

# Youth Partnership

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



## **CONTRIBUTION OF NON-PROGRAMME COUNTRIES TO EU YOUTH WIKI**

### **CHAPTER V: ARMENIA PARTICIPATION**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>5.1 GENERAL CONTEXT</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5.2 YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5.3 YOUTH REPRESENTATION BODIES</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.4 YOUNG PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION IN POLICY MAKING</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5.5 NATIONAL STRATEGY TO INCREASE YOUTH PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.6 SUPPORTING YOUTH ORGANISATIONS</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5.7 “LEARNING TO PARTICIPATE” THROUGH FORMAL, NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>5.8 RAISING POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5.9 E-PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>5.10 CURRENT DEBATES AND REFORMS</b>	<b>28</b>

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## 5.1 GENERAL CONTEXT

### Main concepts

Promotion of youth participation in political, economic and cultural life is one of the main objectives of state policy in the economic, social and cultural spheres.<sup>1</sup> The legal and policy framework for youth participation in the Republic of Armenia (RA) is composed of the Constitution of the RA (Constitution), the Law of the RA on the Rights of the Child, the Law of the RA on Education, the Law of the RA on General Education, the Law of the RA on Local Self-Government, the Concept of Youth State Policy of the RA for 2015-2025 and other legal Acts. According to the Statistical Committee of the RA, young people in Armenia made up 709 617 or about 27% of the total population as of 2016.<sup>2</sup>

The constitutional referendum held on 6 December 2015 changed the country's system of governance from a semi-presidential to a parliamentary regime. Mass peaceful anti-government protests, the so-called “Velvet revolution”, where young people played a vital role, started in April 2018 and resulted in a change of political power in May 2018. The extraordinary parliamentary elections were held in December 2018. After formation of the National Assembly, the President of the RA appointed the Prime Minister proposed by the majority of the National Assembly and the government was formed within a period of 15 days following the appointment of the prime minister. Before June 2019, [the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of the RA](#) constituted the main authority in charge of drafting and implementation of youth policies in Armenia. The changes in the government structure<sup>3</sup> reduced the number of ministries from 17 to 12 and the number of deputy prime ministers from 3 to 2. As a result, the RA Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs merged with the RA Ministry of Science and Education into [the Ministry of Science, Education, Culture and Sport of the RA](#). Although the proposed amendments, especially exclusion of the word “youth” from the name of the ministry, raised concerns among the youth NGOs and activists, youth activists emphasised the importance of content rather than form.

### Institutions of representative democracy

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<sup>1</sup> Article 86(12) of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Sahmanadrutyun) adopted through a referendum on 5 July 1995 and amended through a referendum on 27 November 2005 and 6 December 2015, available at [www.president.am/en/constitution-2015/](http://www.president.am/en/constitution-2015/), accessed 15 August 2019.

<sup>2</sup> The 2018-2022 Draft Strategy on Youth Policy (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Eritasaradkan Petakan Qaghaqakanutyun 2018-2022 Razmavarutyun Naxagits).

<sup>3</sup> The amendments and supplements to the law [“On the Structure and Functions of the Government of Republic of Armenia”](#) entered into force on 1 June 2019, accessed 17 June 2019. The main purpose of the amendments is to increase effectiveness of the state administration system by reducing the number of state administration bodies.

The [Constitution of the RA](#) (Constitution) embodies the principle of separation and balance of powers. State power is divided between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary.

Judicial power is exercised by courts. The justice system consists of the [Constitutional Court](#), the Court of Cassation,<sup>4</sup> courts of appeal, courts of first instance of general jurisdiction, as well as the Administrative Court. The [Supreme Judicial Council](#) is an independent state body which guarantees independence of the courts and judges.

The [National Assembly](#) (NA) is the representative body of the people which implements the legislative power. It exercises supervision over the executive power, adopts the state budget, ratifies, suspends and revokes international treaties and performs other functions prescribed by the Constitution. The NA is composed of at least 101 deputies elected for a term of five years through a two-tier proportional electoral system: a closed national list and 13 open district lists and, additionally, up to four seats are reserved for the four largest national minorities. A deputy, a faction of the NA and the government have the right to legislative initiative. Laws, NA decisions, statements and addresses, except for the cases prescribed by the Constitution, are adopted by the majority of votes of the deputies participating in the voting, provided that more than half the total number of deputies have participated in the voting. The NA establishes [standing committees](#) for preliminary review of draft laws and other issues and for submission of opinions/conclusions thereon to the NA, as well as for the exercise of parliamentary supervision.<sup>5</sup> Currently, there are 11 standing committees.<sup>6</sup> Youth issues are within the sphere of the activities of the [Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Diaspora, Youth and Sport](#).

The [President of the Republic](#) (president) is the head of state and is elected by the NA for a term of seven years. The president signs and promulgates laws adopted by the NA, makes changes in the composition of the government, concludes international treaties, appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives to foreign states and international organisations, approves, suspends or revokes international treaties not requiring ratification, confers the highest diplomatic ranks, appoints and dismisses the supreme command of the armed forces and of other troops, decides on issues in respect of granting and terminating citizenship of the RA, and on the issue of granting pardon to convicts, as well as performing other duties prescribed by the Constitution.<sup>7</sup>

The [Government of the Republic of Armenia](#) (government) as a supreme body of the executive power develops and implements the domestic and foreign policies of the state and exercises general management of the bodies of the state administration system. It is

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<sup>4</sup> The supreme court instance except for the field of constitutional justice.

<sup>5</sup> Article 88-119 of the Constitution.

<sup>6</sup> Standing Committees of the NA, available at [www.parliament.am/committees.php?lang=eng](http://www.parliament.am/committees.php?lang=eng), accessed 10 June 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Article 123-136 of the Constitution.

composed of the prime minister (PM), deputy prime ministers and ministers. The PM is elected by parliamentary majority and appointed by the president. The PM proposes to the president candidates for deputy prime ministers and ministers. The PM determines the main directions of policy of the government, manages the activities of the government and coordinates the work of the members of the government. The members of the government, as well as the government, are entitled to adopt secondary regulatory legal acts. The government implements a single state policy on financial and economic, credit and tax matters. The government submits a report for each year to the NA in respect of the implementation process of its programme and the results thereof.<sup>8</sup>

The bodies of the state administration system are the ministries, as well as other bodies subordinate to the government, the PM and ministries.<sup>9</sup> The government implements its territorial policy in marzes (regions) through marz governors who are appointed and dismissed by the government. Marz governors co-ordinate the activities of the territorial subdivisions of state administration bodies, except for the cases prescribed by law.<sup>10</sup> Local self-governance (LSG) is the right and capacity of LSG bodies to decide, under their own responsibility, on public issues of community importance – in the interests of residents of the community. Local self-government bodies are the Council of Elders and the head of community elected for a term of five years. LSG is exercised in communities.<sup>11</sup> Residents of a community may directly participate in the administration of community affairs, by resolving public issues of community importance through a local referendum.<sup>12</sup> LSG bodies have their own powers, for the purpose of performing the mandatory and voluntary tasks of a community, as well as those delegated by the state. The mandatory tasks of a community shall be prescribed by law, whereas voluntary tasks shall be prescribed upon decisions of the Council of Elders of a community. The Council of Elders of a community adopts secondary regulatory legal acts subject to enforcement within the territory of the community. The head of community executes the decisions of the Council of Elders of the community, and carries out the general management of the staff of the community.<sup>13</sup> The administrative-territorial units of the RA are the marzes and the communities.<sup>14</sup> The marzes comprise rural and urban communities. Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, is a community. The territory of Armenia is divided into 10 marzes.<sup>15</sup>

Elections of the NA and of community councils of elders, as well as referenda, are held on the basis of universal, equal, free and direct suffrage, by secret ballot.<sup>16</sup> Elections are

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<sup>8</sup> Article 146-156 of the Constitution.

<sup>9</sup> Article 159 of the Constitution.

<sup>10</sup> Article 160 of the Constitution.

<sup>11</sup> Article 179 of the Constitution.

<sup>12</sup> Article 183 of the Constitution.

<sup>13</sup> Article 182 of the Constitution.

<sup>14</sup> Article 121 of the Constitution.

<sup>15</sup> Aragatsotn Marz, Ararat Marz, Armavir Marz, Gegharkunik Marz, Lori Marz, Kotayk Marz, Shirak Marz, Syunik Marz, Vayots Dzor Marz and Tavush Marz.

<sup>16</sup> Article 7 of the Constitution.

administered by a three-tier system comprising the Central Election Commission, Territorial Election Commissions and Precinct Election Commissions.

## 5.2 YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

### Young people as voters

Citizens of the RA having attained the age of 18 on the day of an election to the NA, or on the day of a referendum, have the right to elect and the right to participate in the referendum. Everyone who has attained the age of 25, has held citizenship of only the RA for the preceding four years, and has been permanently residing in Armenia for the preceding four years, has the right of suffrage and has command of the Armenian language, may be elected as a deputy of the NA. Armenian citizens having attained the age of 18 on the day of election or referendum shall have the right to elect and be elected during the elections of local self-government bodies, and the right to participate in a local referendum. Persons declared as having no active legal capacity by a court decision, as well as persons sentenced and those serving the sentence for a grave criminal offence committed intentionally, shall not be entitled to elect or be elected or participate in a referendum. Persons sentenced and those serving the sentence for other criminal offences shall not be entitled to elect either.<sup>17</sup> Prisoners convicted for lesser offences are no longer disenfranchised. Judges, prosecutors, military personnel, police officers, other categories of civil servants and election commissioners may not stand as candidates.

At present, there is no plan to lower the voting age limit. Neither [the Constitutional Law of the RA on Electoral Code](#) nor [the Constitutional Law of the RA on Political Parties](#) constitute any quota for seats reserved for young people or provision aimed at facilitating young people standing as a political candidate.

According to the [RA CEC](#) as of 9 December 2018 (parliamentary elections) the total number of voters was 2 593 140, out of which the number of registered voters was 2 591 276 and the total number of voters who voted was 1 261 105 (48.66%).<sup>18</sup> As regards the Referendum on Amendments to the Constitution of the RA (6 December 2015), the total number of citizens entitled to participate in the referendum was 2 566 733, the number of citizens included in the basic lists of referendum participants was 2 547 916 and the number of participants of voting was 1 302 368.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Article 48 of the Constitution.

<sup>18</sup> The RA CEC, results of the 2018 Parliamentary Elections, available at <https://www.elections.am/parliamentary/>, accessed 9 June 2019.

<sup>19</sup> The RA CEC, results of the 2015 Referendum, available at <https://www.elections.am/referendum/election-26015/>, accessed 9 June 2019.

At present, there is no available data on youth participation in the recent (December 2018) elections or research on youth's attitude towards the post-2018 political development. The ODIHR Election Observation Mission in its Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions concluded that the elections (the 2018 parliamentary elections) “were held with respect for fundamental freedoms and enjoyed broad public trust that needs to be preserved through further electoral reforms”.<sup>20</sup>

However, in regard to previous elections (before 2018), the research “**Independence Generation**” (Armenia), conducted in 2016,<sup>21</sup> shows quite a low level of trust among youth in Armenia towards the former political regime. According to the research findings:

77.1% of the respondents are interested in the political events taking place in Armenia (22.3% are very interested, 54.8% are interested), but a significant number of them (24.6%) [would not be] prepared to take part in the NA elections if they were held now. It should be noted that 70.9% of the respondents have the right to vote. Moreover, over half (51.4% of those who have the right to vote) have always participated in elections, while 14.4% have never participated. Young people's level of trust in the elected bodies is fairly low; in particular, 51.7% do not trust the ruling political parties at all. If there were NA elections today, 51.4% of young people living in rural areas are certain which party they would vote for, while only 35.1% of those in urban areas are decided. The higher the respondents' level of education, the less inclined they are to vote for any party and/or participate in the NA elections. Many respondents were also pessimistic about the voice and issues of youth being taken into account. 31.3% think that national governing bodies – such as the NA and the Armenian Government – do not take their voice into account at all, while 25.8% think the same about local government bodies. Furthermore, according to 43.6% of the respondents, their voice has no significance on the outcome of political elections, and 22.7% think it has little significance.

### **Young people as political representatives**

A person registered as a candidate for deputy, for the period of having the status of a candidate for deputy, as well as an elected deputy, before assuming the powers of a deputy, shall not be subject to be called for drills or military trainings or to be drafted for compulsory military service.<sup>22</sup> Every citizen shall have the right to establish a political party together with other citizens and the right to join any political party. Judges, prosecutors and investigators may not be members of a political party. The law may prescribe restrictions on the right to establish a political party and the right to join any political party for servicemen of the armed

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<sup>20</sup> Available at [www.osce.org/odihr/elections/armenia/413555?download=true](http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/armenia/413555?download=true), accessed 12 June 2019.

<sup>21</sup> “Independence Generation” Youth Study 2016 – Armenia, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Yerevan, 2016, pp. 49-57. Available at <https://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/georgien/13149.pdf>, accessed 7 July 2019. The research is based on a countrywide representative survey that was conducted from February to March 2016 in Armenia, among young people aged between 14 and 29. 1 200 young people from various regions of Armenia.

<sup>22</sup> Article 90(2) of the Constitutional Law of the RA on Electoral Code (HH Yntrakan Orensgirq HH Sahmanadrakan Orenqy), adopted on 25 May 2016, last amended on 13 June 2018, available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=123532](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=123532), accessed 10 June 2019.

forces, national security, the police and other militarised bodies.<sup>23</sup> Armenian citizens having attained the age of 18 and having legal capacity are eligible for being members of a political party.<sup>24</sup>

According to the NGO [Parliament Monitoring](#), out of 132 deputies at the NA of the RA of the 7th convocation there are currently 15 deputies under the age of 30 (approximately 11.3%). The average age of deputies in the current term is 40. There are 46 deputies under the age of 35, 54 deputies under the age of 35-45 and 32 deputies above the age of 45.<sup>25</sup> Women's representation at the NA of the 7th convocation is only 32 (24% women).<sup>26</sup> The current government (in 2019) has two members at the age of 28-30 out of 15; one deputy prime minister and one minister. Out of 10 marz governors there are currently 3 (30%) who are under the age of 30.<sup>27</sup> Out of 65 members of the Council of Elders (Yerevan) only 13 (20%) are under the age of 30.<sup>28</sup>

## 5.3 YOUTH REPRESENTATION BODIES

### Youth parliament

At present, there is no youth parliament in Armenia. The [Youth Parliament](#), founded in 2004 under the Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture and Youth Affairs of the NA, was registered as an NGO in 2005 and stopped its operation later on.<sup>29</sup> Children and youth participation in the National Assembly sessions are very rare. During recent years, special sittings dedicated to Universal Children's Day (on 20 November) are organised by UNICEF Armenia and the NA. During the events, children aged 14-18 "took over" the parliament and sent powerful messages on important issues such as children's needs in education, health, nutrition and social inclusion, as well as the need to end violence to deputies, government ministers and the general public. Occasionally, schoolchildren or students, within the framework of the Open Doors programme at the invitation of the deputies, are hosted at the NA and take part in Q&A sessions.

### Youth Councils and/or youth advisory bodies

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<sup>23</sup> Article 46 of the Constitution.

<sup>24</sup> Article 12(2), The Constitutional Law of the RA on Political Parties (Kusakcutyunneri Masin Sahmanadrakan Orenq) adopted by NA on 16 December 2016, available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=110534](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=110534), accessed 14 June 2019.

<sup>25</sup> Data provided by Parliament Monitoring NGO.

<sup>26</sup> Monitoring of the NA, 7th Convocation, 1st Session, 1st report, p. 19, 2019, available at [www.parliamentmonitoring.am/assets/files/report/1556837700.pdf](http://www.parliamentmonitoring.am/assets/files/report/1556837700.pdf), accessed 10 June 2019.

<sup>27</sup> See the RA Government website, [www.gov.am/en/regions/](http://www.gov.am/en/regions/), accessed 19 June 2019.

<sup>28</sup> Yerevan Municipality official website, [www.yerevan.am/en/alderman-staff/](http://www.yerevan.am/en/alderman-staff/), accessed 19 June 2019.

<sup>29</sup> See section 1.4, Youth Policy Decision Making, p. 9, Youth Policy Governance for Armenia, December 2017.

It should be noted that some of the youth organisations are either closed or inactive at present. The [National Youth Policy Council adjunct to the Prime Minister of the RA](#)<sup>30</sup> was set up with a view to contributing to the design and implementation of national youth policy, encouraging youth involvement in different spheres of public life and assisting youth organisations with their activities. However, there is a need to review the function of the Council and its list of members<sup>31</sup> as it has not been active since 2013<sup>32</sup> taking into account the changes in the government structure.

[Youth Councils adjunct to the Governors \(Marzpets\)](#)<sup>33</sup> were established to ensure youth participation in various spheres of public life, to support and promote development and implementation of youth state policy in the marzes (regions) and to promote activities of youth organisations.<sup>34</sup> The councils' functions include, but are not limited to, raising the effectiveness of youth policy in the marzes, and ensuring co-operation between state, regional and community bodies on youth issues; assessing youth policy in the marzes and submitting recommendations to the governor (Marzpet); discussion of regional and community programmes related to youth issues, creating favourable conditions for youth participation in various fields of public life, discussion of educational, social, health, environmental, legal and other issues related to youth and submission of recommendations to the governor and others. The councils are formed for a period of two years; upon expiry of this term new councils are formed. Each council is composed of two representatives (one from the state body (usually deputy head of community or head of staff), the other, aged 16-30, from the NGO sector) from each city and community (in case the population is more than 3 500) of that respective region. The chair of the council is the marzpet (governor) and the secretary of the council is an NGO representative. The council meets on a quarterly basis.

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<sup>30</sup> The RA Prime Minister Decision N785-A of 17 September 2009 on Establishing the National Youth Policy Council adjunct to the Prime Minister of the RA and Approving its Statute (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Varchapetin Arynter Azgayin Eritasardakan Qaghaqakanutyun Khorhurd Steghtselu ev Kanonadrutyuny Hastatelu Masin HH Varchapeti Voroshumy N785-A, 17 Septemberi 2009 t.)

<sup>31</sup> Decision of the Prime Minister of the RA N686-A of 27 July 2012 on Amending and Supplementing the Decisions of the Prime Minister of the RA N785-A of 17 September 2009 and N29-A of 21 January 2010 (HH Varchapeti 2009 tvakani Septemberi 17-i N785-A ev 2010 tvakani Hunvari 21-i N29-A voroshumnerum Popokhutyuner ev Lracumner Katarelu Masin N686-A Voroshumy, 27 hwulisi 2012t.).

<sup>32</sup> More information about the Council can be found in section 1.3, National Youth Strategy, p. 6, Youth Policy Governance for Armenia, December 2017.

<sup>33</sup> Decision of the RA Prime Minister N85-A of 10 February 2014 on Approving Statute of the Youth Council adjunct to the Governor (Marzpet), Statute (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Marzpetin Arynter Eritasardakan Khorhrdi Orinakeli Kanonadrutyuny Hastatelu Masin HH Varchapeti Voroshumy N85-A, 10 Petrvari 2014 t.)

<sup>34</sup> Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N1693-N of 27 December 2012 on Approving the 2013-2017 Strategy and Action Plan for the Youth State Policy of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun karavarutyun voroshumy Hayastani Hanrapetutyun eritasardakan petakan qaghaqakanutyun 2013-2017 tvakanneri razmavarutyuny ev mijocarumnaeri tsragiry hastatelu masin, 27 dektemberi 2012 tvakani N1693-N), available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=80598](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=80598), accessed 16 June 2019.

The [Armenian Youth Foundation](#)'s<sup>35</sup> (AYF) regional centres (10) started operating in 2011. The mission of the centres was aimed at organising and implementing youth state policy programmes in their respective marzes (regions); organising multi-stakeholder discussions, seminars, meetings; co-operating with community councils, marzpetarans and NGOs; identifying and solving issues relating to youth; promoting youth activism and strengthening youth organisations, ensuring youth participation in different spheres, as well as developing skills and abilities of youth in regions through different (health, educational, environmental, cultural, sport, socio-economic and intellectual) programmes, activities and trainings. The AYF and its regional centres are state-funded. However, the AYF and its regional centres should stop operating in September 2019.

The National Youth Council of Armenia,<sup>36</sup> which is an umbrella organisation for over 70 youth organisations from different sectors and a full member of the European Youth Forum, has not been active since 2017. Due to the recent changes in the government structure, the Youth Events Holding Centre SNCO,<sup>37</sup> responsible for implementation of programmes developed by the former MSY, and the Youth Studies Institute NGO,<sup>38</sup> responsible for youth-related studies, research and youth policy monitoring and evaluation, stopped operating.

The [Federation of Youth Clubs of Armenia](#) was founded in 1999 and unites more than 100 youth clubs, organisations, centres, projects and initiatives. The organisation's mission is to raise the role of the youth in the country and in the strengthening of civil society, consolidating youth clubs. The supreme body of the organisation is the conference, which is convened once every two years. The current superintendence implements the elected presidency headed by the president (of the organisation) and the executive body is the secretariat with the leadership of the general secretary. FYCA has regional co-ordinators in each region of Armenia.

According to the [Report on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2013-2017 Strategy of State Youth Policy of the RA](#)<sup>39</sup> conducted by Youth Studies Institute and Youth Events Holding Centre in 2016, "the lack of participation platforms at national, regional and local levels are underlined both in research studies and in expert interviews. This means that national youth councils do not operate, youth councils attached to regional administration have limited involvement and are passive." The report highlights:

the lack of awareness and knowledge among a large number of young people relating to the public administration system, to the participation opportunities in decision-making in the

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<sup>35</sup> See more about the Council in section 1.4, Youth Policy Decision Making, p. 9, Youth Policy Governance for Armenia, December 2017.

<sup>36</sup> See Youth Policy Governance Armenia, section 1.4.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, section 1.6.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> See page 79 of the Report.

community and to human rights. The importance of enhancing youth participation in the level of decision-making in communities is emphasised in the research on Youth Situation in Rural Communities. In the case of having free time young people do not spend it on solving community problems, and they do not have the abilities and desire to suggest ideas and implement them. The lack of motivation for social life participation is partially due to the scepticism towards state institutions and the lack of information.<sup>40</sup>

It is noted that:

stereotyped perceptions, the absence of certain target activities and integration issues hinder the involvement and participation of vulnerable groups, such as young people with disabilities, those who returned from detention or compulsive medical treatment, LGBT groups, young people without parental care, Syrian-Armenian refugees, youth living in remote villages, women living in regions and particularly in villages, extremely poor people and others. The involvement of the youth of ethnic minorities in youth events organised by the government was also highlighted.<sup>41</sup>

The above-mentioned issues related to participation were addressed in the draft Youth State Policy Strategy for 2019-2022.

### **Higher education student union(s) and school student union(s)**

The establishment of higher education student union(s) are regulated by laws. The [Law of the RA on Higher and Postgraduate Professional Education](#)<sup>42</sup> provides that:

the learners at a higher education institution may unite within student councils, student scientific societies and other student organisations. The procedure for the establishment and of the rules of procedure of student councils and scientific student societies are approved by the authorised public administration body for education. The activities of student councils and student scientific societies are financed through extra-budgetary means of the higher education institution. The amount of financing is defined by the management board of the higher education institution.<sup>43</sup>

The [Law of the RA on Education](#)<sup>44</sup> states that:

The academic and teaching staff, research workers and students (trainees, attendees) of higher education institutions shall enjoy academic freedoms. They shall be entitled to participate in

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> The Law on Higher and Postgraduate Professional Education (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Orenqy Bardraguyn ev Hetbuhakan Masnagitakan Krtutyán Masin), adopted by the NA on 14 December 2004, last amended on 3 February 2016.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid, Article 17(7).

<sup>44</sup> The Law of the RA on Education (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Orenqy Krtutyán Masin) adopted by NA on 14 April 1999, last amended on 27 March 2019.

the discussion of all issues related to the activities of the university and in the activities of elective bodies. At least 25% of the total number of members in the management bodies of higher education institutions shall comprise students who shall be nominated and elected by the elective and self-governing student representative body of the relevant level, i.e. by the Student Council. The Statute of the Student Council of a higher education institution shall be approved by the authorised public administration body for education.<sup>45</sup>

The [Law of the RA on General Education](#)<sup>46</sup> provides that:

For the purpose of effective organisation of the educational activities of an educational institution, advisory bodies, i.e. pedagogical, parental, pupil councils, subject related methodology units shall be established, the procedure for the establishment and the competences whereof shall be defined by the Statute of an educational institution. The members of the pupil council shall participate in the management of an educational institution in an advisory capacity.<sup>47</sup>

The recent [Report on “Young Voices” Survey Results](#) conducted by Save the Children in Armenia, World Vision in Armenia and the RA Human Rights Defender Office in 2017<sup>48</sup> highlighted the following findings:

Relating to awareness:

82% of respondents stated that they do agree that children’s opinion should be important for politicians and decision-makers; 70% of children stated that they learned of child rights in schools, 54% mentioned that they are aware of the UN Convention on the Child Right, only 32% mentioned that they learned about the UN CRC in schools; 82% of surveyed children have been able to express their views about issues that concern them, within the family during the last year, whereas only 26% of them were given an opportunity to speak about the community issues. According to the survey data 7 out of 10 children (70%) reported that they learned of child rights at schools. More than half of the respondents (54%) gave an affirmative answer regarding their awareness on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Based on the evidence it might be stated that participants of both survey and focus groups were mainly aware of their basic rights. Respondents were able to list several child rights with the majority naming at least three basic rights of a child. These figures were one of the most inspiring and surprising findings of the survey. However, only 32% mentioned that it is at the school that they were presented the Convention. This means that the primary source of information about the Convention is not the school, which is a case for education sector

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<sup>45</sup> Ibid, Articles 1, 28(10).

<sup>46</sup> The Law of the RA on General Education (Hayastani Hanrapetutyun Orenqy Hanakrtutyun Masin), adopted by NA on 10 July 2009, last amended on 21 June 2018.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid, Article 10(5-6).

<sup>48</sup> The target group of the respondents were schoolchildren of three main age groups: 12, 14 and 16 years old attending respectively 7th, 9th and 11th grades of public schools. A total of 1 200 schoolchildren from urban and rural communities participated in Young Voices Armenia. The survey was implemented in all 10 regions of Armenia and Yerevan; in total 67 schools were selected in urban and rural communities across the country.

policy-makers to consider strengthening the curricula on human rights, with particular focus on this fundamental document on child rights.<sup>49</sup>

#### Relating to participation and influence:

64% of children are convinced that they should influence education/school issues and 76% of respondents would like more influence, and opportunities to affect the issues that concern them; 80% of surveyed children want to have more influence and more opportunities to affect their entertainment and out-of-school activities and 58 of them insist on improvement of space for entertainment activities within the school infrastructure. 8 out of 10 respondents (80%) declared that they want more influence on issues that affect them. Children usually have no formal opportunities to make their voices heard. Only 26% of children think that they were given an opportunity to speak about the community issues, whereas 82% of surveyed children mentioned that they were able to express their views about the family issues during the previous year. It is also worth mentioning that as the age of respondents increases, the percentage of “Yes, there are many opportunities to express your opinion to decision makers” also increases. More than 6 out of 10 respondents were unaware of their school’s development plan.<sup>50</sup>

There’s a significant lack of awareness regarding membership in School Student Council:

41% didn’t know whether they could become School Student Council member, while 44% were sure it’s an easy task. Nearly half of the respondents (50%) told that their parents could easily become a member of School Parent Council, while 42% of those unaware of the process. The figures may be attributed to the lack of awareness among children on the school governance system, including Parent, Teacher’s and Children’s Councils, as well as their mandates and procedures for memberships and can be addressed via an awareness campaign. 64% of children were quite convinced that they could influence education/school issues. Besides, 76% of respondents would like more influence, and opportunities to give their views on issues that concern them.<sup>51</sup>

According to the information received from the child protection unit of the RA Human Rights Defender Office, the latter conducts training in schools on how to form and actively participate in councils’ work.

Although the role of the Student Council is in ensuring self-governance, supporting development and improvement of learning processes, advocating student’s rights and raising educational and other issues, the [Report on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2013-2017 Strategy of State Youth Policy of the RA](#) highlighted some obstacles. According to the results of the monitoring:

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<sup>49</sup> Ibid, see pp. 9, 11-12.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid, see pp. 11-12.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid, see pp. 20-21.

...young people participating in focus groups (FG) discussions mentioned that sometimes government ensures artificial participation by using the youth for political purposes. This problem is more actual for the youth in regions. The FG participants representing a student group of Yerevan stress that there are no young people even in the Governing Council of universities which means that the youth voice is not properly taken into account here as well ... student councils are politicised which means that the platforms uniting the youth and making their voice audible for decision-makers do not exist or are not sufficiently effective.<sup>52</sup>

Participation platforms in the educational system need serious improvement. The current student and schoolchildren unions are of formal character and do not serve their purposes, in some cases due to lack of awareness. Currently, student councils are in the process of reform, and besides the formal student councils, informal student councils/self-organised bodies have been also formed.<sup>53</sup>

### **Other bodies**

In 2017, the “Restart” civic initiative was created and later on it was registered as an NGO by a group of students from different universities with a view to implementing reforms (de-politicising and making transparent student councils) in the universities. The goal of the initiative is to identify the problems facing universities and to contribute to their solution, as well as to create a system of higher education that will provide quality education, objective assessment criteria and a link with the labour market. At present, “Restarts” implements various public-civil activities by promoting informal education, forming platforms for discussion of public issues, participating in observation missions and encouraging informed participation in universities.

## **5.4 YOUNG PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION IN POLICY MAKING**

There is no specific legal provision or policy guideline on youth consultation; however, there are several legal acts referring to consultation mechanisms. According to the Constitution, at least 50 000 citizens having the right of suffrage shall be entitled to propose, upon popular initiative, a draft law to the National Assembly.<sup>54</sup> Residents of a community may directly participate in the administration of community affairs, by resolving public issues of community importance through a local referendum. The procedure for holding a local referendum, as well as other ways of direct participation of residents of a community in the administration of community affairs, shall be prescribed by law.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> See page 79.

<sup>53</sup> Participation Platform in Education, Policy Brief by M Galstyan, Civic Education Initiative, 2018.

<sup>54</sup> Article 109.6.

<sup>55</sup> Article 183.

In particular, legal framework for consultation mechanisms include the Law of the RA on Local Referendum,<sup>56</sup> the Law of the RA on Regulatory Legal Acts, which sets the requirement for public discussion and consultation, and the Decision of the Government establishing detailed procedure for arranging and carrying out public discussions, including publication of the draft legal acts on a unified website [www.e-draft.am](http://www.e-draft.am) (for more information, please see section 5.9), Decision of the Elders Council of the city of Yerevan of the RA N45-N of 10 September 2013 on Approving the Procedure for Organising and Conducting Open Public Hearings and (or) Discussions and Providing Information regarding it to the Elders Council of the city of Yerevan.<sup>57</sup> The Law of the RA on Local Self-Government<sup>58</sup> also stipulates participation of community residents in local public life;<sup>59</sup> however, it should be reviewed with regard to youth participation.

Additionally, the [Law of the RA on Education](#) (Article 28.1) provides that “students are entitled to participate in the discussion of all issues related to the activities of the university and in the activities of elective bodies”. The [Law of the RA on General Education](#) (Article 20.6) provides that “a student has the right to participate in the management of the educational institution as prescribed by the Statute of the educational institution”, and the [Law of the RA on Higher and Postgraduate Professional Education](#) (Article 17.3) provides that the student at the higher education institution is entitled to take part in the activities of relevant management bodies of the higher education institution. However, neither guideline nor mechanism or procedure for consultation is provided.

There is no official data on young’s people participation in consultation processes. For information on the extent of youth participation, please see section 5.3.

### **Large-scale initiatives for dialogue or debate between public institutions and young people**

There are different projects, programmes and initiatives implemented by former MYSA that include consultation mechanisms. Examples include the discussion and development of the draft Strategy on Youth State Policy for 2018-2022 with the involvement of state and local self-government bodies, youth non-governmental organisations, youth workers, youth and other legal entities and individuals; the dissemination and organisation (online) discussion of the International Strategy for Youth Cooperation of the CIS Member States in 2021-2030; the online grants system <http://cragrer.am/> allowing youth NGOs, youth workers and youth to register on the website in order to apply for or to evaluate state grant

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<sup>56</sup> HH Orenqy Teghakan Hnaraqvei Masin, adopted on 13 June 2018.

<sup>57</sup> HH Yerevan Qaghaqi Avaganu Voroshumy Hnarayin Bac Lsumneri ev (kam) Qnnarkumneri Kazmakerpamn ev Anckacman ev Dranc Veraberyal Yerevan Qaghaqi Avaganun Teghekatvutyun Tramadrelu Kargy Hastatelu Masin, adopted on 10 September 2013, last amended on 31 October 2017. Available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=117054](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=117054), accessed 19 June 2019.

<sup>58</sup> HH Orenqy Teghakan Inqnakaravarman Masin, adopted on 7 May 2002, last amended on 11 September 2018. Available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docid=1109](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docid=1109), accessed 19 June 2019.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid, Article 11.

programmes; the “Armenian Youth Capital of the Year” contest, which aims to contribute to the drafting and implementation of youth programmes in communities, to develop partnership between the cities in the youth policy field as well as youth organisations and infrastructure in marzes and others.

In June 2019, the Yerevan Municipality launched the [Active Citizen](#) electronic platform, which allows the residents of Yerevan to present their projects through the platform. The projects selected by the residents of Yerevan will be implemented by the municipality. At the same time, this platform is a means of getting informed of citizens’ concerns, of searching for solutions, as well as of holding electronic referendums. The [Public Transport Reform Platform](#) of the city of Yerevan was created to ensure awareness and civic participation in the reform process.

From 2017 to 2018, the Centre for Strategic Initiatives with technical and financial support from the European Union implemented the “Young Experts Scheme – Armenia” (YES Armenia) programme,<sup>60</sup> which aims to support the development and implementation of strategic initiatives and key reform projects. Twenty-one young Armenians and Armenian citizens (aged 25-35) were offered a training and skills development and mentoring/coaching programme and had the opportunity to work in and for ministries, government agencies, and other government institutions for 12 months on government priority projects. The list of sectors/projects included support for the establishment of a new governance model for public schools, development of the tourism sector, development and operationalisation of the digital economy, establishment of a public-private partnership system, support for agricultural, energy, health, environment, development of investment projects, and other projects in government priority areas. The young experts also participated in the development of around half a dozen laws and many by-laws, including developing government decisions. The continuation and scaling up of the “YES Armenia” programme, whether also to include support to local authorities, is currently under discussion.<sup>61</sup>

## 5.5 NATIONAL STRATEGY TO INCREASE YOUTH PARTICIPATION

### **Existence of a national strategy to increase young people’s political and civil society participation**

One of the goals of the [new government’s programme](#)<sup>62</sup> (adopted in 2019) for the next five years in relation to youth participation is to increase youth social, political, civil, socio-

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<sup>60</sup> Available at <http://eunewsletter.am/yes-armenia-programme-concludes/>, accessed 15 July 2019.

<sup>61</sup> See more about the programme [www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/news/yes-armenia-programme-concludes-beneficiaries-discuss-its-results](http://www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/news/yes-armenia-programme-concludes-beneficiaries-discuss-its-results), accessed 10 June 2019.

<sup>62</sup> Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N65-A of 8 February 2019 on Approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Karavarutyán

economic and cultural participation and to develop necessary mechanisms for the solution of youth employment and socio-economic issues. With regard to youth participation, however, the government's programme does not set any deadline, indicator, number or roadmap to show or measure how this goal will be achieved.

Youth participation in socio-political, socio-economic and cultural life and its promotion is one of the main principles of the [Concept of State Youth Policy](#)<sup>63</sup> (Concept).

### **Scope and contents**

The concept defines the subjects, the long-term goal (2015-2025), objectives, principles and directions of the State Youth Policy.<sup>64</sup> The concept defines participation as “direct and indirect involvement of young people, active youth groups, as well as youth NGOs in the decision making in all areas of social life”.<sup>65</sup> The concept of “involvement” implies the following levels: awareness, participation in the “public consultation”, participation in the decision-making process, and programme initiation and monitoring by beneficiaries. Membership of citizens in public institutions is another criterion for participation. In recent years, the number of young people involved in civic initiatives has increased. The concept attaches great importance to promotion of youth participation as one of the key actors in civic activism. The government attaches particular importance to ensuring and promoting involvement of rural youth and youth NGOs, implementation of target-based programmes to ensure young people's access to information in rural areas, development of mechanisms for partnership among young people, development of institutional mechanisms, as well as material and financial support by the state for youth NGOs for implementing projects within the State Youth Policy framework. It also highlights the importance of voluntary work by young people with regard to promoting youth participation in Armenia's socio-political, socio-economic, cultural life, and increasing competitiveness of young people in the labour market.<sup>66</sup>

Starting from 2006 to 2017 three Youth State Policy Strategies<sup>67</sup> (2006-2008; 2008-2012; 2013-2017<sup>68</sup>) had been developed and implemented. One of the main themes of the

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Voroshumy Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Karavarutyán Tsrágrí Masín), available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=128281](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=128281), accessed 14 June 2019.

<sup>63</sup> Extract from the Government Session Protocol, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N54 of 25 December 2014 on Approving the Youth State Policy Concept of the Republic of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán karavarutyán nisti ardzanagrutyunic qaghvacq Hayastni Hanrapetutyán eritasardakan petakan qaghaqakanutyán hayecakargin havanutyun talu masin, 25 dektemberi 2014 tvakani N54). Available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=96116](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=96116), accessed 14 June 2019.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid, Article 2.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid, Article 5(1).

<sup>66</sup> Ibid, Article 6(1).

<sup>67</sup> Concept is a brief document consisting of the results of the research and recommendations for actions to take and which ones to avoid in the specific field. Strategy is developed to achieve objectives set by the concept.

2013-2017 Strategy<sup>69</sup> was the Promotion of Youth Participation in the Political, Economic and Cultural Life. However, according to the [Report on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2013-2017 Strategy of State Youth Policy of the RA](#),<sup>70</sup> youth participation in political, social and civic life is insufficient due to lack of awareness, knowledge, motivation and participation platforms at national, regional and local levels. As stated, the absence of cinemas, theatres, art schools, centres and libraries is a serious obstacle for participation in cultural life.<sup>71</sup>

In 2017 the MSYA held a series of meetings with a view to presenting the preliminary version of the 2018-2022 strategy<sup>72</sup> and [published the draft strategy](#) with a view to organising online public discussion, collecting feedback and improving the draft. The socio-political, socio-economic, cultural participation and e-participation of youth was priority number one in the draft strategy. Among others, it included the promotion of programmes aimed at capacity-building of youth NGOs, the promotion of programmes aimed at participation of youth (including vulnerable groups) and youth workers in public life, the implementation of awareness-raising programmes for high-school youth, the organisation of awareness-raising campaigns about digital platforms for youth, the implementation of programmes aimed at raising legal awareness among youth, the implementation of training, seminars and other events aimed at capacity building of regional/marz NGOs working with/for youth. It was intended to be implemented by the authorised body of state administration with the involvement of state and local self-government bodies, youth non-governmental organisations, youth workers, youth and other legal entities and individuals. However, the strategy was not adopted on time and then, the adoption of the Strategy was postponed due to a change of government in May 2018, but it is expected to be adopted in 2019 for a period of four years.

### **Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy**

As of 1 June 2019, the MSYA was merged with the MES into the RA Ministry of Science, Education, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia (MESCS),<sup>73</sup> which is now the main authority in charge of elaboration and implementation of the government policies aimed at promotion of youth participation, development and realisation of youth

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<sup>68</sup> See Youth Policy Governance for Armenia (2017), 1.3, National Youth Strategy.

<sup>69</sup> Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N1693-N of 27 December 2012 on Approving the 2013-2017 Strategy and Action Plan for the Youth State Policy of the RA. Available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=99312](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=99312), accessed 14 June 2019.

<sup>70</sup> Conducted by Youth Studies Institute in October-December 2016 with the support of the MSYA.

<sup>71</sup> See Report on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2013-2017 Strategy of State Youth Policy of the RA, pp. 79-80, Youth Studies Institute and Youth Events Holding Centre, Yerevan 2016.

<sup>72</sup> Discussion of the 2018-2022 youth state policy strategy and events program project. Available at [www.minsportyouth.am/en/noroutyouunner/-----tvakanneri-eritasardakan-petak.html](http://www.minsportyouth.am/en/noroutyouunner/-----tvakanneri-eritasardakan-petak.html), accessed 16 June 2019.

<sup>73</sup> The RA Law on the Structure and Functions of the Government of Armenia (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Orenqy Karavarutyán Karucvacqi ev Gorcuneutyán Masin), adopted on 23 March 2018 and last amended on 1 June 2019. Available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=132717](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=132717), accessed 10 June 2019.

potential, development of spiritual-cultural, national identity, patriotic upbringing and legal awareness.<sup>74</sup> The Youth Policy Department is one the main structural subdivisions of the MESCS.

As stated in the statute of the MESCS,<sup>75</sup> among the goals and objectives of the ministry are development and implementation of the state youth policy; creation of conditions for realisation and development of youth potential, full self-realisation of young people and promotion of youth participation; increased youth participation in public, political, civil, economic and cultural life.<sup>76</sup> For realisation of its goals and objectives in the field of youth policy, among others, the ministry develops and applies effective mechanisms for the realisation and development of youth potential; carries out activities aimed at promoting youth participatory processes and raising legal awareness; together with local state authorities ensures the implementation of youth territorial policies; promotes the development of international youth co-operation and exchanges; co-operates and participates in the activities of international youth organisations; supports capacity building of youth organisations.<sup>77</sup>

### **Revisions/updates**

According to a state official, after merging the ministries and setting up a new youth policy department within the MSECS, work towards development of a new strategy on the youth state policy will start (see section 5.10).

## **5.6 SUPPORTING YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

### **Legal/policy framework for the functioning and development of youth organisations**

Youth organisations are mostly registered as non-governmental organisations. The 2016 amendments and supplements to the [Law of the RA on Non-Governmental Organisations](#)<sup>78</sup> allowed NGOs to be engaged in entrepreneurial activity in accordance with their statutory

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<sup>74</sup> Ibid, Annex to the RA Law on the Structure and Functions of the Government of Armenia, Article 9.

<sup>75</sup> Decision of the Prime Minister of the RA N661-L of 1 June 2019 on Approving Statute of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and Repealing the Decisions of the Prime Minister of the RA N701-L, N703-L and N705-L of 11 June 2018 (Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Varchapeti Voroshumy Hayastani hanrapetutyán Krtutyán, Gitutyán, Mshakyuti ev Sporti Nakhararutyán Kanonadrutyuny Hastatelú, Hayastani Hanrapetutyán Varchapeti 2018 Tvakani Hunisi 11-i N701-L, N703-L ev N705-L Voroshumnern Uzhy Korcratc Tshanachelu Masin), available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=131100](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=131100), accessed 10 June 2019.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid, Article 9 (14-16).

<sup>77</sup> Ibid, Article 11 (49-63).

<sup>78</sup> HH Orenqy Hasarakakan Kazmakerputyunneri Masin, adopted on 16 December 2016, last amended on 16 January 2018, available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=119456](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=119456), accessed 10 June 2019.

rules.<sup>79</sup> If the youth organisation is registered as a foundation, the [Law of the RA on Foundations](#)<sup>80</sup> regulates the functioning of the organisation. The Draft Law of the RA on Voluntary Activities and Voluntary Work is currently being discussed, but it has not yet been adopted.

### **Public financial support**

Each year (on a quarterly basis) the MSYA announced grant competition for youth NGOs operating in Armenia through its online grant system [www.cragrer.am](http://www.cragrer.am) or <http://erit.am/programs/> (see more about the online grants system and the “Armenian Youth Capital of the Year” contest and Travel Grants Scheme in Youth Policy Governance for Armenia in section 1.7). The public financial support still continues, but not through the online grant system. According to the Monitoring and Evaluation Report of the 2013-2017 Strategy, out of 183 programmes that have been implemented during four years, 55% were aimed at youth participation.<sup>81</sup>

### **Initiative to increase the diversity of participants**

The major source of funding for youth organisations in Armenia is the European Union. Four regional projects under the “EU4Youth”<sup>82</sup> initiative have been launched in Armenia. Their focus is on employability and business skills of disadvantaged youth, as well as 18 capacity-building projects. This adds up to 20 projects implemented as Erasmus+ capacity building in the field of youth and involving more than 50 youth organisations from the country. The EU-funded projects also include the “Young Experts Scheme” (YES) Armenia (see section 5.4), the “Innovation for Development (Inno4Dev)” programme aimed at supporting decentralised governance and active citizenship through organising contests, realising the winning initiatives, and setting up a constructive environment for government-citizen dialogue;<sup>83</sup> the “[Young European Ambassadors](#)” project, aimed at fostering co-operation between young people and youth organisations in the EU and the Eastern partner countries; the “Boosting Technological Development in Shirak marz” programme, aimed at supporting economic development in the Shirak marz by boosting the skills of young unemployed people, and business development of the IT community through training and financial assistance; the “Next Generation: Anti-Corruption Game and Cartoon” project aimed at raising awareness, especially among youth, regarding the risks presented by different types of corruption and the value and rewards of resisting corruption as an investment in long-term personal and societal prosperity; “Elections4All” (see section 5.8)

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<sup>79</sup> Ibid, Article 8.

<sup>80</sup> HH Orenqy Himnadramneri Masin, adopted on 26 December 2002, last amended on 4 May 2018, available at [www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docid=1340](http://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docid=1340), accessed 10 June 2019.

<sup>81</sup> See p. 85.

<sup>82</sup> Available at [www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/projects/eu4youth](http://www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/projects/eu4youth), accessed 15 July 2019.

<sup>83</sup> Available at [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/armenia/56742/eu-supports-projects-encouraging-citizens'-and-young-specialists'-participation-governance\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/armenia/56742/eu-supports-projects-encouraging-citizens'-and-young-specialists'-participation-governance_en), accessed 15 July 2019.

and many others. Other projects include the “Progressing Youth Participation in Armenia on Governance and Peace” project, funded by the UK Government, aimed at creating new space for youth debate and bringing youth voices into the policies of the government, and the “Mardamej” Social Innovation Camp, aimed at raising awareness about the reforms, such as social, decentralisation, transparency, accountability, and increasing public participation through contribution to projects of community importance.

## 5.7 “LEARNING TO PARTICIPATE” THROUGH FORMAL, NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING

### Policy framework

The [Concept of non-formal education in Armenia](#)<sup>84</sup> was adopted in 2006 (see more about the concept in section 2.7, p. 18, Voluntary Activities, 2018). The [Law of the RA on Education](#) defines:

- **formal education** as a certain level or integrity of basic programmes of general education and professional (vocational) education which are implemented by the relevant educational institution(s) and lead to granting a qualification degree or certification;
- **non-formal education (instruction)** as a supplementary instruction programme of education or integrity of those which are implemented through relevant educational institution(s) or organisation(s) and/or service competent to perform that function, but do not lead to granting a qualification degree or official recognition of the outcomes of studies, except for the cases provided for by the laws of the RA;
- **informal education** as outcomes of studies achieved as a result of daily and family life, rest, leisure, work and other different actions that, as a rule, are not planned by a person as goal-oriented studies, are not organised and co-ordinated in terms of time or resources, do not lead to official recognition of the outcomes, except for the cases provided by the legislation of the RA; and
- **supplementary education (instruction)** as non-formal studies through supplementary educational programme, the maximum duration whereof may be up to five months.<sup>85</sup>

Furthermore, the state, in co-operation with social partners, ensures the development of professional (vocational) education and the system of instruction in accordance with the

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<sup>84</sup> Appendix to the Protocol of the RA Government N50 of 14 December 2006 on Approving the Concept of Non-formal Education in Armenia (Havelvatc HH Karavarutyun 2006t. dektemberi 14-I nisti N50 ardzanagrayin voroshman, Hayecakarg Hayastani Hanrapetutyunum Voch Formal Krtutyun Hayecakargin Havanutyun Talu Masin), available at [www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=37587](http://www.irtek.am/views/act.aspx?aid=37587), accessed 30 June 2019.

<sup>85</sup> Article 3.1(3-5) of the Law of the RA on Education.

needs of the labour market, and guarantees the proportionate operation of formal, non-formal and informal education system and recognition of the outcomes thereof.<sup>86</sup> The procedure for organising and implementing supplementary educational programmes, as well as the procedure of evaluating and recognising the outcomes of non-formal and informal instruction, are established by the [Decision of the Government of the RA N 1062-N of 10 September 2015 on organisation and implementation of supplementary educational programme](#)<sup>87</sup> and the [Order of the RA Minister of Education and Science N83-N of 5 February 2016 on Establishing the List of Professions subject to Assessment and Recognition of the Results of Non-formal and Informal education](#)<sup>88</sup> (see more about the procedures in section 2.7, pp. 19-20, Voluntary Activities, 2018).

### **Formal learning**

Citizenship education (civic education/*Hasarakagitutyun*) is taught as a separate subject. According to the [Order of the RA Minister of Education and Science N800-N of 26 June 2018 on Approving Model Curriculum for 2018-2019 Academic Year of Educational Institutions implementing General, Specialised and Special State Programmes of Basic General Education](#),<sup>89</sup> the topic is taught to 8-12th grade school students (ranging from 0.5 to 2 academic hours per week). In 8-9th grades, it aims to develop communication and interpersonal skills and to introduce some basic concepts such as freedom, responsibility, justice, tolerance, the concept of human rights, the types of rights and their protection and guarantees, democracy and civil society, etc. In high school, the subject includes aesthetics, ethics, psychology, economics, law, political science and philosophy components and is aimed at the promotion of patriotism, civic values, raising national self-consciousness, raising the role of the individual and society in the process of establishing democracy, assessing and preserving national and universal cultural values.

### **Non-formal and informal learning**

The Law of the RA on Education provides that students (trainees, attendees) of higher education institutions shall enjoy academic freedoms and shall be entitled to participate in the discussion of all issues related to the activities of the university and in the activities of the elective bodies.<sup>90</sup> The Law of the RA on General Education stipulates that the members of

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<sup>86</sup> Ibid, Article 6.2(1).

<sup>87</sup> HH Karavarutyany Voroshumy Lracucich Krtakan Tsrageri Kazmakerpman ev Irakanacman Kargy, Inchpes naev Voch Formal ev Informal Usucman Ardyunqneri Gnhatman ev Tchjanachman Kargy Sahmanelu Masin N1062-N, 10 September 2015t.

<sup>88</sup> HH Krtutyany ev Gitutyany Nakharari Hramany voch Formal ev Informal Usutcmn Ardyunqneri Gnhatman ev Tchjanachman Entaka Masnagitutyunneri Tsanky Sahmanelu Masin N83-N, 5 petrvar 2016.

<sup>89</sup> HH Krtutyany ev Gitutyany Nakharari Hramany Hanrakrtakan Himnakan Yndhanur, Masnagitatsvatc ev Hatuk Petakan Tsrageri I8akanacnaogh Usumnakan Hastatutyunneri 2018-2019 usumnakan tarva Orinakeli Usumnakan Plannery Hastatelu Masin N 800-N, 26 hulisi 2018 t.

<sup>90</sup> Article 28(1-2) of the Law of the RA on Education.

the pupil council shall participate in the management of an educational institution in an advisory capacity,<sup>91</sup> and that a student has the right to participate in internal and external school events and participate in the management of the educational institution as prescribed by the statute of the educational institution.<sup>92</sup>

In the framework of the subject of civic education, students are taught about democracy and civil society and encouraged to present a community-based research project (see more above, Formal Learning).

There are numerous projects and initiatives focusing on social and civic competences development implemented by the MESCS in partnership with international and local organisations (funded by international organisations such as EU, UNICEF, USAID, see sections 5.4, 5.6, 5.8.)

As examples of non-formal education in Armenia are the [COAF SMART](#) educational centre, which opened in 2018 in a rural community of Lori which provides residents of rural communities an opportunity to obtain a non-formal education and skills development, offering free training in information technology, art, communication, ecology, healthy lifestyle, business and civic skills, and the [TUMO](#), which is an innovative non-formal education programme where young people are in charge of their own education across a wide range of learning targets at the intersection of technology and design. It is made up of autonomous activities supported by coaches, alternating with hands-on workshops taught by the centre's specialised staff and industry professionals from across the globe.<sup>93</sup>

### **Quality assurance/quality guidelines for non-formal learning**

The results of the [Report on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2013-2017 Strategy of State Youth Policy of the RA](#) drew attention to some issues that still remained unsolved in the field of non-formal education, mainly, the need “for introduction of a system of recognition of non-formal education results in the report on youth employment issues, so that for employers the knowledge and skills acquired through non-formal education are considered as complying with the minimum requirements; the need for a non-formal education recognition (Publication of National Study Register; see more about the procedures in section 2.7, pp. 19-20, Voluntary Activities, 2018); and the need for the interconnection of formal and non-formal educational system.”<sup>94</sup> It is also noted that “Within four years around 19 000 young people have participated in the observed programmes in different ways. In

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<sup>91</sup> Article 10(6) of the Law of the RA on General Education.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid, Article 20 (4, 6).

<sup>93</sup> See more at <https://tumobeirut.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/TUMO-Beirut-Manager2.pdf>, accessed 16 July 2019.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid, p. 81.

more than 66% of cases of the programme reports (99 reports), the format of the programme is marked as ‘non-formal education’.”<sup>95</sup>

### **Educator’s support**

The [National Institute of Education](#) functioning under the RA MESCS is responsible for the provision of state-run training for teachers and it has branches in all regions of Armenia. The website contains [training materials](#) on Armenian Language and Literature, Geography, Foreign Languages, Music, Chemistry, Mathematics, History, Technology and other subjects, as well as [training programmes](#).

The [National Centre for Vocational Education and Training Development](#) of the National Institute of Education was founded in 2008 as a structure to develop methodology and contribute to development of for preliminary (craftsmanship) and middle vocational education. The website contains [programmes/guidelines](#), [handbooks](#) on Entrepreneurship, Skills Development, Organic Agriculture, Income and Expense Accounting, etc. and information on [trainings](#) and other materials.

There are also other organisations that provide opportunities for teachers, trainers, non-formal education workers and youth workers for continuous training and certification relating to the development of civic and social competences, such as the [Paradigma Educational Foundation](#), which aims to enhance teachers’ and educators’ teaching/learning skills and abilities, and the [Armenian Centre for Democratic Education – Civitas](#), which aims to contribute to educational and social development and civil society building in Armenia.

## **5.8 RAISING POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **Information providers/counselling structure**

At present, the RA MESCS and the Youth Policy Department within the MSECS are the main authority in charge of state support to youth participation in public, political, civil, economic and cultural life. According to its statute, it carries out activities aimed at raising legal awareness of young people and promoting youth participatory processes. Besides, the [RA Human Rights Defender](#) and the [Child Rights Protection Unit](#) within the Defender Office is also the responsible body for dissemination of information about democratic rights and democratic values for young people and counselling them if necessary.

There are also NGOs and other organisations that provide information of democratic rights and values. A network of [Euroclubs](#) in the Armenian regions aims to promote and develop European values among young people, inform and educate youth about EU and EU-

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<sup>95</sup> Ibid, p. 85.

Armenia issues. The “Youth Initiative Centre” (YIC) NGO in Gyumri is in charge of coordination of activities of the [Info Centre in Armenia](#), which aims to provide information on opportunities for young people and youth organisations within the “Erasmus+ Youth” and “European Solidarity Corps” programmes and support stakeholders in implementation of their projects. [Armenian-CIVITAS](#) also promotes human rights and environmental education, enhances students’ commitment to fundamental values and principles of democracy, and implements educational and social projects that promote leadership, responsibility, peace and tolerance.

### **Youth-targeted information campaigns about democratic rights and democratic values**

There are numerous training programmes, human rights summer schools and winter schools, social innovation camps,<sup>96</sup> debate clubs, public speaking platforms, youth advocacy campaigns,<sup>97</sup> awareness campaigns aimed at enhancing legal and human rights education, contributing to awareness-raising about the country’s reforms, such as social, decentralisation, transparency, accountability, anti-corruption, and increasing public participation and bringing a positive change in their communities. They are organised by local and international organisations, such as the OSCE Office in Yerevan, GIZ Armenia, Armenian Lawyers Association, Helsinki Committee of Armenia NGO, “Article3” Club, Eurasia Partnership Foundation, USAID Armenia, Media Initiatives Centre NGO, Caucasus Research Resource Centre, the Jinishian Memorial Foundation, World Vision in Armenia and many other organisations.

Besides, there are schools for young leaders. The [Yerevan School of Political Studies](#), founded in 2005, is an institute with no party affiliation aiming to contribute to the building of an open democratic society based on the respect of the rule of law, the strict observation of human rights and the development of civic initiatives. Since its foundation it has trained more than 350 young leaders. National and international experts deliver lectures, seminars and conferences on topics such as European integration, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and globalisation. In 2017, the “Bright Armenia” political party established the [Liberal Political School](#), which aimed to create an educational platform where young professionals are given theoretical and practical knowledge about politics and liberalism, as well as preparing a new generation of leaders who are willing to bear and spread liberal values and become pioneers of democracy.

The [Practising Democratic Citizenship: First Time Voters](#) awareness-raising project aimed to increase knowledge of the electoral procedures targeting specifically first-time voters and highlighting the importance of transparent and credible elections that translates the

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<sup>96</sup> For example, “Mardamej”; see more about the programme <https://epfarmenia.am/hy/news/mardamej-social-innovation-camp-call-for-applications-2019>, accessed 22 June 2019.

<sup>97</sup> See more at [www.wvi.org/armenia/youth-empowerment](http://www.wvi.org/armenia/youth-empowerment), World Vision in Armenia, Youth Empowerment, accessed 15 August 2019.

will of the voters into political representation, as well as the knowledge of persons with disabilities to observe elections and promote the democratic rights of voters with intellectual disabilities and first-time voters with disabilities. The “First Time Voters” manual as well as exercises and practical tests helped young people to make use of the knowledge acquired and to avoid mistakes in polling stations during the 2018 NA elections. The Practising Democratic Citizenship: First Time Voters awareness-raising campaign, implemented by the Yerevan School of Political Studies in co-operation with the RA MES, was a part of the “Elections4All” project funded by the European Union. The [Electoral Support Project in Armenia](#) (ESPA) aimed to assist the Armenian authorities in holding credible and transparent pre-term elections, as well as strengthen capacities of electoral management bodies in Armenia. One of the key areas of the project was awareness-raising among women and young voters about the electoral process.

Furthermore, it should be noted that according to [the 2017-2019 National Strategy of the RA on Human Rights Protection](#), in 2019 it is intended to introduce topics on electoral law in schools’ curricula with a view to increasing high-school students’ awareness about electoral processes.

Besides the above-mentioned there are many other youth-targeted campaigns about democratic rights and values. For example, [TUMO Centre for Creative Technologies](#), with support from the EU, created an entertaining and well-designed free mobile game “Next Generation: Anti-Corruption Game and Cartoon” for 12-18 year olds dedicated to the fight against the many forms of corruption, as well as to giving talented recent graduates the opportunity to apply their skills to their first “real world” project.<sup>98</sup>

In 2018, the UNICEF Armenia and Gyumri “Youth Initiative Centre” NGO jointly implemented the [UNICEF Global UPSHIFT programme in Armenia](#) aimed at empowering 12-18 year-old adolescents and youth to be more proactive in practising civic engagement and in advocating for their rights and positive changes at local/community and national levels. About 50 adolescents from Gyumri and Spitak will directly benefit from the entire cycle of the programme, with an additional 500 or more adolescents having access to information and capacity-building components of the project and indirectly impacting on the larger communities of both cities.<sup>99</sup>

It should be noted that youth were very instrumental in the civil rights movements such as “Electric Yerevan” (mass protests occurred against increase in electricity rates), “100 drams campaign” (movement against increase in tariffs of public transport in Yerevan), “Dem Em” (movement against the reforms of the pension system), as well as in the so-called “Velvet Revolution”.

### **Promoting the intercultural dialogue among young people**

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<sup>98</sup> Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/armenia/56747/eu-supports-programmes-aimed-educating-next-generation-about-anticorruption\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/armenia/56747/eu-supports-programmes-aimed-educating-next-generation-about-anticorruption_en), accessed 23 June 2019.

<sup>99</sup> UNICEF in Armenia, [www.unicef.org/armenia/en/stories/10-ideas-young-people-gyumri-and-spitak](http://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/stories/10-ideas-young-people-gyumri-and-spitak), accessed 23 June 2019.

The Young European Ambassadors (YEAs) initiative is funded by the EU and aims to foster co-operation and sustainable links between young people and youth organisations from the EU and its Eastern Partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. In 2018, 44 young Armenians were selected to act as YEAs. The YEAs are part of the Young European Neighbours network, an online platform that facilitates the mutual exchange of ideas and information on the EU, as well as the engagement of young people in informative activities. It is focused on people-to-people contacts and dialogue-driven activities that contribute to greater awareness and improved perception of the EU and the enhanced assessment of its relations with the Eastern Neighbourhood.<sup>100</sup>

### **Promoting transparent and youth-tailored public communication**

At present, there is no youth-tailored policy framework and guidelines on how public institutions or actors should/could follow in order to enhance the transparency of their policies and decision-making procedures and the appropriateness of their communication style.

## **5.9 E-PARTICIPATION**

According to [Freedom on the Net 2018](#), released by Freedom House, internet penetration rate in Armenia is 62%. Young people in Armenia have an active online presence through social media such as Facebook and YouTube. As reported by UNICEF Armenia, 82% of young people aged 15 to 24 years old are online.<sup>101</sup> Moreover, the online population is getting younger, with 54.1% of children under 15 years old.<sup>102</sup> Social media was pivotal throughout the so-called “Velvet Revolution” as youth activists were able to effectively cover events and mobilise other young people using social media platforms and live streaming. According to “Independent Generation” research findings, “for 50.5% of the respondents, the Internet is the main source of information on political events. 33.4% get their information from news outlets or Internet media and 17.1% from social networks.”

The [Law of the RA on Regulatory Legal Acts](#) states that draft legal acts shall be subject to public discussion,<sup>103</sup> except for the draft laws on ratification (accession) of an

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<sup>100</sup> Available at [www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/news/armenia-44-young-people-selected-young-european-ambassadors](http://www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/news/armenia-44-young-people-selected-young-european-ambassadors), accessed 23 June 2019.

<sup>101</sup> UNICEF Calls to Prevent Bullying and Harassment for Young People Online in Armenia, available at [www.un.am/en/news/822](http://www.un.am/en/news/822), accessed 14 June 2019.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>103</sup> Public discussion is the process of informing the public about the draft legal act defined by this law, as well as disclosing of public opinion, receiving comments and recommendations on them and summarising them with a view of ensuring public participation in the law-making process and transparency and accountability of the process. Article 2(10) of the Law on Regulatory Legal Acts (Hayastani

international treaty.<sup>104</sup> Other draft regulatory legal acts may be submitted for public discussion on the initiative of the body drafting or the body that accepts the draft.<sup>105</sup> The law sets requirements for public discussions. Public discussions shall be arranged by a body authorised to enact the legal act or a member of the government.<sup>106</sup> The period for carrying out public discussions is at least 15 days.<sup>107</sup> Public discussions shall be conducted by the body defined by this Article, by way of submitting the draft regulatory act and the justification for its adoption with the submissions of all the interested parties.<sup>108</sup> The results of the public discussions and the amended (based on the discussions) draft regulatory legal act are also published.<sup>109</sup> The draft submitted to the government, subject to public discussions, which has not been submitted for public discussions, may be returned by the government to the body representing it.<sup>110</sup> The detailed procedure for arranging and carrying out public discussions, including publication of the draft legal acts on a unified website, is defined by the [Decision of the Government of the RA N1146-N of 10 October 2018 on Establishing Procedure for Organising and Conducting Public Discussions and Repealing the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N296-N of 25 March 2010](#).

There are different electronic platforms in Armenia<sup>111</sup> enabling people including youth to directly or indirectly participate in political processes electronically. Although they are not specifically designed for young people, there is no age restriction. Those platforms allow to make policy-making processes more inclusive and participatory and public institutions and services more accessible, transparent and accountable. Although people are encouraged to use electronic platforms, according to the official data, less than 10% of the population use them.<sup>112</sup>

One of those is a unified website for publications and discussion of draft laws: [www.e-draft.am](http://www.e-draft.am) was introduced in 2017. It provides the possibility for any interested person and/or organisation to gain access to and get acknowledged with the draft legal acts submitted by the government agencies. Any registered user can take part in a law-making process by presenting an opinion and/or providing suggestions or comments on the draft legal act and following the communication with the respective body preparing the draft concerning adoption or rejection of their suggestions. The website was presented to the students of the

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Hanrapetutyan Orenqy Normative Iravakan Acteri Masin) adopted by the National Assembly of the RA on 21 March 2018 and last amended on 10 June 2019.

<sup>104</sup> Article 3 of the Law of the RA on Regulatory Legal Act.

<sup>105</sup> Article 4 of the Law of the RA on Regulatory Legal Act.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid.

<sup>111</sup> The European Union is the main supporter of electronic governance in Armenia. In 2008-2018 the EU provided close to €25m for the e-governance reforms in Armenia. Available at [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/63855/node/63855\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/63855/node/63855_en), accessed 14 June 2019.

<sup>112</sup> Lurer, Discussion on electronic governance, available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=tc2iQiqjmY0&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1-JAeNprSancT7i\\_GO97Fsz\\_vjs81uan1oNILU-ZBU2ZpYdNidgKwxQMw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tc2iQiqjmY0&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1-JAeNprSancT7i_GO97Fsz_vjs81uan1oNILU-ZBU2ZpYdNidgKwxQMw), accessed 14 June 2019.

Yerevan State University.<sup>113</sup> The website also shows the number of registered users and other statistics.<sup>114</sup>

A unified portal for online request, [www.e-request.am](http://www.e-request.am), which is currently being improved to make it more accessible, provides an opportunity to submit a request, application or complaint to any state and local government body authorised to provide information and receive feedback online. Another website, <https://azdararir.am/en/>, is an online platform allowing a registered user to submit a report on corruption cases. [E-gov.am](http://E-gov.am) is an electronic governance tool of the integrated systems and databases of the state agencies in order to ensure communication between citizens and the government and linked up online services offered by the government, such as Interactive Budget, Register Business Online, Judicial Information System, SNCO (state non-commercial organisation) financing disclosure, Single Source Procurement Disclosure and others into one website.

An educational social network, [Dasaran.am](http://Dasaran.am),<sup>115</sup> (“classroom” in translation from Armenian) connects all schools in Armenia to a unified online platform. Its mission is to provide the structures that help to promote and deliver quality and equal-access education, monitor the educational process, increase the level of transparency and the formation of communication between parents, students and teachers. The [E-Twinning Plus](#) project, among others, aims to encourage and carry out joint projects involving both teachers and pupils.

As mentioned above, the online grant system [www.cragrer.am](http://www.cragrer.am) was launched in 2010 by the former Ministry of Sport and Youth and was aimed at promoting participation of youth NGOs, deepening co-operation with them and supporting youth initiatives, as well as increasing public trust. However, with the closure of the ministry, the website has stopped operating.

## 5.10 CURRENT DEBATES AND REFORMS

### **Forthcoming policy developments/ongoing debates**

According to [the Government Programme](#), the government will be consistent in organising the process of transition to adulthood and independent living for young people leaving orphanages. In order to mitigate negative trends in the demographic situation, new youth support programmes will be written and implemented, and the existing programmes will also be revised if necessary. Targeted programmes will be developed for repatriated

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<sup>113</sup> Website e-draft.am presented at Yerevan State University, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia. Available at <http://moj.am/en/article/1767>, accessed 14 June 2019.

<sup>114</sup> United website for publication of legal acts’ drafts, available at [www.e-draft.am/en/statistics](http://www.e-draft.am/en/statistics), accessed 14 June 2019.

<sup>115</sup> Founded in 2009 and launched in 2010.

families by prioritising youth and families with children.<sup>116</sup> As mentioned earlier, the goal of the government programme related to youth participation is to increase youth social, political, civil, socio-economic and cultural participation and to develop necessary mechanisms for the solution of youth employment and socio-economic issues. It is intended to develop and implement an interconnected, comprehensive and inter-sectoral strategy for an effective policy in the youth field. Through an inclusive youth policy development, the government plans to create an environment where young people will be able to realise themselves and create their own future.<sup>117</sup> However, no specific action or timeline is set up in the current programme.

The urgent need for conducting in-depth and comprehensive research on youth participation in Armenia is highlighted by field experts and specialists. As to the necessity and importance of adoption of a national youth law (see also section 1.2, National Youth Law), specifically in the light of the 2015 amended Constitution, it has been discussed during recent months by the new government, the NA, key youth state and non-state organisations and field experts. Currently, the MESCS together with its the Youth Policy Department is taking steps towards development of a draft law.

According to information provided by the Youth Policy Department of the MESCS, the new 2019-2022 Strategy on Youth State Policy and its Action Plan is currently being reviewed.

It is worth mentioning that the Council of Europe delegation visited Armenia in July 2019 with a view to providing targeted expertise and advice from international experts to the requesting authorities. The overall aim of the mission was to provide practical advice and recommendations to the MESCS, namely the Youth Policy Department on the national youth strategy (provisions, mechanisms and instruments) so it can be relevant and meaningful, participatory, sustainable and values-based in line with the Council of Europe's standards in the field of youth.<sup>118</sup> During the experts' visit, field visits to the Youth Initiative Centre of Gyumri and the Gyumri Open Youth Centre were organised and meetings were held with the participation of the Council of Europe expert group and the government and non-government stakeholders that are involved in the youth sector, as well as representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, the Council of Europe Office in Yerevan, and

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<sup>116</sup> See section 4.2 (Poverty Reduction, Social Protection and Demography) of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N65-A of 8 February 2019 on December 2012 on Approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

<sup>117</sup> See section 4.7 (Youth) of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N65-A of 8 February 2019 on December 2012 on Approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

<sup>118</sup> See more at [www.coe.int/en/web/youth/news/-/asset\\_publisher/1EL7ZgITXeTU/content/youth-policy-advisory-mission-to-armenia?fbclid=IwAR373CuIG1IAUrpo\\_pUwQpU8ERbrNlhQkiANZ6WpS5fQG6oqaz\\_UYZShlTQ](http://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/news/-/asset_publisher/1EL7ZgITXeTU/content/youth-policy-advisory-mission-to-armenia?fbclid=IwAR373CuIG1IAUrpo_pUwQpU8ERbrNlhQkiANZ6WpS5fQG6oqaz_UYZShlTQ) and <https://rm.coe.int/16809681dc>, accessed 22 July 2019.

the UN Country Team in Armenia and other youth actors. It is expected that the main findings and recommendations of the mission will be summarised in a report and submitted to the national authorities.