

Perspective on Youth Work Developments

ARMENIA FACT SHEET

The 3rd European Youth Work Convention (EYWC) plays a key role in launching the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) as a strategic framework for further developing and strengthening youth work practice and policies in Europe. The goal of this fact sheet is to provide basic information about the perspective on youth work developments in a specific country. All information has been gathered from national contact points, reports or country sheets and profiles available online. The purpose of this fact sheet is to stimulate discussion before, at and after the 3rd EYWC among the members of the national delegations. This information is a suggestion only and a starting point for further development by the delegation when planning actions for implementation of the EYWA.

FACTS

Youth work as a recognised occupation: NO

Legislative framework for youth work: YES

Main youth work actors: (ministries, youth NGOs, municipalities etc.)

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport is the main actor at the central level with regard to youth work planning, support, delivery and monitoring. In Armenia, youth work actors form a complex network and include:

- youth NGOs, foundations, and associations of legal entities;
- youth institutions affiliated to political parties;
- associations and organisations affiliated to educational institutions;
- youth clubs, groups and associations;
- institutions affiliated to the Apostolic Church and religious organisations;
- international organisations.

Highlights with regard to youth work development:

An important milestone in Armenia's progress towards the institutional development of youth work, and its recognition as a professional occupation consistent with international best practices, has been the enactment of the Regulation of the Youth Worker Institute. A dedicated Youth Worker Institute was set up in 2015 pursuant to the Regulation on the Youth Worker Institute (ibid.); the Regulation states the goals and objectives of youth work, defines the scope of youth work activities and specifies the role of youth worker training and continuing education.

STRENGTHS & SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The regulatory framework for the activities of youth NGOs is largely favourable;• quality assurance standards in youth work are currently on the policy-making agenda and are being developed;• a strong role for civil society in the provision of youth work;• training for 25 youth workers is provided annually;• there are good models of youth work practice: the Youth Initiatives Centre and the Youth House in Gyumri.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing a legislative framework for youth work definition and recognition, where differences can be valued and connections can be promoted under a common frame of theory, ethical standards, competences, education/training requirements, evaluation methods for accountability and quality improvement;• reaching out and engaging diverse youth groups, including young people with fewer opportunities and from rural areas;• developing youth infrastructure at local level;• creating a transparent mechanism for ensuring youth work standards implementation;• ensuring the dissemination of diverse models of youth work practice throughout the country.

SUPPORT NEEDED

- organising knowledge and experience sharing activities among youth workers from Armenia and European countries;
- providing training programs on youth work among community administration representatives;
- co-ordination of funding between local, national and international actors, allowing for synergies and avoiding multiplication of efforts where resources are scarce;
- advocating for youth work as a key site for the strategic achievement of self-expression and self-organisation by young people.

GREATEST NEED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH WORK IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS

- Establishing youth work as an essential part of youth policies
- Ensuring and expanding the provision of youth work
- Supporting further development of quality youth work.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

EKCYP youth work country sheet: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/58820665/YW-Country-sheet_Armenia.pdf/5d003e72-b2de-8ef3-f949-88fba47ac70d

EU-CoE study Youth work in eastern Europe: realities, perspectives and inspiring initiatives:

<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47261953/061120-Youth+work+eastern+Europe+WEB.pdf/0d148ae4-acf4-1572-7491-f68ec9276a71>