

Perspective on Youth Work Developments

BELARUS 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: YES

Legislative framework for youth work: YES

Main youth work actors: (ministries, youth NGOs, municipalities etc.) The Ministry of Education is the main actor at the central level with regards to youth work planning, support, delivery and monitoring.

In Belarus, youth work actors form a complex network and include:

- the system of supplementary education for children and young people;
- multidisciplinary youth centres and clubs;
- for-profit youth entertainment centres;
- departments of youth affairs at educational institutions;
- youth social services;
- children and youth summer camps;
- volunteering programmes and students' work teams;
- youth NGOs.

Highlights with regard to youth work development:

- Relatively recent legislation on youth policy in general and youth work in particular;
- a comprehensive system for the recognition of youth work as a profession, driven and supported by the state.

STRENGTHS & SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The recognition of youth work as a profession;● formal, non-formal education programmes and professional development courses for youth workers;● setting quality standards for youth work delivery;● professionalisation of youth work providers;● accreditation of organisations providing youth work;● introduction of the accessibility requirements for premises, facilities, spaces and general infrastructure where youth work is delivered as well as safety (physical and psychological) and security standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction of youth work definition to the legislative framework;● mapping and understanding the different cultures, approaches and practices of youth work in the third sector, the public services and the cooperation between private and public actors;● reaching out to and engaging diverse youth groups, including young people with fewer opportunities and from rural areas;● creating a transparent mechanism for ensuring youth work standards implementation;● promoting balanced access of NGOs to state funding (only 11 youth organisations are recipients of state financial support);● encouraging a permanent commitment to systematic youth research, to be used for developing youth work concept and supporting evidence-based approaches to youth policy and youth work.

SUPPORT NEEDED

- providing training programs for youth workers;
- issuing guidebooks/manuals on youth work in national languages;
- developing a European network of youth work associations/organisations;
- peer exchange, both at the national level (between sectors and types of youth work providers) and at international level (between countries and projects offering good practice in youth work), with a particular focus on youth work;
- connection to and learning from well-established European and international networks;
- bringing closer to local communities the EU practices and examples of youth work developments;

- advocating for youth work as a key area for the self-expression and self-organisation by young people.

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

Supporting further development of quality youth work

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

EKCYP youth work country sheet:

https://youthworker.by/images/library/Template_country_info_youth_work_BELARUS_2017.pdf

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>