

## Youth Partnership

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



# COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN MONTENEGRO



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## 1. Context of national youth policy

### 1.1 Context of national youth policy

Young people had an important role in the former Yugoslavia, in which the communist system provided important youth programmes and conditions for the participation of youth representative bodies in decision-making processes. The period during and after the war in the nineties, in newly formed states, was marked by a youth policy vacuum. Young people in the region were bearing consequences of the post-conflict period and an important socio-economic crisis. An important date for the re-establishment of the youth policy in Montenegro was 16 October 2006, when the five-year-long strategy - *National Youth Action Plan 2006-2011 (NYAP)* was adopted by the Government. The plan was developed through a two-year participative, evidence based approach, in partnership between the Government and civil society sector. NYAP envisaged social measures in nine areas (culture, education, employment, family, health, human rights, information and mobility, leisure time and participation). In order to monitor and evaluate NYAP implementation, a National Steering Committee on Youth was established the same year.

After the NYAP (2006-2011), there has been a time gap in adopting any legal and strategic instruments for implementing youth policy in Montenegro. However, in July 2016 the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the *Law on Youth* ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", nos. 042/16 i 013/18). Hence, Montenegro, for the first time, had a law that ensured the implementation of joint policy in this area, the improvement of the social position of youth in all areas as well as their greater involvement in all aspects of social life.

In line with the law, the Government of Montenegro adopted *the National Youth Strategy 2017-2021* in September 2016. The process of drafting the Youth Strategy has been led by the Directorate for Youth and Sports (now Ministry of Sports and Youth). This process was supported by the UN System in Montenegro, concretely in regard to harmonization with international standards in the area of youth policy, involvement of young people and other actors in the process of drafting the Strategy, as well as development of the framework for monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy. Drafting of this document was based on the analysis and evaluation of the previous strategy (NYAP), which highlighted the general problems and the steps that needed to be taken in order to avoid them. This Strategy clearly positions youth as a matter of interest to Montenegro and through a holistic approach envisages cross-sectorial and interdepartmental co-operation of youth policy actors. Youth Strategy 2017-2021 is a document that positions young people not only as subjects of youth policy, but also as actors responsible for its planning, realisation, monitoring and evaluation. (More at [www.strategijazamlade.me](http://www.strategijazamlade.me) )

During the implementation of the *Law on Youth* (2016), some deficiencies were noticed; therefore, there was the need of creating a new law. Hence, the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the new *Law on Youth* on April 4th 2019 ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", Nos. 025/19 from 30.04.2019 and

027/19<sup>1</sup> from 17.05.2019). The main reason for creating the new *Law on Youth* was to improve the planning and implementation of youth policy, by strengthening the institutional framework, empowering youth services in which young people can get a skills and knowledge that contribute to their personal and social development. Likewise, this Law specifies methods of constituting youth advisory bodies, as well as the realization of youth policy by non-governmental organizations, with a focus on their participation in the work of national and local advisory bodies. (*Law on Youth* in Montenegrin and English at [www.ms.gov.me/biblioteka/zakoni](http://www.ms.gov.me/biblioteka/zakoni) )

Moreover, in January 2020 the Government of Montenegro, on proposal of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, according to the new *Law on Youth*, adopted the *Program on achieving public interest in the field of youth policy for 2020*. The Program is a special document recognized within the *Law on Youth*, which as such serves to carry out the public interest in the field of youth policy by meeting the needs of youth in Montenegro. It is a public policy document, which tackles the youth priorities and problems that are not predicted or are insufficiently developed by the *Youth Strategy 2017-2021*. Aimed at defining priorities of public interest of the Program, the Ministry elaborated the Youth needs assessment (at least once in two years) before drafting this document.

More detailed information about the above-mentioned documents in chapters 4 and 5.

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<sup>1</sup> Correction in the text of the Law on Youth

## 1.2. Principles of national youth policy

As the *Law on Youth* stipulates, “Youth policy in Montenegro is based on the principles of equality, volunteerism, solidarity, active participation and information of the youth” (Article 7).

### *Equality*

“All youth shall be equal in exercising their rights, regardless of: age, physical ability, physical appearance, health condition, disability, national, racial, ethnic or religious affiliation, gender, language, political orientation, social origin and wealth status, sexual orientation, gender identity and other personal attributes” (Article 8).

### *Youth Volunteerism*

“The youth shall contribute to creation and nurture of social values and development of society through different forms of volunteer activities” (Article 9).

### *Youth Solidarity*

“The youth shall express intergenerational solidarity and work on creating conditions for equal participation in all aspects of the social life of youth” (Article 10).

### *Active Youth Participation*

“The youth shall actively take part in the process of creation and implementation of youth policy through coordination and development of intersectoral partnerships, cooperation with the youth and subjects who plan and implement youth policy” (Article 11).

### *Youth Information*

“Subjects who, in line with this Law, implement youth policy, shall ensure that the youth have accurate, correct, timely, accessible and usable information on planning and implementing youth policy in the area of their competency, and they shall publish the information on their websites” (Article 12).

## 2. Statistics on young people

Youth, in terms of the Law on Youth, are people over the age of 15 years up to the age of 30 years old. Here we can display the number of young people in Montenegro in 2011, the year when the latest census was completed, based on Montenegrin Statistical Office’s (MONSTAT) data.

The available data state that out of total number of people living in Montenegro (620,029), there were 132,702 of young people aged 15 to 29, which makes 21.4% of the total population of Montenegro. This number did not include persons that were 30 years of age at the time. If we take into account the gender of young people, there were 68,198 young males and 64,504 young females living in Montenegro in 2011. Out of the total number of young people (up to 29 years of age), 87,714 of them lived in urban environments, and 44,988 lived in rural environments. These numbers tell us about their place of residence, but it has to be taken into account that there is a constant internal mobility of young people (mostly educational mobility), and the fact that during their

education period they usually do not change their official place of residence, thus arriving to the conclusion that the number of young people in urban environments is actually higher than what MONSTAT's report infers.

Number and percentage of young people (15-29) in global population:

Young people (15-29) in global population	
Number	Percentage
132,702	21.4%

Number and percentage of young people (15-29) by gender in global population:

Young people (15-29) by gender in global population	Number	Percentage
Young women	64,504	48.6%
Young men	68,198	51.4%
Total	132,702	21.4%

Number and percentage of young people (15-29) with a different nationality:

Based on Montenegrin Statistical Office's (MONSTAT) data we cannot give the precise review of young women/men by their nationality, since the last census collected data based on the nationality are displayed within the age groups of 0-9; 10-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; 70 and over.

Young people (15-29) with different nationality	Number	% of global population	% of young population (15-29)
Young women			
Young men			
Total			

### 3. Actors and structures

#### 3.1. Public authorities

##### 3.1.1. National public authorities with competencies in the youth field

As mentioned earlier, youth policy is a cross-sectorial, and as such, it involves numerous actors for its implementation, i.e. the Government, state administration bodies, local self-government bodies,

NGOs, students/pupils parliaments and other legal entities for purpose of improving the position of youth, their personal and social development and inclusion in social affairs.

At the national level, the most important institution in the domain of youth policy is the Ministry of Sports and Youth. Ministry of Sports (including two directorates: Directorate for Sports and Directorate for Youth) was established by the *Decree on Amendments to the Decree on the State Administration's Organization and Manner of Work* adopted by the Government of Montenegro on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 73/2016). On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 the name of the Ministry of Sports was changed by new Government's *Decree on the State Administration's Organization and Manner of Work* ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", Nos. 87/2018 and 02/2019) into the Ministry of Sports and Youth. Since 2016, Minister of Sports and Youth has been Mr. Nikola Janovic.

According to the Government's Decree from December 2018, main competences of the Ministry of Sports and Youth in domain of youth policy are:

- creation and improvement of youth policy;
- improvement of working conditions for youth services;
- cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other entities in order to improve youth policy;
- encouraging the proactive participation of young people in creation and implementation of youth policy at national and local level;
- encouraging the inclusion of young people in non-formal education and
- encouraging youth policy regional and international cooperation.

According to the new *Law on Youth*, Ministry of Sports and Youth performs the tasks related to achieving public interest in the field of youth policy that is to:

- create and improve youth policy;
- establish institutional framework for implementing youth policy;
- create and improve conditions for the work of youth services;
- foster proactive participation of the youth in creation and implementation of youth policy at state and local levels;
- educate the youth on mechanisms of their inclusion in active measures of employment;
- foster inclusion of the youth in the creation of cultural content;
- foster youth mobility;
- foster inclusion of the youth in the informal education;
- promote healthy lifestyles and volunteerism in youth;
- encourage other fields of significance for youth development.

Other state bodies that participate in the creation and implementation of youth policy at national level are the ministries, directorates, agencies and other institutions. State bodies competent for specific areas of youth policy are obliged to co-operate in the implementation of youth policy and appoint the contact person for youth. Therefore, in 2017, the Ministry of Sports and Youth established a Coordination Cross-sectorial Body for monitoring the implementation of the *National Youth Strategy*, whose members are representatives of all ministries that are recognized as actors

who implement activities for youth. They regularly report on the activities of their ministries related to the Action Plan of the Youth Strategy, suggest possible cross-sectorial projects and give recommendations on the strategic documents in the field of youth. The intention is to give this Body greater influence by being led by the Prime Minister himself in order to ensure greater visibility and impact of all governmental policies conducted in different areas of youth inclusion, to advance the synergy of cross-sectorial cooperation between institutions and their policies as well as to confirm that youth is the high priority of the Government of Montenegro.

For the purpose of fostering development of youth policy, the Ministry of Sports and Youth will establish the *Council for Youth*, an expert and advisory body. The competences of the *Council for Youth* will be to give proposals for improvement of youth policy, give suggestions in the procedure of the Strategy implementation; delegate its member for participation in the procedure of elaboration of a law in the field that is of importance for the youth; monitor the position of the youth and suggest measures for its improvement; give opinion on other matters of importance for the youth etc.

### 3.1.2. Regional and/or local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

In terms of administrative division, Montenegro has 24 municipalities and a municipality within the Capital City. Local self-governments (secretariats in charge of the youth policy at local level) are responsible to develop youth policy and provide conditions for its implementation. According to the *Law on Youth*, municipalities are obliged to adopt *Local youth action plans* for the period of validity of the National Youth Action Plan, and as such, they have to be harmonized with the *National Youth Strategy*. Therefore, all the municipalities are obliged to submit the draft of the local youth action plan to the Ministry of Sports and Youth for the purpose of obtaining an opinion on its harmonization with the Strategy, before continuing the procedure of its adoption in the local parliament.

Accordingly, great majority of municipalities adopted Local Youth Action Plans. Until March 2020, 16 local youth action plans were adopted and are already being implemented, while the remaining eight are in the process of the adoption, after gaining the positive opinion on their harmonization with the Strategy.

In addition to this, the municipalities are obligated to submit the annual report on implementation of the local youth action plans to the Ministry, no later than February 15th of the current year for the previous year.

For the purpose of fostering and improving youth policy, strengthening cooperation and improving position of the youth at the local level, the municipality may establish a *Local Council for Youth*, as an expert and advisory body. Local council for youth shall consist of representatives of municipality bodies in charge of youth policy and NGOs that implement youth policy.

*Note: Montenegrin Constitution ("Official Gazette of Montenegro" Nos. 1/2007 and 38/2013 – Amendments I-XVI), prescribes two levels of state administration's organization –national and local. State and local governmental affairs are performed by the state and local governmental bodies.*

*However, Law on Regional Development (“Official Gazette of Montenegro” Nos. 20/2011, 26/2011, 20/2015 and 47/2019) prescribes territorial division of Montenegro in three regions - Northern, Central and Southern Region as to plan development priorities and implement and monitor regional development policy, but there are no established bodies at regional level.*

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

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) welfare, social, health or other specific services for young people

Youth social welfare services are exercised in the field of social protection, protection of children and youth with disabilities, juvenile delinquency, protection of human rights, drug prevention and employment. In these terms, there are institutions such as Centres for Social Welfare and Resource Centre for Children and Youth aimed at educating and rehabilitating children, youth and adults.

In the field of employment, among other programmes and services targeting young people, the Employment Agency of Montenegro started developing Centres for Information and Professional Counselling (CIPS) in 2007. These Centres offer various programmes for supporting youth employment initiatives.

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

Regarding the protection of children and youth with disabilities, there is a network of Day Care Centres. These institutions are a social service for children and youth with disabilities, which provide a wide range of services (socialization, care, social and medical rehabilitation, training for independence in day-to-day activities, leisure activities, and support for parents) and competences acquired for daily life.

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

Very important services are also the Youth Counseling Centers with a task of prevention and familiarizing young people with the important characteristics of development in their transition to adulthood, the difficulties and problems they face during this period, as well as ways of avoiding and overcoming these difficulties.

Also, Youth services (youth clubs and youth centers) are one of the key infrastructural mechanisms for implementing youth policy, practicing youth work and improving youth participation, their networking and the development of life skills and non-formal education. Hence, Ministry of Sports and Youth has done an intense work to provide tangible services to young people and therefore opened dozens of youth clubs in municipalities throughout Montenegro, as well as the Youth Centre in Podgorica. There are youth services in 2/3 of the municipalities in Montenegro. In the upcoming

period, the intention is to open youth services in every municipality in Montenegro, and also to support the work of the existing ones.

### 3.3. Non-public actors/structures and youth services with competencies in the youth field

In order to improve the implementation of youth policy at national and local level as well as to encourage proactive youth participation in this process, the Ministry of Sports and Youth continuously works on empowering cooperation with different non-public actors and structures dealing with youth, including non-governmental organizations implementing youth policy, individuals - youth activists, professionals/workers dealing with youth, as well as with companies supporting Ministry's efforts to improve position of youth in Montenegro.

#### 3.3.1 Youth Councils

The first Montenegrin National Umbrella Association – Montenegrin Youth Forum was established in June 2012 and was involved in all important policy making processes and consultations until fall 2014. Montenegrin Youth Forum participated actively in development of National Youth Action Plan and Annual Action Plans and had membership in the National Youth Steering Committee as well as in the Working Group on drafting the first Law on Youth. However, legal basis for functioning of Montenegrin Youth Forum as National Umbrella Organization in Montenegro had not been provided so there was no possibility for this Organization to be officially registered as National Umbrella Organization in Montenegro. On June 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 the Parliament of Montenegro adopted **the first Law on Youth** ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", Nos. 042/16 and 013/18) bringing legal solution for establishing **Central Association of Youth Organizations as Umbrella Youth Association**.

Main task of Central (Umbrella) Youth Association, according to the Law, was to achieve the common goals and interests of registered youth organization, organizations for youth and other forms of youth organizing at local and national level.

After almost two years of the implementation of the Law, certain deficiencies and legal gaps were identified in the current legal provisions concerning certain areas of youth policy, including gaps with regard to the establishing **central and local youth associations** as well as the **Central (Umbrella) Youth Association** that was supposed to have membership in governmental **Council for Youth**.

The Article 12 of the Law from 2016 stipulated that the Council for Youth, among others, consisted the representatives of the Central (Umbrella) Youth Association, but the establishing of this Association had not occurred since the Law came into force, as provisions relating to the establishment of the Central Umbrella Association were not applicable in the practice. For this reason, according to the first Law on Youth, Central (Umbrella) Youth Association as well as Council for Youth had not been created, and law enforcement in this field was matter of concern.

However, in December 2017, Ministry of Sports and Youth initiated the process of **drafting new Law on Youth** aimed on improving the system of planning and implementation of youth policy in

Montenegro through strengthening the institutional framework and empowering youth services in which young people acquire skills and knowledge that contribute to their personal and social development. One of the main reasons for drafting and adopting the new Law that came into force on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 was creating conditions for **efficient networking of non-governmental organizations implementing youth policy and establishing Representative (Umbrella) association of those NGOs**. Additionally, according to the Article 16 of the new Law, Representative (Umbrella) Association of NGOs shall propose two representatives in the membership of advisory governmental body - Council for Youth of which at least one shall be a young person, but both with the mandate of one year.

Association of NGOs that Implement Youth Policy according to the Article 20 of Law on Youth shall be established in line with the law that governs establishment of NGOs, but representation of this Association shall be determined by the Ministry of Sports and Youth for a period of one year by **issuing a certificate on its representation**.

Representative association is an association that consists of at least **30 NGOs that implement youth policy**, from at least six municipalities, of which coastal, central and northern municipalities are represented by two members, as determined by the law that governs regional development.

### 3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Ministry of Sports and Youth continuously cooperates with non-governmental organizations relevant in the field of youth policy. Article 19 of the new Law on Youth prescribes that **non-governmental organization** may implement **youth policy in line with the Law and the National Youth Strategy and action plans** of the Strategy if youth policy implementation is one of the objectives or fields of organization's work and functioning defined by its Statute.

Until the new Law on Youth came into force in May 2019, NGOs dealing with youth in Montenegro have been **financially supported through the public calls prescribed by the Law on Youth from 2016 and the Law on Non- Governmental Organizations**. However, as one of the reasons for adopting the new Law on Youth in 2019 has been conditioned by the need for **its harmonization with the Law on Amendments to the Law on Non-Governmental Organizations** ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 037/17) in the part related to the **financing of non-governmental organizations**. NGOs dealing with youth policy now have possibility to be financially supported only **through the public calls based on the Law on Non-governmental organizations**.

As it has been already mentioned above, NGOs implement youth policy in line with the National Youth Strategy 2017-2021 and its action plans. Action plans for the implementation of the Strategy for 2017, 2018 and 2019 were adopted and implemented in very close cooperation with NGOs. Projects of NGOs have been implementing in line with **6 key priorities of the Strategy**:

- Within the **key priority A of the Strategy**, measures and activities aimed on achieving economic and social security of young people through easy access to the labor market and employment, have been implementing with the focus on:
  - promoting and development of entrepreneurship projects and programmes among young people in order to create sustainable solutions for their greater employability,

- increasing youth awareness on their employment rights,
- strengthening youth activism through peer education projects aimed on greater employability of youth,
- social inclusion of young members of vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, young Roma, LGBT persons) in the field of employment in their local communities.

**NGO Union of Young Entrepreneurs of Montenegro** from Podgorica is one of the organization recognized in the field of promotion and development of youth entrepreneurship projects. In close cooperation with this organization, Ministry of Sports and Youth traditionally has been organizing Youth Entrepreneurs' Fair aimed on raising young people's awareness on entrepreneurship and business start-ups as well as on promoting and networking young entrepreneurs in Montenegro. **NGO Union of Young Entrepreneurs of Montenegro** continuously works on implementing the projects of motivating and encouraging young people to start their own businesses, through networking and mentoring. **NGO Association for Democratic Prosperity ZID Podgorica, NGO Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro Podgorica, NGO Center for Economic Prosperity and Freedom - CEPS Podgorica, NGO Alliance for Children and Youth HOUSE Podgorica, NGO Euromost** represent organizations dealing with projects and activities in the field of youth entrepreneurship promotion and development.

- Within the key **priority B of the Strategy** - Young people have access to quality education, NGOs implementing youth policy conduct the projects aimed on:

- increasing youth awareness and active youth participation in the projects of non-formal education,
- developing actions and projects on preventing and combating against peer violence among youth,
- active participation of young people in the prevention of violence, hate speech and discrimination.
- promotion of increasing youth participation and mobility through educational mobility programs.

During 2018, Ministry of Sports and Youth supported several NGOs recognized in the field of non-formal education on prevention and combating peer violence and hate speech among youth. **NGO Mladiinfo Montenegro Podgorica**, in cooperation with the **NGO Center for Democracy and Human Rights**, implemented the project "Active Participation of Youth in Prevention of Violence, Hate Speech and Discrimination". One of the key activities of the projects was conducting the research on peer violence in Montenegro in high schools that indicated peer violence continues to be a major problem in schools, widespread in both verbal and physical violence. **NGO Organization of Montenegrin Students Abroad Podgorica and NGO Center of Creative Skills Berane** are also recognized as organizations dealing with projects of non-formal education aimed on promoting prevention of peer violence and combating hate speech among youth.

- Within the **key priority C** of the Strategy - Young people are active citizens, involved, motivated, proactive and participate in decision and policy -making and development of their communities, NGOs are implementing projects aimed on:

- increasing youth participation in democratic planning, governance and leadership,
- promoting informal education of youth on mechanisms of participation in decision-making,
- supporting volunteer clubs with the aim of developing volunteer spirit and volunteerism through youth activities in different fields of their social life,
- increasing the inclusion and participation of young people belonging to vulnerable groups,
- promoting youth activities and programmes in youth services – youth clubs and youth center.

**NGO Da Zazivi Selo from Pljevlja**, supported by the Ministry of Sports and Youth in 2018 implemented the project “Empowering Youth Club and Youth Organizations”. The special value of this project is reflected in the fact that **seven small and underdeveloped organizations** in the northern Montenegro were given the opportunity to receive mini-grants for projects that contributed to the implementation of measures and activities for young people, in accordance with the Local Action Plan for Youth of the Municipality of Pljevlja, which directly involved about 1000 young people in this municipality. **NGO Forum MNE** has been supported for the implementation of accredited trainings for **30 youth activists** who successfully passed trainings and obtained certification on Youth Activist occupation, according to the officially adopted standard on Youth Activist qualification.

The **NGO Union of High School Students of Montenegro**, with the support of the Ministry, implemented the project of managing the Youth Center in Podgorica, opened in February 2017, which justified the epithet of a popular space where daily activities aimed on enhancing youth activism and non-formal education are carried out. In 2018, about **200 activities in cooperation with over 50 youth organizations**, involving about 2400 young people were carried out in the Youth Center.

Among the projects that have also been supported by the Ministry are the following: a project to strengthen youth activism in the decision-making process through a simulation of parliamentary debate implemented by the **NGO Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students - MAPSS**, Podgorica; the project of organizing the traditional session of the Children's Parliament in the Parliament of Montenegro anent celebrating **International Children's Day**, in cooperation with the **NGO Center for the Rights of the Child**; activities to increase participation and activism of youth belonging to vulnerable groups implemented by the **NGO Phiren Amenca - Step Together, Podgorica**.

➤ Within the **key priority D of the Strategy** - Young people have good health, they are safe, have access to an adequate support system for transition to adulthood and self-realization, they are self-aware, innovative, showing initiative and accept diversity, NGOs implement projects and programmes aimed on:

- strengthening the socio-emotional competences of young people to successfully overcome the challenges of adolescence, preserving the health and safety of young people in Montenegro,
- conducting researches related to youth health (mental health, reproductive and sexual health, addiction diseases, impact of violence on youth health, road accidents,) in order to obtain data to be used in different programs for improving the protection of youth health,
- increasing access to rights in the field of youth health care,

- Improving the promotion and evaluation of youth health and welfare centers reaching and involving greater number of adolescents.

One of the most active organization in the field of youth health protection is **NGO CAZAS** whose project "The Importance of Promoting and Building Socio-Emotional Competences" supported by the Ministry of Sports and Youth in 2018 was aimed at empowering youth and promoting their health through enhancing the socio-emotional competencies of young people to successfully overcome the challenges of adolescence.

Some of youth NGOs recognized in the field of youth health promotion and protection are **NGO North Country from Berane, NGO Parents Podgorica; NGO Prima Podgorica; NGO Juventas Podgorica, NGO Association of Youth with Disabilities in Montenegro, NGO Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities.**

- Within the key **priority E of the Strategy** - Young people have access to quality cultural content as creators and consumers, projects of NGOs are related to:
  - expanding knowledge and raising awareness among young people about the need for their greater involvement in the organization and realization of successful cultural events as creators and consumers,
  - creating youth-friendly media content to educate young people about social issues and political processes in the country and the region.

In cooperation with the Art School of Elementary and Secondary Music Education for Talents "Andre Navara", the **NGO Art Link from Podgorica** implemented the project "Stop and Listen! And do it more often!" by organizing concerts of classical music at the busiest and most visited public places in Podgorica. The Ministry of Sports and Youth also supported the project "How much do you know about the European Union?" implemented by the **NGO Center for Civic Education** in cooperation with the EU Delegation to Montenegro, the Ministry of Education and the Office for European Integration, which focused on producing a TV quiz for high school students.

Other organizations dealing with promotion and implementation of culture programmes for youth are: **NGO Sociologists' Association, Niksic; NGO Our Future, Niksic, NGO Youth Center - Proactive Podgorica, and others.**

- Within **key priority F of the Strategy** - Normative and institutional framework for the implementation of youth policy has been established, NGOs' projects are aimed on:
  - strengthening international cooperation in the field of youth policy and
  - fostering youth mobility and networking at national, regional and international level (project European Youth Card - EYCA, programs of intercultural educational exchanges, organizing international conferences)

In cooperation with **NGO Center for Youth Education** and **European Youth Card Association**, Ministry of Sports and Youth has been conducting the project of European Youth Card in Montenegro. In almost two years, 8000 **free youth cards** were distributed to young people across Montenegro.

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

Youth Strategy 2017 -2021 represents one of the best examples of wide, inclusive and participatory approach when it comes to the youth linking with all actors in the field of youth policy through conducting comprehensive research on youth needs in Montenegro that served as evidence-based for preparing the Strategy. Content of the Strategy is based on data and information on the situation of young people in Montenegro, as well as the results of consultation with all stakeholders and the young people themselves, which were held in several workshops, focus groups and conferences. Through this participatory process, over 1 200 young people and 140 organizations and institutions were involved. The study included the so-called “Desk” research of the policies affecting young people, followed by an analysis of available data and the results of research concerning young people and areas of particular importance to young people, and then a series of direct consultations that were carried out in the form of interviews, focus groups, mobile applications for consulting young people, conferences, workshops and forums.

Monitoring of the implementation of action plans of the Strategy is provided through a **Coordination Cross-Sectorial Body** composed of representatives of various relevant Government departments, which is also responsible for preparing draft of reports on the realization of action plans. The Coordination Body meets at the annual seminar to evaluate the results achieved in the implementation of activities from the previous year and to propose activities for the development of a new action plan for the coming period.

Strategy includes framework for monitoring and evaluation of the Youth Strategy. In order to operationalize the Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Youth Strategy (defining baseline and target values for 52 indicators), initial consultations were conducted with MONSTAT – Official Statistical Agency on the introduction of those indicators that are not included in the official statistics, monitoring indicators for youth established by the EUROSTAT, as well as defining a methodology for monitoring indicators for which there is no developed methodology.

According to the new *Law on Youth, Program on Achieving Public Interest in the Field of Youth Policy* is adopted by the Government, on the proposal of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, based on the **Youth Needs Assessment that shall be conducted at least once in two years**. This will be chance for greater youth linking with other youth policy actors as well as for developing evidence based approach for developing youth policy in Montenegro. For the necessity of preparing the first Program of Achieving Public Interest in the Field of Youth Policy for 2020, Ministry of Sports and Youth, in cooperation **with IPSOS research agency** conducted Youth Needs Assessment in July 2019.

This research can be find via:

<http://www.ms.gov.me/ResourceManager/FileDownload.aspx?rid=393993&rType=2&file=Analiza%20Opotreba%20mladih%20IPSOS%202019.pdf>

Ministry of Sports and Youth has supported great number of different researches and opinion polls on youth position and needs through the granted projects of NGOs. One of the recent Studies supported by the Ministry in 2019 is *Research on Political and Civic Participation of Youth in*

Montenegro conducted by the NGO CEDEM. Study can be downloaded via link: <https://www.cedem.me/component/jdownloads/send/29-politicko-javno-mnjenje/1962-politicka-i-gradanska-participacija-mladih-u-crnoj-gori>

## 4. Legislation

### ➤ Montenegrin Constitution

Article 6 of the Montenegrin Constitution (“Official Gazette of Montenegro” Nos. 1/2007 i 38/2013 - Amendments I-XVI) prescribes universal provision on protection of human rights and freedoms – “state **shall guarantee and protect citizens’ rights and liberties**”. The rights and liberties shall be inviolable. Everyone shall be obliged to respect the rights and liberties of others. Article 8 defines that direct or indirect discrimination on any grounds shall be prohibited. Specific provision **concerning youth rights and protection** is defined by the Article 64 of the Constitution: “**youth, women and the disabled persons shall enjoy special protection at work.**”

### ➤ National legislation

The main law regulating the legal and institutional framework for creating and implementing youth policy in Montenegro, as well as protection of public interest of youth, is **the Law on Youth (“Official Gazette of Montenegro” No. 25/19, 27/19) with its already mentioned bylaws:**

- *the Rulebook on criteria and conditions for choosing a space for youth service and*
- *the Rulebook on the method of functioning youth services and the performance of the administrative and technical jobs needed for their functioning*

The new Law on Youth was adopted on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 in the Montenegrin Parliament and came into force on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The key systematic improvements prescribed by the new Law on Youth in comparison to the first Law on Youth adopted in 2016 are aimed on:

1. Institutionalizing and empowering of youth services (opening new services, adaptation / reconstruction / equipping existing ones) in which young people acquire skills, competences and knowledge that contribute to their personal and social development through non-formal education projects / programs;
2. Identifying, financing and implementing priority measures and activities to improve the position of youth in all areas of public interest for youth, based on a comprehensive needs assessment and
3. Creating conditions for the constitution of Representative (Umbrella) Association of NGOs that implement youth policy as well as establishing Council for Youth as governmental advisory body for implementing youth policy.

Additionally, improving mechanisms for more efficient implementation of **youth policy at local level** and strengthening cooperation with local self-governments supporting **their capacity building in the field of youth policy implementation** are in line with the new Law on Youth and in the focus of Ministry of Sports and Youth that continuously conduct activities in this field.

## 1. Institutionalizing and empowering of youth services

The first Law on Youth adopted in 2016 did not prescribe procedures for the establishment, functioning and financing of youth centers and clubs, so the work and functioning of youth services had not been sustainable as they were not institutionalized and governed by the state and/or local self-governments.

However, according to the Article 24 of the new Law on Youth, new sustainable solutions for institutionalization of youth services have been created. Law defines that the Ministry of Sports and Youth and the municipalities, within their competencies and abilities, shall ensure conditions for work and functioning of youth services. The Ministry may fund or co-fund a **construction, reconstruction, adaptation or furnishing of a youth service up to the amount of 30.000 EUR**. Additionally, the Ministry may, with previously obtained agreement of the Government, fund or co-fund a construction, reconstruction, adaptation or furnishing of a youth service in the amount higher than 30.000 EUR. According to the Article 26 of the Law, performance of administrative and technical work needed for regular functioning of youth services, as well as assignment of services for use of other subjects shall be done by the Ministry or the municipality. The Ministry or the municipality may delegate the performance of administrative and technical work needed for regular functioning of youth services to an NGO that implements youth policy via a public call.

## 2. Program on Achieving Public Interest in the Field of Youth Policy

*Program on achieving public interest in the field of youth policy* represents the new public policy document adopted by the Government for the purpose of defining priorities of public interest for the youth at least once in two years (more detailed in chapter 5.)

## 3. Establishing Representative (Umbrella) Association of NGOs implementing Youth Policy

Central association as Umbrella Youth Association, according to the old Law on Youth was not established, since the provisions relating to the establishment of the Association were not applicable in practice. For this reason, Council for Youth as governmental advisory body was not created. However, Article 19 of the new Law on Youth prescribes the manner of networking and establishing **Representative (Umbrella) Association of Non-Governmental Organizations implementing Youth Policy**, whose two representatives should be elected in the membership of **Council for Youth**. After creating this Association, representation of the Association of NGOs shall be determined by the Ministry of Sports and Youth for a period of one year by issuing a certificate on its representation.

4. Beside the key Law on Youth concerning youth policy creation and implementation, there are numerous laws concerning rights and protection of young people in different fields of their social life. **Law on Social and Child Protection** guarantees social protection of youth; rights of young people on family and parental care are prescribed by the **Family Law of Montenegro**. Protection of youth with disabilities and other vulnerable groups is guaranteed by the **Law on Prohibition against Discrimination, the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, Law on Travel Privileges of Persons with Disabilities, Law on Juvenile Justice**. Rights of youth in the field of education are prescribed by the **Law on Higher Education, the General Law on Education, the Law on Vocational Education, the Law on National Vocational Qualifications**.

## 5. National Policy Programmes and Action Plans on Youth

### ➤ Youth Strategy 2017-2021 and Action Plans for the implementation of the Strategy

For the purpose of identifying measures and key activities to improving the position of young people in Montenegro, **National Youth Strategy 2017 - 2021** and **Action Plans for the implementation of the Strategy** were adopted and implemented for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Also, in collaboration with all youth actors relevant in the field of youth policy, two-year Action Plan 2020-2021 for the implementation of the Strategy is prepared. Ministry of Sports and Youth, within the support of OSCE Mission to Montenegro traditionally organizes annual two-day seminar gathering all relevant institutions, youth NGOs, international organizations, young people and other youth policy actors with the aim of drafting action plan for the following period of the Strategy implementation, ensuring in that way wide and transparent consultation process. Youth Strategy 2017-2021 is a document defining an adequate formal framework for the systematic improvement of the position of young people in Montenegro through a coordinated, participatory approach for planning key target outcomes (six key priorities/strategic goals described in chapter 3.3.2) and defining and strengthening the institutional framework for implementing measures (operational objectives) and activities defined by the Strategy and its action plans.

Integral parts of the Strategy 2017-2021 are:

- the Implementation Plan with general measures and sub-measures which should lead to fulfilment of key outcomes within the planned deadline, with identification of entities accountable for their implementation;
- the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the implementation of the Strategy, containing 52 indicators (international and national indicators),
- Action Plan which contains concrete activities that are going to be implemented within the first year of implementation (that was 2017).

Article 13 of the Law on Youth prescribes that directions of development and improvement of youth policy shall be determined in a Youth Strategy (hereinafter: The Strategy). The **Strategy shall be adopted by the Government, on the proposal of the Ministry of Sports and Youth**, for the period of at **least four years**. The Ministry shall adopt an Action Plan for the purpose of implementation of the Strategy, for the period of at **least two years**. The Ministry elaborates an annual report on implementation of the Action Plan for the previous year in the first quarter of the current year, and submits it to the Government for its adoption.

The final report on implementation of the Strategy shall be submitted to the Government by the Ministry within three months since the day of expiration of the Strategy mandate.

Previous reports on the implementation of action plans for the implementation of the Youth Strategy for 2017 and 2018 show a high level of implementation of the planned activities (over 90%). Monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy and its action plans is provided through a Coordination Cross-Sectorial Body composed of the representatives of various relevant Government departments, which is also responsible for reporting on activities planned by the action plans. The Coordination Body annually evaluates the results achieved throughout the implementation of

activities from the previous year and propose activities for drafting new action plan for the coming period.

The total percentage of realized activities planned by the Strategy Action Plan for 2019 is 95% (76 activities); 90% or 72 activities are fully realized and 5% or 4 activities are partially realized regarding the total number of planned activities (80).

➤ **Program on achieving public interest in the field of youth policy**

Article 15 of the Law on Youth prescribes that the Government, on the proposal of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, shall adopt the Program on achieving public interest in the field of youth policy (hereinafter: The Program) at least once in two years. The Program is a public policy document that elaborates key objectives and activities aimed on addressing youth priorities within the public interest. Article 5 of the Law prescribes that public interest in the field of youth policy is to:

- 1) create and improve youth policy;
- 2) establish institutional framework for implementing youth policy;
- 3) create and improve conditions for the work of youth services;
- 4) foster proactive participation of the youth in creation and implementation of youth policy at state and local levels;
- 5) educate the youth on mechanisms of their inclusion in active measures of employment;
- 6) foster inclusion of the youth in the creation of cultural content;
- 7) foster youth mobility;
- 8) foster inclusion of the youth in the informal education;
- 9) promote healthy lifestyles and volunteerism in youth;
- 10) encourage other fields of significance for youth development.

Program is adopted by the Government and would be implemented by the Ministry in close cooperation with other institutions, state administration bodies and other administrative bodies competent for particular areas of importance for youth, local self-governments, capital and municipality within the capital as well as other legal entities.

The first ***Program on Achieving Public Interest in the Field of Youth Policy for 2020*** was prepared in December 2019 by the Ministry of Sports and Youth and adopted by the **Government on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2020, Conclusion No. 07-8055**. Programme includes measures and activities on strengthening youth in Montenegro defined within all above-mentioned fields of public interest by ensuring cross-sectorial cooperation between all relevant youth policy subjects.

➤ **Local Youth Action Plans**

One of the new legal solutions prescribed by the new Law on Youth is to improve the implementation of youth policy at local (municipal) level. Previous experience indicated mechanisms for implementation of youth policy at local level were not efficient especially when it comes to the preparing and adopting local youth strategies (according to the Law on Youth from 2016) by the local self-governments. However, the intention of the Ministry of Sports and Youth by adopting the new

Law on Youth is, among others, to ensure efficient implementation of all legal mechanisms aimed on improving position of young people at local level.

According to the new Law, the municipality shall adopt a **local youth action plan** for the period of validity of the Action Plan at national level, no later than December 31st of the current year. Local youth action plan contains measures and activities of youth policy at the local level, for the purpose of achieving interests and needs of the youth. The municipality is obliged to submit the draft of the local youth action plan to the Ministry for the purpose of obtaining an opinion on its harmonization with the National Strategy, no later than October 31st of the current year.

Additionally, the municipality is obligated to submit the annual report on implementation of the local youth action plan to the Ministry no later than February 15th of the current for the previous year. The Law prescribes misdemeanor responsibility of the responsible person in the municipality in case of violating the obligation of submitting the draft of the local youth action plan to the Ministry, submitting annual report on implementation of the plan to the Ministry and non-adopting the local youth action plan. Responsible person in the municipal body shall be penalized for violating with a monetary fine in the amount from 500 to 2.000 EUR. Until March 2020, **16 local youth action plans** were adopted and have started with its implementation, while the remaining eight are in the process of the adoption, after gaining the positive opinion on their harmonization with the Strategy.

#### ➤ **Other strategic documents concerning youth policy**

The **National Sustainable Development Strategy until 2030**, as well as the **National Employment and Human Resources Development Strategy 2016-2020**, address high priorities in the field of increasing employability of young people. One of the key strategic priorities is to achieve economic and **social security for young people** by facilitating access to the labor market and gaining employment, as well as ensuring young people to become active and motivated participants in the development of Montenegro. This especially when it comes to improve the quality of life of youngsters, diversity and quality of provision of non-formal education programs for all age groups, focusing on young people, especially in municipalities in northern Montenegro, where significantly less youth programs are conducted than in central and southern part of Montenegro.

## **6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth**

### National level

From the establishing of Ministry of Sports and Youth in November 2016, the budget for financing the projects and programmes of non-governmental organizations dealing with youth and implementing the youth policy **has been triple increased in the period 2018 in comparison with 2017**. Based on the public calls for financing projects of NGOs implementing the youth policy according to the Law on Youth from 2016 and Law on non-governmental organizations Ministry allocated almost **800,000.00 EUR for around 150 projects of NGOs** aimed on the implementation of youth policy measures and activities within the six key priorities defined by the National Youth Strategy 2017 – 2021.

According to the new legal solutions prescribed by the new Law on Youth from 2019, public budget has been allocated for:

- construction, reconstruction, adaptation and furnishing of youth services implemented by the Ministry of Sports and Youth in line with the Article 25 of this Law. In 2019 **170,000.00 EUR** was allocated for the reconstruction and adaptation of **6 youth clubs** in Montenegro (municipalities: Mojkovac, Plav, Petnjica, Danilovgrad, Nikšić, Šavnik),
- the implementation of the *Program on Achieving Public Interest in the field of Youth Policy* referred to the Article 15 of this Law; more than 500,000.00 EUR has been allocated for the implementation of the Program for 2020,
- functioning of youth services established by the Ministry of Sports and Youth and
- the activities implemented by the Ministry of Sports and Youth in line with the Strategy and Action plan referred to the Article 13 paragraph 3 of this Law. In 2019 the amount of **96,000.00 EUR** was allocated for the projects of **12 NGOs implementing youth policy** in line with the Strategy and Action Plan of the Strategy for 2019.

The budget of the municipality, according to the Law on Youth, shall be used to provide the resources for:

- establishing and functioning of youth services established by the municipality and
- activities that are implemented by NGOs in line with the local youth action plan, in line with this Law.

Total budget funds spent for the implementation of Action Plan of the Strategy for 2019 was over **one million EUR** (regular budgetary funds). Some of the activities were realized through donations of international organizations (OSCE, UNDP, UNICEF...)

During 2019 *Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro* allocated **664,000.00 EUR** for development of youth entrepreneurship through the implementation of credit lines for young people and high school students.

**Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)** continuously provides financial support for implementing projects aimed on youth mobility, intercultural exchanges, youth participation and non-formal education gathering young people from six Western Balkan counties. Approximately, around 50,000.00 EUR annually has been allocated for the projects of Montenegrin organizations; total fund for the projects from all Western Balkan countries is around **one million EUR per year**.

The **Ministry of Science** stimulates scientific productivity and enhances quality of scientific research through numerous public calls for supporting researchers and young scientists: competition for research projects, competition for innovative grants, call for PhD research fellowships and competition for co-financing of scientific research and innovation in 2019 as well as Annual Scientific Achievement Awards - one of the categories: Most successful scientist / scientists up to 30 years old.

The **Ministry of Culture** allocates funds for supporting Youth Cultural Projects implemented by youth organisations or non-formal youth groups, which is a unique opportunity for young people who do not belong to formal organisations to receive support to their ideas and projects. Budget in the amount of around **130,000.00 EUR in 2019** has been allocated for supporting:

- young creators in culture through a regular competition conducted by the Ministry of Culture,
- youth NGO projects dealing with culture and media content for young people,
- youth amateur creative programs,
- realization of cultural content and accessibility of these contents to disabled youth, creators and consumers,
- realization of cultural contents and accessibility of these contents to young people in economically deprived areas and providing privileges for young people for different cultural events,
- traveling cultural content as a model of accessible cultural events for young people, outside of cultural centers.

**The Ministry of Economy** continuously works on implementing programs to increase the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, while providing support to young entrepreneurs through the Program lines for advancing innovation, a mentoring program line and Program for improving the competitiveness of the economy for 2019, within which 10 program lines are defined.

**The Ministry of Education**, based on the public competition, through the Fund for students and teachers awarded 400 prizes to students and teachers for the results achieved in the 2018/2019.

**The Ministry of Agriculture** has also provided support for the young in rural area.

## 7. European dimension of youth policy

### 7.1. Council of Europe youth sector strategy and programmes

Montenegro became the 47th Member State of the Council of Europe on 11 May 2007.

Regarding the youth sector, Montenegro has an active role in the Council of Europe's programmes and activities.

*The European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)* brings together representatives of ministries or bodies responsible for youth matters from all Member States of the CoE in order to, inter alia, develop youth policies and standards that tackle the challenges and obstacles young people face in Europe and guarantee youth participation and young people's access to rights. In the CDEJ Montenegro is represented by the General Director of the Directorate for Youth (Ministry of Sports and Youth) Mr. Nenad Koprivica.

Montenegro also contributes to the *Partial Agreement on the Mobility through the Youth Card*. Thus, Ministry of Sports and Youth in cooperation with the European Youth Card Association and the NGO "Center for Youth Education" have implemented a project of European Youth Card in Montenegro since April 2018. European Youth Card (EYC) represents internationally recognized benefit card for young people age 13-29 who use it free of charge for more than 130 discounts in Montenegro and over 70 000 discounts in Europe. In almost two years, in collaboration with our partners at both national and local level, we have distributed close to 8000 **free** cards to young people across

Montenegro who have thus become beneficiaries of the benefits and discounts of the card in 37 European countries.

Montenegro is participating in EU-CoE Youth partnership programme, through the *European Pool of Youth Researchers* and the network of the *European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy Correspondents*. European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy Correspondent in Montenegro is Mr. Nenad Koprivica (General Director of the Directorate for Youth/Ministry of Sports and Youth).

In addition to this, from the very beginning, the Government of Montenegro provided an open and indisputable support to the entire process of establishing the *Regional Youth Cooperation Office* in the Western Balkans, as the most tangible part of the Berlin Process. Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) is an independently functioning institutional mechanism, founded by the Western Balkans 6 participants (WB 6): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, aiming to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in the region through youth exchange programs. The Governing board of RYCO is the most important decision making body which consist of the representatives of the governments and civil society from all six contracting parties. Mr. Nenad Koprivica, the Director General of the Directorate for Youth/Ministry of Sports and Youth, represents the Government of Montenegro in the abovementioned body, participates in its work and decision-making process on a regular basis, while Mrs. Andrea Micanovic represents young people of Montenegro.

In addition to this, Montenegro is the first country that has fulfilled all three conditions for the establishment of RYCO:

- ratified the Law Confirming the Agreement on Establishing the Regional Youth Cooperation Office,
- provided the contribution and
- opened the Local Branch Office of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (in Podgorica) in July 2017.

The Government consistently supports the Local branch office of RYCO. Nevertheless, it has also provided the new and more spacious office for the Local branch office for the purpose of expanding the capacities in both human resources and program activities (opened in September 2019). This presents the clear commitment of the Government and political will to support reconciliation within the region and mobility of young people. More information at [www.rycowb.org](http://www.rycowb.org)

Additionally, Montenegro actively participated in the *No Hate Speech Movement* - the youth campaign led by the Council of Europe Youth Department for the purpose of combating hate speech and promoting human rights online. On the European level, it was launched in 2013, and Montenegro played a part from the very beginning. Even though the campaign ended in 2017, Montenegro has remained active in combating hate speech online and offline through the work of national campaign, online activists and partners.

## 7.2. European Union youth strategy and programmes

Although the EU Acquis in the area of youth policy falls under the domain of soft law, by temporarily closing the negotiation chapter 26 (Education and Culture) Montenegro has assumed the obligation to get in line with the European Union Youth Strategy and other documents of relevance to the EU youth policy. The EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) is designed to create equal opportunities for education and participation in the labor market for young people across Europe, as well as to encourage them to become active citizens of society. The Strategy is implemented through cooperation with Member States, structured dialogue, youth work and promotes the proactive participation of young people in all structures of European society, increasing their mobility and interaction through supporting exchanges, initiatives and activities in the field of youth action.

In regard to that, the Youth Strategy 2017-2021 intends to reflect European Union's Youth Strategy, as well as other international standards and recommendations relevant to youth policy.

The new Law on Youth adopted in 2019 is complied with the primary source of EU legislation - Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, part XII, education, vocational education, youth and sport, article 165. European Commission's **Progress Report 2019** for Montenegro states that **“financial support for youth projects increased significantly and a new Law on Youth was adopted with provisions along the lines of the renewed EU youth strategy.”**

Promotion and implementation of Erasmus+ programme in Montenegro, as far as education parts are concerned, is delegated to the National Erasmus + office in Montenegro. The Erasmus+ programme has three Key Actions and two separate parts – Jean Monnet and Sport.

### **Key action 1 – International Credit Mobility**

Higher education institutions from Montenegro can participate in projects that can provide scholarship schemes for the exchange of students, academic and administrative staff with higher education institutions from the EU countries.

### **Key action 1 – Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees**

Higher education institutions from Montenegro can be partners in projects for the creation of joint master programmes together with higher education institutions from the EU countries.

### **Key action 2**

Institutions from Montenegro can take part in all types of Erasmus+ Action 2 projects. There are two modalities of participation:

1. Participation, **as partners or coordinators** of projects, in Capacity Building Projects for Higher Education.
2. Participation **as partners** only (not as applicants), provided that their participation brings an essential added value to the project. This refers to participation in Knowledge Alliances, Sectorial Skills Alliances and Strategic Partnerships

### Key Action 3

Montenegro can take part in Erasmus+ Key Action 3 projects supporting policy reform targeted at the achievement of the goals set in the Europe 2020 Strategy, Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training (ET 2020) and European Youth Strategy.

**The Jean Monnet Actions** aim at promoting excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide. Institutions from Montenegro can participate in all types of Jean Monnet projects, similar to institutions from all over the world.

In the period 2017-2019 Montenegrin institutions participated in **more than 20 Erasmus + projects**, as a partner or coordinator and the complete overview of the funded projects can be found via [http://www.erasmusplus.ac.me/?page\\_id=2471&wpv\\_aux\\_current\\_post\\_id=2471&wpv\\_view\\_count=6068-TCPID2471](http://www.erasmusplus.ac.me/?page_id=2471&wpv_aux_current_post_id=2471&wpv_view_count=6068-TCPID2471)

## 8. Further sources of information on youth policy

### Websites

Legal acts, studies, reports and publications

- ❖ Project: "Digital Literacy and Protection of Children and Youth on the Internet"

In December 2019 the Ministry of Sports and Youth, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Public Administration and the Police Directorate signed a Cooperation Agreement on "Digital Literacy and Protection of Children and Youth on the Internet". Bearing in mind that internet is one of the main sources of information for children and young people, as they represent the most sensitive category, therefore particular attention should be paid to these target groups in the field of cyber security and preventing hate speech. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness among children, young people and adults alike, of the need to develop digital literacy, as well as the proper use of new technologies without which survival in the modern world is impossible.

<http://www.ms.gov.me/vijesti/219082/Janovic-Zajedno-na-putu-ka-sigurnijem-internetu.html>

- ❖ Youth Needs Assessment available on:

<http://www.ms.gov.me/ResourceManager/FileDownload.aspx?rid=393993&rType=2&file=Analiza%20potreba%20mladih%20IPSOS%202019.pdf>

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