of youth worker and job research and international experience research.

22. The Ministry officially informs the relevant authorities about the training and preparation of youth worker, also makes an announcement on its official website indicating the application deadline, training days, and venue.

23. The youth worker must submit a relevant application to the Ministry for training and retraining. An autobiography is also attached.

24. Regular training of the youth worker is conducted once every three years.

25. According to the results of training and preparation, a certificate is issued to the youth worker. The form of the certificate is approved by the personal order of the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

26.The register of certificates issued to young workers as a result of training and preparation is maintained by the Ministry.

There are no state restrictions on beneficiaries of youth work, it applies to all young people:

The perceptions of youth workers about youth work are not very different from the state definition and while defining it, Ministry hold discussions with youth organizations, experts and researchers on this topic and took into account their opinion:

3. Recognition

Armenia takes first steps towards youth work recognition, which should be one of the steps of the investment of youth work system. There is no formal education and training system in our country yet. We are planning to implement "youth work" specialization programs in the higher education system. The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, which is now merging with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia, has implemented training programs for youth workers in 2016, 2017, including international experts. This year, two youth work programs are also planned - a training program with the participation of 4 international experts and under the CIS International Youth Cooperation 2018-2020 Program the following program is planned: Exchange of experience in training, retraining and advanced training of specialists in the field of "work with youth".

The ministry is also planning to incorporate the "youth worker" profession into the formal education system as a vocational training.

Information on youth work organizations and their programs is available on the Ministry's website www.erit.am, but in Armenian, as well as on the websites of those organizations.

Our country does not involved in any European or national initiatives supporting youth work.

4. Funding youth work

Half of the funds, allocated to the youth sector by the state budget of Armenia, are spent on youth worker training, NGO grants and NGO capacity building programs.

Financing of youth work is also funded by EU, Eastern Partnership, Erasmus +, European Youth Foundation, UN structures, other international organizations and other sources. However, these funds are mainly provided to NGOs and the Ministry does not have complete information on them. However, these funds are mainly provided to NGOs and the Ministry does not have complete information about them.

5. Structures, actors and levels in youth work provision

1. State structures/public authorities deciding on or providing youth work

Which government levels are involved in planning, supporting and delivering youth work? If there are separate agencies, please mention them here. Please include numbers of people or entities where data is available. The state body responsible for youth policy is the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia in the executive branch, which develops and implements sector policies.

Youth work is mainly carried out at national and local levels in the following areas and entities:

1. Youth NGO's, foundations, unions of legal entities
3. Youth Institutions affiliated to political parties
4. Unions and institutions affiliated to the educational institutions
5. Youth clubs, groups and associations
6. Institutions affiliated to Apostolic Church and religious organizations
7. Projects funded by the government
8. Projects funded by the international organizations
9. Projects funded by private companies

2. National or local youth councils

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3. Youth and youth work NGOs

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4. Other relevant actors

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6. Forms and examples of youth work in your country

There are no restriction of youth work in our country, it is done in youth centers, online, detached or outreach youth work, open youth work. Ministry, NGOs and international organizations are main actors in this regard.

The state supports all forms of youth work.

Here are 3 examples of successful youth employment practices in our country:

"Youth House" Open Youth Centre, Friday's café, Clubs, Hiking with YIC –

<https://yic.am/en/youth-house/>

Young Entrepreneurs for Community Growth - <http://apy.am/young-entrepreneurs-for-community-growth/.....>

Youth Clubs, Youth for development, Informal education tools fair, Social entrepreneurship - <http://kasa.am/hy/%D5%AF%D6%80%D5%A9%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%A9%D5%B5%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B6/>

7. Quality standards

There are no quality standards set by the State of the Youth Worker. Youth practitioners in our country are mainly guided by the EU and Council of Europe standards on youth work.

Together with the recognition of youth work, the Ministry plans to address the issue of youth work supervision and quality assurance.

8. Knowledge and data on youth work

On the initiative of different organizations youth work studies are carried out, however, there is no system of continuous documentation and study in our country.

In our country, there is no information on the number of young people using annual youth work, as there are no appropriate mechanisms until the youth work system is fully implemented. You can find an information about youth worker in msy.am, erit.am, yic.am , kasa.am, apy.am, <https://www.facebook.com/YPCNCO/>.

9. European and international dimension of youth work in the country

In developing and implementing youth employment policy in our country, we are also guided by international standards of youth work.

In our country there are many opportunities for international youth work for youth and youth workers, mainly within the framework of the relevant EU and CIS programs.

Since 2016, the Ministry has been conducting training courses for Youth Workers, with the participation of youth, youth groups, and representatives of organizations working to address youth issues, including international experts.

In 2018, with the support of the Council of Europe, the 50/50 format provided a training course "Say Your Word Together" with the participation of public authorities, local governments and NGOs and other representatives of civil society.

10. Current debates and open questions/policies on youth work

As we take the first steps towards establishing a youth worker institute, we have to do a lot in this regard:

The Ministry cooperates with sectoral bodies in all processes aimed at the establishment and development of the Youth Worker Institute. As the system evolves, there will be issues of competence in the field of youth work coordination and oversight, the correct solutions of which will only allow a modern youth work system.