



**Perspectives for youth dialogue
in Eastern Partnership countries.**

**The role of the National Youth
Councils.**

Localization attempts in Ukraine

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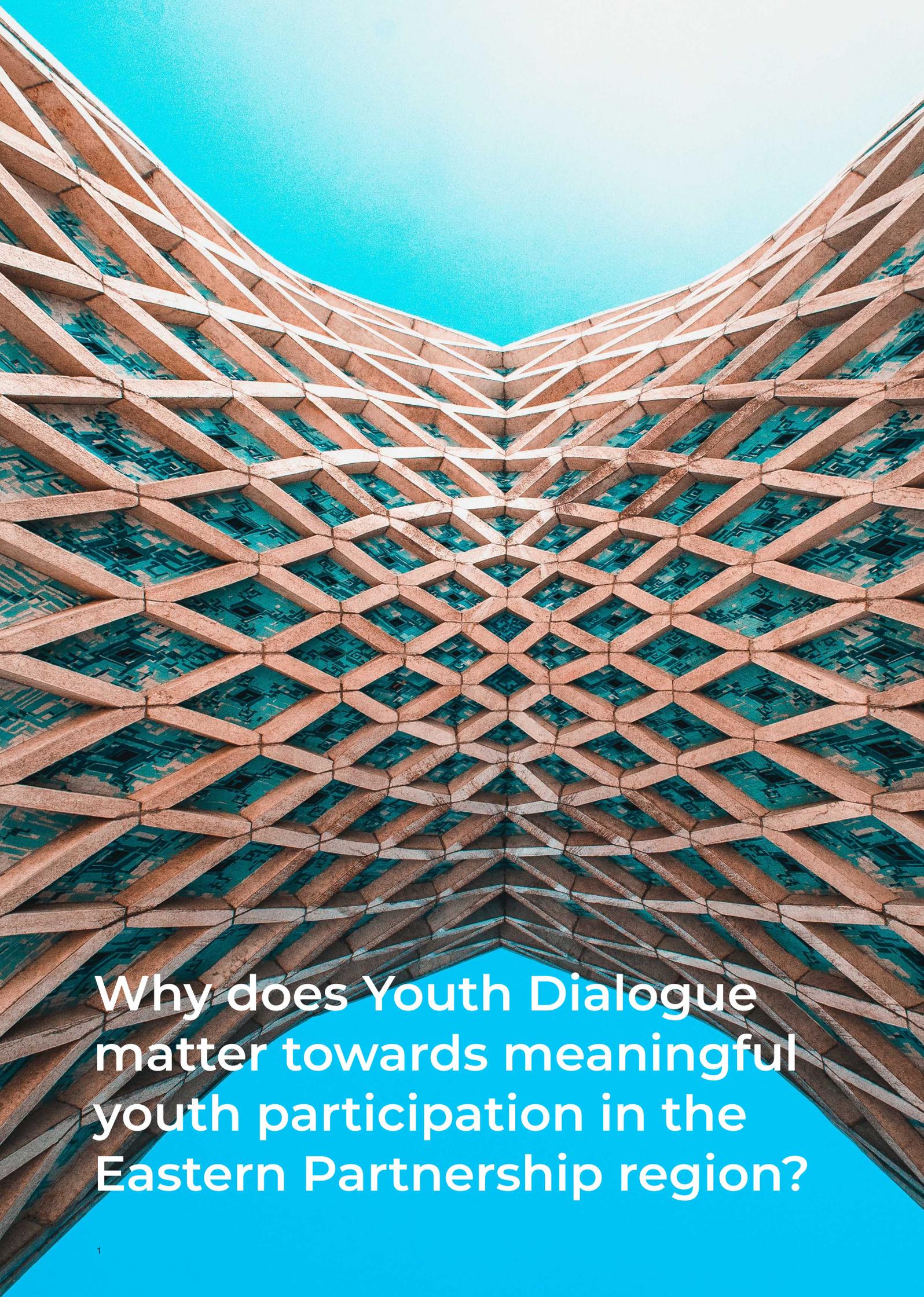


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**Why does Youth Dialogue
matter towards meaningful
youth participation in the
Eastern Partnership region?**



Why does Youth Dialogue matter towards meaningful youth participation in the Eastern Partnership region?

Some of the approaches to the formation of the youth policy in the Eastern Partnership region were inherited back from the times of Soviet Union. During these times there were significant state resources, including governmental structures and programmes for the work with young people, at the same time youth policy implementation was in strict connection to the political and ideological directions of the political establishment and authorities. This perspective left no space for civic involvement and youth participation. Step-by-step integration process of youth policy into the national legislation frameworks began in the early 1990s, just from the moment, when all 6 countries received their independence. At this moment all Eastern Partnership countries national legislations have legal definition of “young person”, while it may be variate in terms of age from 14-29 years and up to 35. Similar coordination structures responsible for the implementation of youth policy at the national level exist in each of the countries. Usually youth policy lays under the responsibility of a larger entity linked to another policy field like education, culture, sport, etc. In a such case youth departments and units take up a small part of the relevant structure and fewer both with financial and human resources compared to the areas like sport, education or culture. Nevertheless, through the past years in different countries, namely in Armenia, Georgian and Ukraine there was a tendency to separate policy-making from policy implementation and funding by establishing new structures responsible for youth (Armenia - body responsible for youth events, Georgia - Youth Agency, Ukraine - State Agency for Youth and Civil Society Development). Legal framework is also adopted in Moldova. However, such structures did not take root and underwent repeated reforms. A cross-sectoral approach is implemented perfectly on the document level.

All 6 countries have high level policy documents like youth legislation, youth strategies or concepts, which define the main directions for the development of the state youth policy and field in general. State support to youth NGOs is mainly provided through state targeted programs or action plans. In rare cases, such funding is provided for institutional support of civic society actors. This has direct influence on the youth participation through the entire youth policy cycle: young people are not involved in decision-making processes at all stages and mostly are invited to participate. Moreover, participation measures may not follow long-term strategies or other high level documents, so their impact is unknown due to the lack of monitoring indicators and evaluation. Youth plays only a consultative role, and there is little evidence of meaningful youth participation, when the voice of young people is actually heard and taken into account. In most of the countries there is a spectrum of definitions of vulnerable groups within social policy, while at the level of youth policy these terms do not have clear identification. While talking about inclusive youth participation, participatory measures are not comprehensive enough, as opinions of different vulnerable youth, non-active youth and non-organised youth and other independent stakeholders are not included.



Why does Youth Dialogue matter towards meaningful youth participation in the Eastern Partnership region?

While the EU Youth Dialogue is fastened as the key youth participation mechanisms in the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, it can be considered as a basis for the development of national youth strategies within EU-EaP cooperation. Earlier, in 2017 the European Commission once again established the Eastern Partnership Youth Window. The organisations from Eastern Partnership countries were able to apply for financing of their projects to Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. This applied to two kinds of projects within the Key Action 2: Civil society Fellowships for Youth and Partnership for Entrepreneurship. At the same time structured dialogue projects under the Key Action 3, which supported 'meetings between young people and decision makers in the field of youth', focused on fostering active participation in democratic life and focusing on the priorities set by the Structured Dialogue projects between young people and decision makers were not applicable for Eastern Partnership region and could be organized only in Programme countries. According to the official data provided by European Commission, between 2014 and 2020, 955 young people from the Eastern Partnership participated in such projects. At the same time, one of the main challenges for young people of the EaP region to participate in any kind of exchange and mobility programmes, including youth dialogue events, remains low level of English knowledge.

According to the EF English Proficiency Index, Armenia is ranked - 32, Azerbaijan - 34, Georgia - 31, Ukraine - 30, Belarus - 27 out of 34 European region countries (Moldova is not included in the rating).

This also does not allow to have a more inclusive approach and give the floor for participation for young people with fewer opportunities, including young people from rural areas and different minority groups. All together, talking about the level of youth participation, the main issue lays on low level of internal youth mobility within the country, lack of trust to the authorities, lack of knowledge about participation tools and a low culture of volunteering and participation in general. The majority of young people from Ukraine - 76% say they have never traveled abroad. Only about 21% of young people have ever been abroad, often and very often - only 3%. As reported by U-Report Moldova, through the survey "Barometer of youth participation in social life", according to young people, more than half of the respondents, ie 56%, say that the national authorities do not take their opinion into account - never. U-Report Ukraine provides results for the survey that 56% of young people would like to join the decision-making processes in relation to youth, but do not know how to do this. 69% respondents said they are unfamiliar with the concept of structured dialogue. Similar situation with the low level of youth participation in all EaP countries is due to a number of problems in the youth field that can be fully or partially solved through the reform of youth policy. Youth mobility is the key to democratic reforms, which contributes both to the European integration of EaP countries, as well as development of personal skills of young people. Considering the importance of youth participation in decision making processes as the driving force of reforms and positive changes, it is crucial to conduct permanent work with structures for the representation of youth organizations and advocacy for young people, strengthen their efforts and EU Youth Dialogue serves as a possible solution for cultivation of participatory culture in EaP region. So let's take a closer look at the current youth representation structures and youth policy in the EaP region.



Description of the youth policy in Armenia

The legal and policy framework for youth participation in Armenia does not include separate law on youth, while youth participation in socio-political, economical and cultural life is one of the key objectives of the Concept of state youth policy. The main space for student participation is provided by the Law of the Republic Armenia (RA) on Education, the Law of the RA on General Education. Namely, “the members of the student council of the educational institution participate in the management of the educational institution with the right of advisory vote”.

Armenia is divided into 10 provinces (marzer) and in 10th of February 2014, the decision of the Prime Minister on Approving Statute of the Youth Council adjunct to the Governor (Marzpet) was adopted. The main role of so-called regional youth councils was 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. The chair of the council is chosen from the marzpet (governor) representatives and the secretary of the council can become an NGO representative. Somehow this could be named as attempts to localize the co-management system of the Council of Europe.

At the national level was the National Youth Council of Armenia (NYCA). NYCA was founded in 1997 with a view to assisting the development and promotion of youth policy in Armenia and the involvement of youth in the solution of national tasks, spreading the idea of human rights protection and ensuring mutual assistance of Armenian youth NGOs.

It is an umbrella organisation for over 70 youth organisations from different sectors. It also included political representatives in its structure and had an experience of co-operation with municipality bodies. Campaigns have encompassed health, social, cultural and spiritual issues. The NYCA has been a full member of the European Youth Forum since 2002, but unfortunately it has not been active since 2017. In the beginning of 2020, there were attempts to find existing contacts of NYCA's representatives, from the initiative of European Youth Forum, as well as EaP NYCs, but were eventually defeated.

In the Report on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2013-2017 Strategy of State Youth Policy of the RA, it was indicated the lack of participation platforms at local, regional and national levels, which may indicate inefficiency of the work of regional youth councils and the national youth council.

Issues related to participation were addressed in the draft Youth State Policy Strategy for 2019-2022 during the consultation processes. Also, with the development of the youth dialogue initiative in the Eastern Partnership countries, there is a prospect of restarting the National Youth Council of Armenia, as there are a number of active youth organizations. For instance, “For Equal Rights” Educational Center NGO believes and stands that the dignified and legally conscious individual is the guarantee of a healthy society, and promotes it throughout its activities. Armenian Progressive Youth known as APY is a youth organization based in Yerevan, Armenia. APY was officially founded in 2009 by a group of like-minded young people and students whose paths crossed on the implementation of joint initiatives



Description of the youth policy in Armenia

Issues related to participation were addressed in the draft Youth State Policy Strategy for 2019-2022 during the consultation processes. Recently youth organizations/CSOs have been requested to present the RA state youth policy for 2021-2025 draft strategy for public discussion. The drafts have been already submitted (in the middle of May). Currently it's being reviewed so as to be approved or modified according to the amendments.

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Description of the youth policy in Azerbaijan

In Azerbaijan, the law on "State youth policy" (adopted on 13 November 2001 and amended in 2006 and 2007), determines the juridical, economic, and political basis for the development of youth policy. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is responsible for implementation of youth policy.

National Assembly of Youth Organisations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (NAYORA) was created by 12 youth organizations on November 21st, 1995 and registered by the Ministry of Justice on January 31st, 1996 and serves as an umbrella organization recognised by the government. It is the only confederative structure of youth and youth organizations and the only coordination center, which organizes and provides their international integration. NAYORA has represented Azerbaijani youth in the European Youth Forum since 2000. At the moment NAYORA unites 134 youth NGOs from around the country. NAYORA coordinates the activities of youth organizations, creates conditions for their development, works to implement the interests of member organizations at the national, regional and international levels, and works together to solve youth problems and protect their rights.

to achieve solidarity in resolving national issues. NAYORA considers its main task to focus the knowledge and skills of young people on strengthening the state independence of Azerbaijan, taking a worthy place in the international arena, and building a democratic state. Among successful campaigns of NAYORA, the one related to SDG advocacy and youth participation on local government level can be mentioned. In the past couple of years youth NGOs mainly work on environmental issues, social entrepreneurship and prevention of gender based violence. Apart from registered NGOs, NAYORA has a lot of informal groups which make up youth civil society in Azerbaijan. Even though the number of registered youth NGOs are more than 300 and only 25% of them are active.



Description of the youth policy in Azerbaijan

Currently, one of the main challenges is the long procedure of foreign grant registration in Azerbaijan. Until 2014 youth civil society was more active than it is now as access to international donors has decreased. Nevertheless, there are 2 different national donors which support NGOs: Youth Foundation and State Agency on Support for CSOs. Youth Foundation is providing structural grants for big scale NGOs such as Scouts, EYP, Students Union, etc. Structural grant includes office rent and basic needs of the secretariat (computer, printer, internet, etc). Still, inclusive youth work is missing at the moment, as NAYORA is not covering young people coming from different socioeconomic backgrounds. There is a need for programmes which will effectively impact lives of vulnerable groups.

The Ministry of Youth has an advisory council on youth which provides feedback and criticizes the work of the ministry. Moreover, NAYORA is gathering the needs of organisations and transferring them to Youth Foundation and Ministry playing the role of bridge between government and youth. President Ilham Aliyev has signed an order approving the State Program "Azerbaijani youth in 2017-2021". According to the decree, the role of NAYORA in youth policy is to achieve more effective implementation of youth policy in Azerbaijan, to create conditions for active participation of youth in all spheres of society, to support their creative and innovative potential, to protect the health of the younger generation. effective use of modern information and communication technologies, development of the volunteer movement in the country. Meanwhile, youth policy operates under Azerbaijani Youth Development Strategy for 2015-25. According to the point 5.1 of the the purpose of the strategy is to develop the potential of the Azerbaijani youth in accordance with the requirements of modern times in the period covering 2015-2025, to use this potential in the interests of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to form an active citizenship in the new generation.



Description of the youth policy in Azerbaijan

At the same time, it takes a lot of time to implement changes as there is a lack of unity among youth stakeholders from the government. But after long discussions in 2020 NAYORA was granted to host a resource center for NGOs and initiative groups. This is a very positive achievement for NAYORA as resources allocated for youth work are finally used efficiently meaning that young people don't have to pay for rent, internet and other communal payments. They can use this space for training, conferences and meetings. This was a very important need that we managed to achieve in the past 5 years of advocacy and lobby.



Description of the youth policy in Belarus

Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z as of December 7, 2009 "On Foundations Of State Youth Policy" regulates basic issues of the youth policy, namely defines objectives, principles and main directions of state youth policy as an important component of state policy regarding social, economic and cultural development of the Republic of Belarus. The main body responsible for implementing the youth policy is the Ministry of Education. At the national and local levels, the practice is to involve young people in the UNICEF-initiated programme "Adolescent Parliament" implemented within the international initiative of Child-Friendly Cities. Within this programme, by now there were 27 adolescent parliaments in the regional cities and district towns of Belarus. The programme is closely implemented with the local executive councils (ispolkom) and aims to foster youth representation not only at the level of consultations but at the level of policy making as well.

It is important to mention that there is only one youth organization in Belarus that receives state budget support – Belarusian Republican Youth Union (БРСМ) – the organization is a GONGO and its leadership is appointed by the Administration of the President.

The Belarusian National Youth Council "RADA" is a youth umbrella organisation for democratic and independent 28 youth associations, being created with the purpose of consolidating the youth organisations and initiatives of Belarus. De jure, the Belarusian National Youth Council was liquidated in 2006 due to judicial restrictions imposed by the state towards public associations and organisations. Since then RADA has been operating underground and independently in financial and ideological policies. The Youth Council "RADA" provides opportunities for youth to defend their rights at local, national, European levels as well as for financial support of youth initiatives in those areas. RADA as the umbrella youth council organisation in Belarus represents the country at the European Youth Forum as a full member.

At the national level, there is almost no relationship with representatives of the authorities. Before the 2020 elections in Belarus, working meetings inside Belarus were rare and happened mostly at the international level.



Description of the youth policy in Belarus

In most cases member organizations of RADA are representatives of students, environmentalists, cultural, gender and young political organizations. Due to the high level of political repression and economic instability, there is a high probability of unstable work.

Most of the advocacy campaigns run by RADA and its members are related to topics of political participation in parliamentary elections, student initiatives, environmental initiatives and projects related to inclusion, as well as local initiatives in the regions.

In Belarus youth policy sphere is strictly controlled by the authorities in a patriarchal way. The government is almost not receptive to the needs of youth organizations and there is no dialogue on youth issues with youth from state institutions. In Belarus it is still very difficult to legally register an organization, and it is impossible to obtain funding from the state. RADA is involved in the process of writing State youth policy in 2019, but the authorities do have not published yet a final version of the text for public discussion.

NGOs have no chance of obtaining independent financing from the state. International organisations encounter serious difficulties in carrying out grant programmes in Belarus, given the existing requirement of obtaining consent from the national authorities for implementing activities financed with foreign funds.



Description of the youth policy in Moldova

Youth policy in Moldova operates under the following legislations: Law No.215 from 29-07-2016 regarding young people, Law No.86 from 11-06-2020 regarding non-commercial organisations, and Law No.121 from 18-06-2010 on volunteering. The Youth Law regulates the principles and goals of youth policies, areas of state participation in the affairs of the youth sector, as well as the requirements for actors involved in youth policy. The purpose of this law is to ensure the creation of opportunities for participation and diversified development of young people in order to actively participate in all aspects of life through integration and full participation, access to information and quality educational, medical and socio-economic services.

There are also some other documents, which support the youth field: DECISION No. 598 of 12-08-2020 on the organisation and operation National Development Agency Youth Programs and Activities, DECISION No. 1006 of 10-12-2014 regarding the approval of the National Strategy for the development of the youth sector 2020 and the Action Plan regarding its implementation and Government Decision No. 733 from 29 September 2011 on the establishment of the Governmental commission on Youth Policy.

Governmental commission on Youth Policy is not active any more, while the National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM) remains active for the meaningful representation of the voice of young people and advocacy of their rights .

The National Youth Council of Moldova was founded on February 18, 1999 and functions as the associative structure of 61 youth organizations. CNTM promotes the rights of young people and represents the interests of youth organizations in the process of developing, implementing and evaluating youth policies. CNTM operates based on the following principles of organization and functioning: solidarity, organizational and functional autonomy, transparency, freedom of opinion and expression, eligibility of governing bodies, full equality of rights of members, professionalism. Having several directions of activity, CNTM wants to increase the number of young people in management structures, to involve them in the decision-making process, to form their civic spirit, and to promote volunteering.

The activities implemented by the NGOs are rather broad. Most of them focus on human rights and youth participation/opportunities, having active organisations within member organizations working with people with disabilities, minorities, LGBTQ+, youth mobility, youth participation, human rights, etc.

Youth organisations are mainly active only in their field of expertise. Still, even there, it depends on their structure, since a big part of them have a high human support flow, with members/volunteers coming and going, the rate of one person to stay in an organisation being shorter than two years, a factor that is stopping the potential active involvement from the youth organisations perspective.

In the decision-making process, youth cannot express their views on issues of real relevance to their lives because they are involved in the consultation process just at the final stage (not at the initial stage of consultation which can serve as the main point in drafting the concept of law, which should be based on the real needs of youth). At the same time, usually decision makers do not accept the recommendations of young people, invoking various reasons.



Description of the youth policy in Moldova

In relation to about meaningful participation, it is relevant to show the results of the U- Report survey conducted in 2018 among 823 young people, according to which 50% of them said that the national and local authorities never take into account their opinion, while 30% of them said that the authorities only sometimes take their opinion seriously.

The National Strategy of Youth Sector Development 2020 was approved by Government Decision No. 1006 of 10 December 2014. The strategy covers the period from 2014 to 2020. For more information regarding the scope and content of the work of the authority responsible for its implementation and monitoring, please see the Moldova contribution to Youth Wiki, Chapter 1: Youth Policy Governance. In 2018, two evaluation processes on the implementation of the strategy were conducted. The first was directed by the CNTM, and it was focused on an evaluation of the inclusiveness of the activities under the action plan of the strategy.

Respectively, it was found that the core strategy is a declarative one when it is reported as inclusive and non-discriminatory. Thus, it was deduced that under-represented youngsters do not take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the strategy, for example these young people from the socially vulnerable category do not participate in the decision-making processes, nor in the participation structures, etc.

The 2018 monitoring report on the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Youth Sector 2020 revealed, among other things, that the Government did not establish the Youth Agency responsible for implementing and coordinating youth programs, as committed in 2016. Against these findings, a youth advocacy group, led by the CNTM, initiated in early October 2018 the campaign "Where is the Agency?". In parallel with social media promotional activities (posts, memes, etc.), over 1000 youth submitted petitions to the line Ministry, Government and Parliament to speed up the process. Following the campaign, the Ministry informed us that it intends to expand the Agency's attributes to the Culture and Sports components. However, by experience, we noticed that the budget for Youth, Culture and Sports components are often mixed at the local level, resulting in dismissing youth activities' importance and prioritising the other two components. In this context, NYCM opposed the initiative. The parties agreed that the CNTM would prepare a draft on how young people see the Agency's establishment, transmitted on November 19, 2018. In the absence of a response within the deadline provided by law, the CNTM elaborated Youth Resolution on Youth Agency and organised on December 20, 2018, a press conference in which we addressed this issue, together with five other youth organisations and requested a prompt response from the Ministry. These actions harmed CNTM activity since the Ministry started to ignore us, prioritising their newly established congo organisation (the National network of local councils).



Description of the youth policy in Moldova

These advocacy efforts continued with the new Government invested on June 7 2019, and resulted in the expressed commitment to the establishment and endowment of the Agency, stipulated in the Government Program 2019-2020. Unfortunately, in November 2019, this Government received an unsupported/trust vote from the Parliament, and as a consequence, the Youth agency was not established.

For the new Government, the establishment of the Youth Agency was not a priority. Therefore, CNTM had to start once again an advocacy campaign. As a result, it succeeded in adding this priority to the Government's Action plan for 2020.

During the summer of 2020, the Government consulted the civil society regarding the Agency regulation. The recommendations sent by the CNTM were retained in proportion to 90%. The essential conceptual suggestions refer to the associative sector's involvement in the Agency's activity, the role of the structure in developing paid internship programs, and the elaboration of quality criteria for youth services.

In August 2020, the Government officially established the National Agency for the Development of Youth Programs and Activities. However, it was still not functional because the head of the Agency had not been selected. Therefore, between September and December of 2020, CNTM sent two letters to the line Ministry, encouraging them to initiate the Agency's Director as soon as possible. At the end of January 2021, the Ministry of Education (dealing with youth portfolio) published the Youth Agency's recruitment director. CNTM continues to keep an eye on the selection process.

To ensure meaningful youth participation at the local level, NNTM each year selects 2-3 regions of the country where it is creating local youth initiative groups (representatives of local NGO, pupils and/or youth councils) which have a mission to represent youth interest at the local level through advocacy activities.

We are starting by capacity building activities addressed for the local advocacy groups. After the group mentored by NYCM staff, start their activities on a local level, consisting of monitoring (questionnaires, focus groups, etc.) the youth situation on a local level and the impact of laws on their well being. Having these data, the representatives of advocacy groups develop a comprehensive report on youth at the local level, including developing relevant recommendations. From this stage, they start advocacy activities on a local level to present the report, and youth recommendations addressed to decision-makers. Local activities consist of conferences organised by the group, round table discussion, bilateral meetings, etc.

The advocacy groups' goal is to ensure that their recommendations are taken into consideration by decision-makers to develop and adopt local budgets shaped on youth needs. During the whole process, the advocacy groups are assisted/mentored by the CNTM team.



Description of the youth policy in Moldova

According to the CNTM evaluation of local budgets (annual reports on youth budgets) made at the national level, it can be observed that in the regions where CTNM have active organisations, the youth budget is more significant than the areas where there are no such youth structures.

At the moment CNTM advocates for establishing co-management structures at raional/regional level, Youth consultative body in the President of Moldova institution and Young delegate to UN.

Talking about the financial support of youth organizations, The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research within the grant programmes for youth organisations 2019 (annual programme), carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Regulation on the Organisation and Implementation of the Grants Programme for Youth Organisations, has nominated 26 winners. The total amount allocated to the Youth Grants Programme, financed from the state budget, is about MDL 7 million.

The second form of support is based on the Law on 2%, which was adopted by Parliament on 21 July 2016. The percentage designation mechanism is an indirect way for the state to financially support the work of non-trade organisations and cults.

Finally, the national programme for developing the regional youth councils, the beneficiary of which is the National Network of Local Youth Councils. The budget of the programme is nearly MDL 1.4 million. Among the different programs in the youth field the following can be mentioned: Youth capital Moldova, Youth centers program Grant program for the development of youth centers in Moldova.

One other governmental program is establishing a National network of youth councils at national level. This structure can be considered as a CONGO organisation which does not come with some significant input on the development of the youth sector in Moldova, locally and nationally. They do not work according to the recognised standards in the youth field at the international level.



Description of youth policy in Georgia

In Georgia, there is no general legal definition of young people in Georgian legislation. The Georgian Constitution does not contain any references to youth or young people. The voting age, also defined by the Constitution, is 18. There is no separate law on youth in Georgia, the Georgian National Youth Policy Concept 2020-2030 defines “youth” as all people aged 14-29. While, there are two main legislative documents related to youth: the law concerning state support to children and youth unions (22 June 1999) and the law concerning the protection of under age children from harmful influence (28 September 2001). The law on state support defines the essence, forms and general principles of state support for children and youth unions in Georgia. State support for children and youth unions means a system of measures implemented by Georgian state bodies in the field of state youth policy for the self-realization of children and youth in public life and protection of their rights, which helps to improve the economic and organizational conditions of these unions.

On March 28, 2014, the Youth Policy Document was officially approved by the Parliament of Georgia. The Youth Policy aimed at encouraging the establishment of a relevant environment for a comprehensive youth development to fully realize their potential and be actively involved in all the spheres of public life. In order to achieve this goal, the Youth Policy priorities were following: Creating opportunities for the youth to be involved in social, economic, cultural and political life; Creating opportunities for appropriate and high-quality education, worthy employment and professional growth for the youth; Establishing a healthy lifestyle and improving access to and quality of the healthcare services provided in the youth friendly environment; Increasing awareness among young people on the civil rights and responsibilities, and creating a safe and secure environment for young people, protecting their rights and supporting the young people with special needs.²⁸ In 2019 Evaluation of the implementation status of the Youth Policy action plan took place (Independent Expert in the youth field Nina Gogoladze). During the evaluation process the main challenge and barriers were that the structures do not have any evaluation mechanisms of implemented programs. Based on the report only 207 programs were included in the action plan for the implementation of strategic directions of the youth policy document. From this total amount any information was not received for about 59 programs. Other 148 program conditions are divided with following criteria: Implemented programs 51; Ongoing programs: 55; Not implemented programs: 28; Terminated programs: 14; Considering this from 148 programs 106 still are in the process of implementation.



Description of youth policy in Georgia

In 2020 July new Georgian National Youth Policy Concept for 2020 – 2030 was approved by the parliament of Georgia. The new Concept serves the following purposes: a) Creation of favorable conditions for adequate health-care, socio-economic well-being, multifaceted development and self-realization of young people; b) Ensuring appropriate conditions for full participation of young people in public life and democratic processes; c) Improvement of the National Youth Policy management system at central and municipal levels. In order to achieve the objectives set forth in the Concept, the Concept sets out 5 strategic priorities and 22 expected outcomes, the responsibility for implementing of which lies with the central government and local authorities of Georgia. Under the Concept, the goal of the of the National Youth Policy is to create an environment that ensures the participation of young people as full-fledged members of society, decent employment, health care and well-being, and equal access to information, resources and opportunities for development. Implementation of the strategic priorities outlined in the Concept will be entrusted to the Central Government of Georgia and local governments will be requested to participate in the process of implementation of the priorities.

Achieving the goals set forth in the Concept requires close coordination and cooperation between the executive authorities of Georgia and other stakeholders engaged in the field of Youth Policy. The Government of Georgia shall ensure the proper functioning of the relevant mechanism for coordination with stakeholders at the political (inter-agency) and technical (working group) levels. This involves both vertical and horizontal coordination. The LEPL “Georgian Youth Agency” will assist in the development and operation of the coordination mechanism as well as in relevant reporting. To achieve the outcomes envisaged by the Concept, the LEPL “Georgian Youth Agency” will ensure the development of youth policy documents (strategy, action plan) and submission of these documents to the Government of Georgia for approval. The LEPL “Georgian Youth Agency” will develop appropriate programmes on issues within its competence, provide stakeholder capacity building and facilitate the development of Youth Policy at the municipal level. Local governments, within the scope of their authority, shall promote the implementation of the strategic priorities outlined in the Concept, as well as the implementation of the Youth Policy at the municipal level. The Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs of the Parliament of Georgia is responsible for the annual monitoring of the implementation of the Concept. To this end, the Committee shall hear, at least once a year, the report prepared by the LEPL “Georgian Youth Agency” on the achievement of the objectives set forth in the Concept. After hearing the report, the Committee will prepare and publish relevant conclusions.

In August 2019 LEPL Youth Agency was established. The Agency intends to create a sustainable Youth Ecosystem where youth - as full members of society - are involved and have decent employment, their health and wellbeing are protected, information, resources and development opportunities are equally available. Main function of the youth agency is: Development of national cross-sectoral Youth Strategy; Implementation and coordination of the national cross-sectoral Youth Strategy.



Description of youth policy in Georgia

National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia (NCYOG) is the only one umbrella organization for youth NGOs. It gathers 75 children and youth organizations from all regions of Georgia, it was founded in 1995. It is recognized by the government and within the framework of newly started reforms in Georgia started cooperation in 2020 officially with Youth Agency. Since establishment of the Youth Agency of Georgia (september 2019) NCYOG was co-organizer of several international and national activities together with the Youth Agency. Since 2000 NCYOG is a full member of the most representative international youth structure in Europe, the European Youth Forum. NCYOG regularly implements various International and national projects for and by involving young people. Mainly NCYOG supports sustainable development of youth organizations in Georgia and working on youth policy advocacy on national level, as well supporting youth participation and cooperates with several local municipalities.

The vision is to be a voice of young people in Georgia and in Europe, to create an environment where each of them are heard, equal and are encouraged and supported to be actively involved in social and political life in order to strengthen youth for individual and state well-being. The working process of NCYOG is based on four main values: Democracy, Human Rights, Diversity and Participation. 2020-2021 June NCYOG was leading a pilot project for strengthening youth organizations in Georgia, were 30 youth organizations from regions of Georgia are participating. The project was supported by Youth Agency of Georgia and was oriented three main pillars: 1. Strategic Development of Youth Organizations, 2. Project management and fundraising opportunities and 3. VET in Youth Work. Additionally, they created a webpage www.youthworklibrary.ge which is oriented on to put together already existing and create new publications, videos, practices and experiences from youth field and youth work into Georgian language. At the same time research on the situation, needs and challenges faced by youth organizations was conducted.



Description of youth policy in Ukraine

For quite a long time Youth legislation in Ukraine was outdated. Among the main documents, which regulated youth policy of Ukraine were the following: Law № 2998-XII “On promoting the social formation and development of youth in Ukraine” (05.02.1993), Law № 281-XIV “On youth and children organizations” (01.12.1998) and Law № 2558-III “On social work with families, children and youth” (21.06.2001). This legislative document determines “the general principles of creating organizational, socio-economic, political and legal conditions for social formation and development of young citizens of Ukraine in the interests of the individual, society and state, the main directions of state youth policy in Ukraine for social formation and youth development”. Even though youth policy development took place at the beginning of 1990, most of them did not reflect and protect the real needs of young people. Youth policy in Ukraine received rapid development after the Revolution of dignity in 2014. Occupation of Crimea by Russia and hostilities (war) in the Eastern part of Ukraine kicked off the start of a rapid wave of volunteering among young people and the general population. At the same time, volunteering was perceived more as fundraising for the military.

The National Youth Council of Ukraine was also established in 2015 from the initiative of 12 non-governmental youth organizations as the symbol of consolidation of the youth movement after the revolution of dignity. At the first stage, it included only organizations, which worked on all-Ukrainian level. From the very beginning the aim of the NYCU is to “consolidate and develop democratic youth organisations of Ukraine to protect and represent the interests of youth at the local, regional, national and international levels”. In 2016, when the need to represent the interests of young people from local organizations was seen, a new structural unit of NYCU was established - Regional branches of NYCU, which act as independent regional youth councils

In 2018, NYCU opened its doors for the youth wings of political parties. Nowadays, NYCU unites more than 166 youth organizations all over Ukraine and received official recognition on the international arena by receiving full membership in the European Youth Forum in 2021. On the national arena NYCU continues to establish strong ties with different stakeholders. NYCU is co-founder of the national competition “Youth Capital of Ukraine” and partner of worldwide UNICEF initiative “Child and Youth Friendly Community”.

NYCU is funded by international donors, mainly by Ministries of Foreign Affairs through partnerships with different National Youth Councils or within Erasmus+ program. NYCU does not receive any financing from the government, being independent from the state costs on one hand gives more space for advocacy actions, on other has an impact on financial resilience.

Throughout advocacy efforts, in 2019 NYCU has developed its recommendations to the State Youth Strategy “14 Points” and run a high-scale national advocacy campaign with round-tables on the Youth strategy in more than 14 regions. This was the first effort of open public consultations at the national level, when every young person could contribute to the document by giving proposals online or during physical meetings. Another informational campaign “Vote!” via distributed posters and social videos was aimed to motivate young people to take part in the Presidential and Parliament elections.



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Another informational campaign “Vote!” via distributed posters and social videos was aimed to motivate young people to take part in the Presidential and Parliament elections. At the stage of the election campaign, the NYCU appealed to all candidates for the presidency of Ukraine, regardless of political preferences, so that their first step was to approve the youth strategy. The appeal of the youth platform was that the strategy should not be a nominal document, but that there should be a broad discussion with the youth and that public recommendations be included. The “14 Points” recommendations focus on the fact that youth policy concerns all structures and departments, not just one Ministry of Youth and Sports.

On March 12, 2021, President Zelensky signed Decree №94 / 2021 “On the National Youth Strategy until 2030”. During the years of Ukraine's independence, this is the first strategy for a decade, which creates a broad and flexible thematic framework to ensure the creation of additional opportunities for the formation, development and competitiveness of Ukrainian youth. It is important to note that at the time the NYCU team developed recommendations in early 2019, there were no alternative documents for public discussion with young people, including government agencies. At the same time, the first version of the document was proposed only in November-December 2019.

The strategy of youth policy 2030, signed by the President of Ukraine, defines the following priorities:

- safety - increasing the safety of the environment and strengthening the resilience of young people;
- health - formation of skills of a healthy way of life, development and preservation of physical culture, culture of healthy food and psychohygiene;
- capacity - involvement of young people in public life, increasing their independence, competitiveness, formation of civic competencies in young people;
- integration - increasing the mobility, social and cultural integration of young people in the public life of Ukraine and the world.



Description of youth policy in Ukraine

Through the years 2019-2020, the Ministry of Youth and Sports two times was reorganized. At first, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Ukraine was established through the merger of the Ministry of Culture with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. In the beginning of 2020 the State Agency for Youth Development and Civil Society of Ukraine was established. The Agency did not start to work properly, as in March 2020, the main structure responsible for the implementation of the State Youth Policy was transformed back into the Ministry of Youth and Sports, accordingly the Agency was liquidated. In both cases, when the work of the ministries underwent transformations and new ministers were appointed, NYCU came with official proposals to determine the priority areas of activity in the field of youth policy in the structure of the newly created structures.

Update of the legislation in the youth sector of Ukraine started in 2016 by youth wing of political party "Batkivshchyna moloda" (there is separate block on the website with chronology of advocacy actions of this law). Later on in 2020, representatives of political party "People's servant" continued discussion of the draft law №3718 "On the basic principles of youth policy". After long discussion and voting attempts it finally was adopted by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in April 2021. Ministry of Youth and Sports announced that new law will focus mainly in:

- Youth participation in the decision-making processes and will give real mechanisms for this like advisory-consultative bodies - youth council at the local level and Council on youth at the national level, as well as new positions will be introduced - Youth advisers to official and government representatives. Council on youth will consist of representatives of youth and children organizations, school and university students' self-governments, advisory youth councils, governmental authorities representatives. In general it is introduced as the body, which will work on the development of a long-term youth policy strategy and should function in a similar way as the Advisory Council on youth of Council of Europe.
- Development of youth infrastructure, specifically youth centers of different levels. It proposes a so-called three-level structure. On the national level acts All-Ukrainian Youth Center acts and mainly conducts studies of the needs of young people and offers new formats of youth work (basically the role of knowledge center). At the oblast' (region) level youth centers will focus on the development of youth centers and spaces at the regional level, promotion of successful cases of youth work and will conduct training for youth workers. At the local level youth centers and spaces will have the goal to provide meaningful and interesting leisure time for young people (trainings, games, free courses and lectures etc).



Description of youth policy in Ukraine

- New mechanism for the financing and support of youth initiatives will be established - Ukrainian Youth Foundation according to a new law. In the process of drafting youth law, there was the perspective that Ukrainian Youth Foundation should be established with similar principles like Ukrainian cultural Fund, as it was serving one of the best examples of such initiatives within Ukrainian context. Ukrainian Youth Foundation will provide institutional grants - for the activities of youth and children's NGOs (office rent, salaries, purchase of equipment, etc.) and project grants - for individuals and organizations working with youth (for all "players" in the field of youth policy).

NYCU also took an active part in the process of developing a new youth law. One of the main milestones was recognition of the youth work not only through the program "youth worker", but within the activities of youth NGOs, upper age limit of youth (the age determination of young person 14-35 years) Meanwhile there are still a lot of questions about the practical implementation of the adopted document. Bylaws and other regulations about the procedures of delegation and work of the Council on Youth, as well as on the functioning of Ukrainian Youth Foundation have not been developed yet and are planned to be finalized by 2022. Therefore, the big role lays on the shoulders of civic society organizations. As never before, they must play an active watchdog role and directly contribute to the bylaws development.

The background is a complex collage. It features several overlapping elements: a large abstract painting with blue, orange, and grey tones; a bright yellow rectangular area; a photograph of a sign with Cyrillic text 'ПОРЯДОК' (Order) on a red background; and other abstract and textured patterns. The overall composition is dynamic and multi-layered.

**Implementation
framework of the EU
Youth Dialogue in Eastern
Partnership region**

Implementation framework of the EU Youth Dialogue in Eastern Partnership region

The EU Youth Dialogue is the official tool of youth participation and consultations for the implementation of EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, while it is supported by Erasmus+ KA3. Within this process the EU does not have exclusive power in the field of youth policy, but only can support, coordinate or complement already existing actions of the member states. The main aim of overall youth policy is to improve life of young people across Europe, therefore EU helps to shape a common framework in the field of policy for all member states and engages with them through adopting strategies and conclusions or resolutions, conducting evidence based reports and assisting with financial support through programs like Erasmus. Financing assistance allows all countries to get the same preconditions for the implementation of youth dialogue at the very beginning. The final contributions from each cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue are taken into account and formed into conclusions and resolutions by the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council.

National youth councils of different countries complement the role of the European Youth Forum, but within their national realities. National youth councils represent the diversity of young people and make sure that issues and demands of young people are delivered to the governments, parliaments and to the public. EU Youth Strategy stimulates national governments to grant support for the national youth councils by providing them with a leading role for the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue on the national level. Mainly national youth councils have recognition from their states and cultivate good working relations with the ministries or other structures responsible for the youth policy.

Larger parts of the national youth councils in the EU are part of the European Youth Forum. This gives another advantage as European Youth Forum is the permanent member of European Steering Group for the EU Youth Dialogue at the European level and has relevant expertise for designing the cycles of the dialogue. European Steering Group formulates a common framework for the implementation of the corresponding cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue. While National Working Groups have the opportunity to adapt each element in accordance with the needs and actual to their local, regional and national contexts. Both, EU Youth Strategy and EU Youth Dialogue as mechanisms rely on subsidiarity principle.

It is important to keep in mind key facts about EU Youth Dialogue, while adopting it for the Eastern Partnership region. In order to implement the EU Youth Dialogue in the Eastern Partnership countries, a secure financing mechanism should be established. Since Erasmus+ KA3 is currently accessible for programme countries, none of Eastern Partnership countries can receive a grant as they are partner countries and in this way are not included into the process. A good relationship between the national governments and the national youth councils in the EaP region is a prerequisite for such a process to be successful.

Implementation framework of the EU Youth Dialogue in Eastern Partnership region

In March, 2020 National Youth Councils of Eastern Partnership countries appealed to the DG NEAR and DG EAC to review issues that young people face while accessing the opportunities for self-development, participation and mobility, which have a strong impact in the formation of a strong civic society in the EaP region. The National Youth Councils formulated their appeal based on the policy paper “AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE’S YOUTH: Position of the European Youth Forum on the post-2020 MFF” and also a big support of recent resolution “On combating shrinking space with expanding opportunities for youth organisations, national youth councils and international non-governmental youth organisations”.

The request was namely to review:

- the reopening Eastern Partnership Youth Window of the Erasmus+ Program in the outgoing MFF 2020;
- establishment of more flexible mechanisms for EaP countries to join the ERASMUS+ as program countries. We also encourage to apply understandable for civic society actors, easy and transparent budget calculations for each of the program components in order to provide all the mechanisms for the advocacy of youth rights in EaP states;
- the implementation of EU Youth Dialogue (Structured dialogue) in EaP states with the best examples of co-management principles of member states of Council of Europe.

In terms of their official recognition and institutional cooperation with the respective national governments, three National Youth Councils are officially recognised by the government. It is worth mentioning that often the recognition is based on specific agreements like memorandum of cooperation and/or joint actions within certain projects. Mostly, there is no specific legislation guaranteeing the role of the National Youth Council in the youth field.

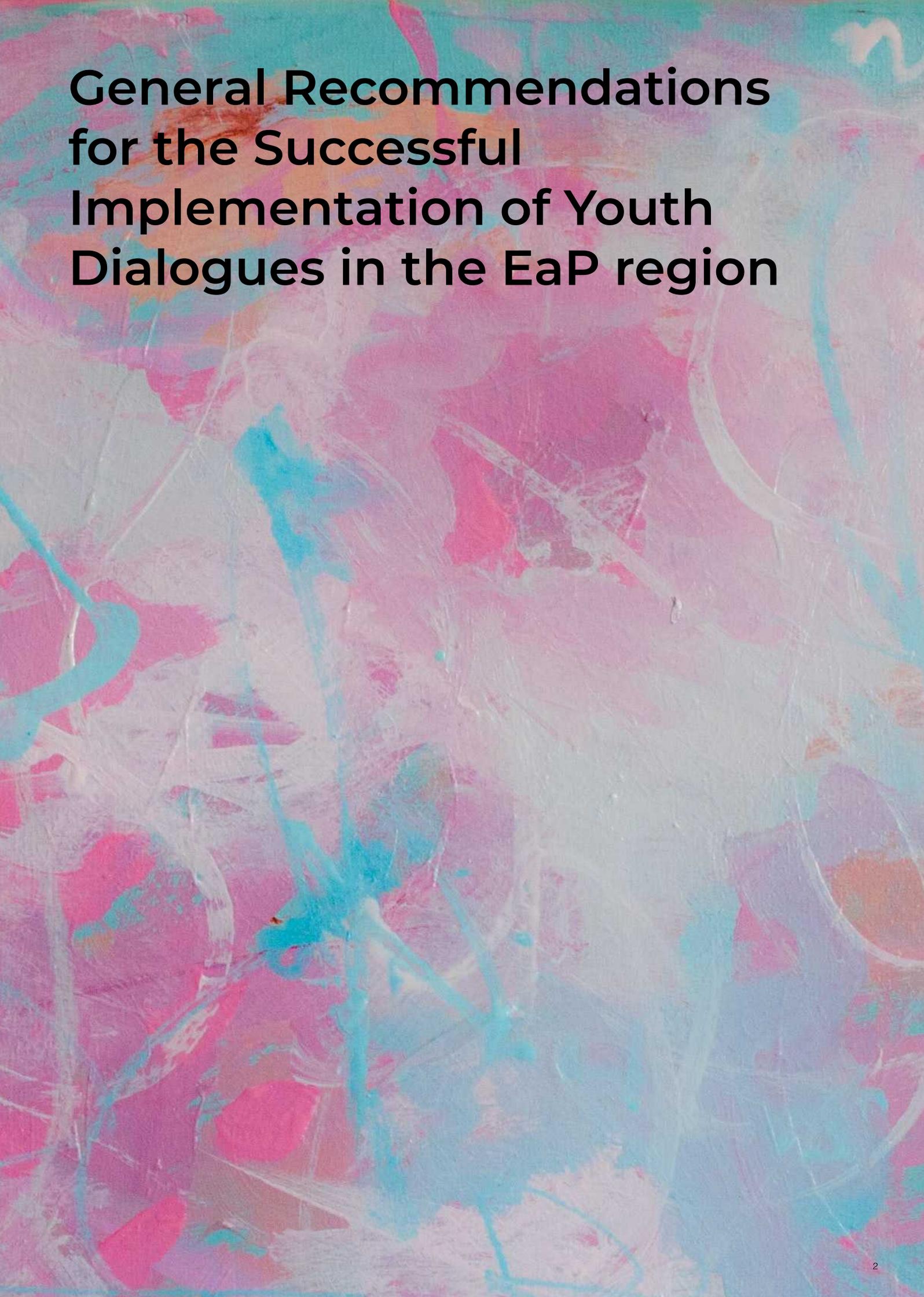


Implementation framework of the EU Youth Dialogue in Eastern Partnership region

Even so, it is a common issue that due to the often changes of the governments or their restructuring, the youth competence is shifted to different Ministries and Agencies. The newly established structures can create patterns of new requests for recognition, or creation of other advisory youth structures which are seen as parallel platforms. This is the case with the creation of the National Network of Local Youth Councils (NNLYC) in Moldova, a platform of local representative structures that has an advisory role to the national government. Similar example exists in Belarus, where the government supported the creation of a new national youth committee (Belarusian committee of youth organisations), as well as in Ukraine. Often the creation of such parallel bodies is used by the different governments and political structures to balance the power of the National Youth Councils and youth sphere in general. To better understand the role of the different platforms existing in each country it is significantly important to view their role, if these are advisory bodies or a representative structure of youth organisations serving as the consolidated voice of young people.

Therefore, for the successful implementation of EaP Youth Dialogue and its constant work, national governments should have political willingness for its implementation, openness to the dialogue and be ready to include obtained results of the dialogue, while making policy. Not less important is the strengthening of national youth councils and the inclusion of their expertise into the work of the National Working Groups with the opportunity to give the coverage of challenges and problems the young people face along with defining ideas and solutions on how the situation can be changed.

It is important to highlight that EaP NYCs already are using eleven EU Youth Goals within their activities as general frame for discussions and consultations. In 2020, with the support of the European Youth Forum team EaP NYCs shaped the common vision of how youth dialogue should be implemented in Eastern Partnership region. This vision became the basis for the formation of further advocacy messages in 2021.

The background of the page is an abstract, textured composition of brushstrokes. The colors are primarily soft pinks, light blues, and off-whites, with some darker, more saturated areas of pink and blue. The strokes are layered and overlapping, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is artistic and modern.

General Recommendations for the Successful Implementation of Youth Dialogues in the EaP region

General Recommendations for the Successful Implementation of Youth Dialogues in the EaP region

1. **Develop concept and strategy plan for the adoption and implementation of Youth Dialogue in Eastern Partnership region**

At the current stage it is crucial to develop a common model of Youth Dialogue for the whole region, which will become a complementary mechanism for youth participation to the existing ones, as well as will include national contexts, political and socio-economic challenges.

2. **Establishment of the national coordination structure for the representation of the youth voice**

It is crucial to set up an inclusive structure of the national working group, which will include all relevant stakeholders in each of the respective countries. Eastern Partnership national youth councils should play an active role in the establishing the architecture of the EaP Youth Dialogue, both on the regional (EaP) and national levels and should be recognized by the corresponding national governments as key coordination bodies.

3. **Foster political independence and impartiality**

Within the national context due to the low political culture and the presence of political parties with ideology, in some cases, dependence on state funding can provoke politicization of national youth platforms. Therefore, it becomes essential to keep the NYCs independent from the government and impartial to party politics to maintain a politically neutral position and represent young people of their countries and act on behalf of advocates for the youth rights.

4. **Strengthen capacity both of NYCs and national governments.**

EaP Youth Engagement Summit that took place on the 2-3 of July 2020 gave clear understanding that even with some success towards achieving meaningful youth participation, governmental authorities still perceive them as objects and not as equal partners. If financial support can be given by international donors, awareness raising on the importance and rethinking of approaches regarding fostering youth participation needs time, willingness and active involvement of both sides. NYCs also need to foster capacity for meaningful youth participation and better understanding of advocacy processes among its member organizations, as quality of discussions and developed recommendations has an inseparable connection with this. Besides that, NYCs need to bring more attention to their current capacity in financial management and development of a pool of experts.

General Recommendations for the Successful Implementation of Youth Dialogues in the EaP region

5. Build political recognition of EaP NYCs

Mostly in the EaP region NYCs do not have official recognition by their governments and on the contrary face shrinking space for civic society realities like budget cuts, single support of major nationalistic movements and organizations, weaker engagement of youth NGOs in public life and debate, caused by the ineffectiveness of existing participatory mechanisms. In some countries it also can be observed establishing mechanisms for the participation of young people, which have already undergone incapable practices in the neighboring countries. Recognition on the EU level through the European Youth Forum can be effective and on a certain point have already been achieved by all countries. It allows EaP NYCs to strengthen the position of youth structures when advocating for youth dialogues and pushing their own vision on its implementation towards EU structures. At the same time the recognition should also occur through governments on the local, regional and national levels, apart from that implementation of EaP Youth Dialogue may become a great challenge.

6. Encourage exchange of best practices between NYCs and their adoption within national contexts

National Youth Councils of other countries can contribute with exchange of already working and showing best practices that may help the roadmap for the implementation of the youth dialogue in EaP region. It can be useful to explore cases from countries with similar political and/or historical contexts such as Western Balkans states, Lithuania as Post-Soviet country etc. Already existing bilateral or other formats of cooperation between EU NYCs and in particular the EaP region can use the Youth Dialogue theme for the future exchanges.

7. Foster synergy and advocacy efforts with the European Youth Forum. The European Youth Forum serves as a platform for joint advocacy efforts and becomes a powerful tool for delivering ideas via bottom-up approach from EaP NYCs and therefore expressing consolidated opinion of young people to the EU structures.

8. Secure stable financing for Youth Dialogue initiatives of the National Youth Councils and Youth Organizations

EaP NYCs mostly do not have stable funding and their secretariat functioning highly depends on projects and donor support. In order to have a continuous full cycle Youth Dialogue at the EU level Eastern Partnership Window for financing within Erasmus+ program

9. Strengthening decentralized action and responsibility at local and regional level

Practices of a number EaP countries show that effectiveness of advisory-consultative bodies like local youth councils and parliaments highly depends on the perspective of local and regional authorities of youth policy importance and understanding of meaningful youth participation. Therefore, it is needed to give ownership as well as appropriate tools for local and regional level to be fully included into the cycles of Youth Dialogue Consultations. In the contexts of EaP countries, additional training programs and standards for the implementation of youth dialogue should appear.

10. Extend prospect for cooperation and integration with EU through institution of participatory structures and official documents

To further the process of implementation reforms and closer integration of EaP countries with the EU, first of all, clear policies, standards and indicators in the youth field must be prescribed in the documents of the association and/or other official agreements. It is also crucial to raise awareness about the importance of inclusion of young people into the political and decision-making process through the youth dialogue mechanism as future drivers of reforms and EU integration process. Official documents like agreements, declarations and strategies, including the EU one can be used for the drafting the implementation road map of the youth dialogue and provide its correlation with EU Youth Strategy. This will serve as additional mechanism for accountability of the national governments in their promises to set inclusive and transparent participatory instruments.

Country-specific propositions



Country-specific propositions



Armenia

1. Ensure the formation of a coalition of youth organizations

In the case of Armenia, the National Youth Council has not been active since 2017. At the current stage it becomes essential to form a coalition of youth organizations, both, which operate at the local level, as well as those, which represent international umbrellas. Local organizations will ensure better understanding of the existing context, features of cooperation with the authorities, while international satellites will help to foster standards of democratic youth participation and formation of youth led organizations, will bring connections and trust in the process of advocating for international recognition on the international level.

2. Reapply for the membership in the European Youth Forum

National Youth Council of Armenia (NCYA) de jure is a full member of the European Youth Forum, de facto it has not been operating since 2017. To keep the overall structure of EaP Youth Dialogue similar to all countries and for the effectiveness of coordination of the process in whole the followers of the NYCA should solve issues with membership in the European Youth Forum

3. Establish and strengthen cooperation with EaP NYCs

The leadership of the new structure should foster reliable links with EaP NYCs. The starting point could be pilot joint projects with the prior involvement of members of international umbrella organizations coming from Armenia as guarantee for the success of the future cooperation.

Country-specific propositions



Azerbaijan

1. Ensure unity and cooperation between governmental structures for recognizing youth work as basis of further development of youth participation

Political establishment should have at the core of their agenda the questions of recognizing youth work, so it can also become one of the first topics for discussions while establishing Youth Dialogue.

2. Secure inclusive approach towards establishing youth dialogue starting from the local level

Inclusive youth work is missing at the moment and it is difficult to cover young people coming from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Therefore, starting from the very local level, vulnerable groups should have opportunity and mechanism for the representation of their rights in the Youth Dialogue process.

Country-specific propositions



Belarus

1. Provide core place for youth policy within new prodemocratic powers and political establishment

It is important for the Coordinating Council for Transfer of Power, which arose during protests against election fraud in August 2020, to include within program documents and responsible positions vision on the possible development of youth policy.

2. Save connections with democratic youth organizations

Many activists are subjected to political repression and persecution, including representatives of RADA and its member organizations. In this situation it is difficult to predict further development of the Belarusian youth sector at all, but important to save connections with various democratic organizations, as their expertise will be needed soon.

Country-specific propositions



Georgia

1. Support capacity and strengthen cooperation with local organizations based in regions of Georgia.

The expertise of the National Youth Council of Georgia and opportunities to be involved on national and European level is crucial for regional youth organizations. To support capacity and train and share experiences with local youth and youth organizations will have two main benefits – for national youth council – will increase capacity and contacts of youth council itself, second – will increase capacity of local youth organizations in order to make their voice heard and give them more opportunities on national and European levels.

2. To monitor and evaluate youth policy in Georgia by increasing capacity of youth organizations and youth.

To increase capacity of youth organizations and youth to actively be involved in monitoring and evaluation process of the youth policy. As this practice is not very familiar for Georgia because mainly youth organizations during many years were organizing youth forums together with ministry of youth (before) but the practice to monitor or evaluate youth policy or what government is doing and on what they are working was not familiar before action plan did not expire and hired experts started the evaluation process. This is weak side of youth organizations in Georgia so we wish to start and initiate the process in order to make youth policy implementation more quality oriented and support youth participation in the process.

3. Secure youth focus within newly reformulated Ministry responsible for the implementation of youth policy

As the newly created youth agency was restructured and the ministry was reformulated, it is not clear what functions it will have and which priority towards youth policy will take. Therefore, NCYOG should keep abreast of developments and build good communication with them.

Country-specific propositions



Moldova

1. Ensure capacity building and integration of local youth councils into

CTNM structure

Different local youth councils could try to establish youth dialogue in their respective political entities. For effective results additional training can be provided by CTNM, which is already practiced. This will allow better integration of local youth councils into understanding of meaningful participation and active future participation in the Youth Dialogue.

2. Guarantee proper functioning of Youth Agency or other relevant body responsible for the implementation of youth policy

According to the official document, the Youth Agency should be responsible for implementing and coordinating youth programs and its creation has been postponed several times, followed by advocacy campaigns of CTNM. For the successful implementation of Youth Dialogue the government must guarantee proper functioning of the Youth Agency or other relevant body. In case of disagreements CTNM should continue its advocacy.

Country-specific propositions



Ukraine

1. NYCU and NUMO should clear mechanism, rules and procedures for mutual cooperation on the national arena

At the current stage, both structures are included in the process of developing EaP Youth Dialogue. Because both platforms unite a number of active youth organizations, for the success of the future national working group on youth dialogue consensus for cooperation should be established with clear guidelines of interaction.

2. Ensure and advance implementation of new Law on youth

How will be developed bylaws, which follow the practical implementation of the new Law on youth and what will be prescribed in it, depends on consensus between major stakeholders, the effectiveness of the already existing youth participation mechanisms and the most important - sustainability of their funding. Thus, active participation of youth organizations is the key in this case.

3. Receive internal recognition of the National Youth Council of Ukraine

The National Youth Council of Ukraine has already prolonged memorandum of cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. However, there are still many challenges for internal recognition within the country. Regional development, cooperation with youth organizations that are not yet part of the platform should be strengthened, and a more proactive position on advocacy messages should be addressed in the field of youth policy, more trainings to strengthen the capacity of member organizations in advocacy and youth participation should be done, strict adherence to rules and procedures must be committed.

Country-specific propositions



Ukraine

4. Take experience from the local youth dialogue methodology for the multipliers

The National Youth Council of Ukraine has already financed youth projects with successful cases of organizing school for facilitators of the youth dialogue. This experience should be supported in the future, scaled and multiplied.

Attempts in localization of youth dialogue in Ukraine

LEROOT

2016





Attempts in localization of youth dialogue in Ukraine

Short background

Youth dialogue as a mechanism for youth participation is part of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, which ensures the involvement of young people in the decision-making process in the development and implementation of youth policies from local to national levels through a clear dialogue between young people and decision-makers. At the same time, the Ukrainian legal framework (in particular related to the decentralization process) does not define a clear scheme of organized cooperation with young people at the local level. At the same time, due to the low level of culture of participation in Ukrainian society, the non-perception of young people as an equal partner, level the real implementation of such a mechanism. At the same time, the most effective level of real implementation of youth policy is shown by cases at the level of local OTGs (as confirmed by studies of NYCU and partner organizations during 2017-2020), while educational, informational and legal work at this level is insignificant. by the state and by powerful public associations.

Objectives of localization of the Youth Dialogue mechanism in Ukraine:

- Strengthening the “front-office” of youth policy in Ukraine and transferring its work from the household to the professional level.
- Increasing the real and systemic influence of young people from small towns and villages on the decision-making system in local communities through information, mentoring and social education.
- Networking and strengthening horizontal links between socially active youth Strengthening the human rights opportunities of young people from local communities through the association and advocacy of rights with the help of NYCU and a network of mentors from among professionals working with youth in the public and non-governmental sectors.
- Development and implementation of national and local youth policy that meets the real needs of Ukrainian youth EU youth goals.



Attempts in localization of youth dialogue in Ukraine

Key activity localization mechanism:

→ **Strengthening advocacy capacity of young people from local communities through association and advocacy rights by using NYCU mentors and networks among professionals working with young people in the public and NGO sectors**

Creating a network of youth mentors from among professionals working with young people in the public and non-governmental sectors through their training and support of their work in local communities as mediators in communication between youth and government

- ◇ Non-formal education of youth from small towns and villages in the field of human rights (including through a network of mentors)
- ◇ Increasing youth involvement in human rights activities in communities through their involvement in initiating community activities in communities (in particular through the financing of micro-projects, including with the support of local self-government).

→ **Strengthening the “front-office” of youth policy in Ukraine and transferring its work from the domestic and personal to the professional level**

- ◇ Supporting existing and stimulating the creation of new youth centers of various forms of ownership in local communities (in particular through funding of microprojects, including support for by the MHI).
- ◇ Development and implementation of training programs for youth workers (including on the basis of the UNDP Youth Worker Program and the Ministry of Youth) in the regions.
- ◇ Advocacy for the appointment of a responsible official for the implementation of youth policy in communities (counselor, responsible deputy chairperson, etc.).



Attempts in localization of youth dialogue in Ukraine

Key activity localization mechanism:

→ Networking and strengthening horizontal links between socially active youth:

- ◇ Creation of national, regional and local networks for youth (similar to the NYCU structure, which works from the national level to the level of local communities).
- ◇ Development and implementation of online tools for direct horizontal communication of youth for joint social initiatives (eg joint crowdfunding).

→ Creation of regional “thematic youth groups” (clusters) according to key interest groups and activities of youth groups (culture, environment, human rights, politics, etc.)

→ Increasing the real and systemic impact of young people from small towns and villages on the decision-making system in local communities through information, mentoring and social education.

- ◇ Initiation of creation of advisory bodies at local self-government bodies on work with youth (youth councils, etc.) which necessarily should include not only employees, but also representatives of youth, youth NGOs
- ◇ Systematic training of youth in human rights, educational and other spheres annual updates according to pre-processed requests.
- ◇ Regular training of youth mentors for their further professional support of youth in initiating and implementing changes in youth policy in local communities

Attempts in localization of youth dialogue in Ukraine

Key activity localization mechanism:

→ Development and implementation of national and local youth policy that meets the real needs of Ukrainian youth

- ◇ Development (together with youth, network of youth mentors and local self-government) of strategic and operational plans for the implementation of youth policy in specific communities.
- ◇ Annual (or at least every 3 years) inclusive localized survey of youth needs and requests for youth policy renewal involving different social groups (working youth, students, young parents, young people with disabilities, national minorities, LGBT community)
- ◇ Public discussions of national and regional youth programs, not only at the regional center, but also at the level of local communities (including through digital technology)



Attempts in localization of youth dialogue in Ukraine

Main implementing partners for localization:

- National Youth Council of Ukraine, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, Ukrainian NGO (national level)
- Regional branches of NYCU, Directorate responsible for the implementation of youth policy, regional NGOs (at the regional level).
- NYCU member organizations, a network of youth mentors, local youth NGOs, community youth centers, and local self-government officials responsible for youth policy in communities (at the local level).
- Other youth organizations interested in localization of youth dialogue.

In 2020, within the framework of the sub granting program for member organizations, NYCU had focused on initiatives, which aimed to work with youth dialogue on the grassroots level, as well as on the national level. One of such initiatives was the School of facilitators for youth dialogue. A 3-day School was held for two groups, 13, 16, 18 January 2021 - 1 group 18 participants, 2 groups of 16 participants. As a follow-up activity, conducting local presentations of the Youth Dialogue participants of the online school took place during January-February 2021 - 12 events were held, 212 participants were involved with the support of 15 facilitators.

Description of the methodology of
training sessions

"School of facilitators for
the youth dialogue"





The aim of the online school is to develop the competencies needed to facilitate youth dialogue as a consultation tool between young people, local governments, and civil society institutions to shape effective youth policy at the local level.

Tasks for the training course:

To get acquainted with the standards, approaches, tools of youth dialogue and EU youth goals.

Build a common understanding of youth participation and form a vision of the participants in their role in this process.

Evaluate and provide feedback and suggestions for further adaptation of youth dialogue at the local level.

Build conditions for further networking and cooperation between youth dialogue facilitators and other stakeholders.

To form practical skills of facilitating youth dialogue through the implementation of own initiatives.

Title of the sessions	Getting to know each other. Formulation of expectations and rules.
Aim and objective	Acquaintance of participants, establishment of rules of work, definition of expectations.
Methodology and methods	Acquaintance, expectations - on the Padlet board participants individually create their own card, where they place (choosing their location) name, photo at will, what they do and briefly form expectations from learning. Group presentation with a demonstration of the board card, each of them has the opportunity for up to 1 minute. tell about yourself and your expectations.
Results	Participants got to know each other. The basic rules of group work during the training are formed and agreed. The expectations of the participants are defined. A positive psychological microclimate in the group was established.



Title of the sessions	Youth dialogue
Aim and objective	Forming a common understanding of youth dialogue.
Methodology and methods	Presentation of youth dialogue: history, concepts, purpose and tasks, implementation mechanism. Group discussion, discussion, questions and answers.
Results	The structural dialogue, the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, the concepts, goals and mechanism for implementing the EU Youth Dialogue are discussed. A common understanding of the Youth Dialogue has been formed.

Title of the sessions	Youth Participation
Aim and objective	To form a common understanding of youth participation, to determine the relationship with youth dialogue.
Methodology and methods	Group work. On the jamboard, participants need to discuss and rank youth participation levels. Then discuss in the group the levels at which the Youth Dialogue is taking place. Presentation and discussion of results in a joint group.
Results	The relationship and communication between the participants of the group is established. A common understanding of youth participation is formed, the role of youth dialogue in the process of youth participation is determined. Development of group dynamics.



Title of the sessions	Local youth problems
Aim and objective	Identification of current youth problems at the local level.
Methodology and methods	Individual work, make an analysis based on their own experience and experience of communication with young people, identify 5 key youth issues relevant to their local community. Fix and Cardboard Padlet. (Can be like homework).
Results	Development of analytical skills and critical thinking, the ability to summarize experiences and highlight the main, the ability to formulate youth issues at the local level.

Title of the sessions	Youth dialogue
Aim and objective	Update the acquired knowledge and common understanding of youth dialogue.
Methodology and methods	Individual task for participants, to form 3 associations to the concept of "Youth Dialogue", to fix with the help of the Mentimeter tool. We form a common cloud of associations and discuss. Presentation and discussion of results in a joint group.
Results	Common understanding of youth dialogue is updated, we develop communication and interaction of group members.



Title of the sessions	EU Youth Goals
Aim and objective	To acquaint the participants of the group with 11 EU youth goals, issues and purpose of each of them, to develop skills of facilitation of goals as a component of youth dialogue at the local level.
Methodology and methods	<p>Presentation and discussion of 11 EU youth goals.</p> <p>Individual work - each of the participants on the Padlet board has the problems of young people (which were highlighted in the previous stages) in accordance with the EU youth goals.</p> <p>Work in groups - elaboration of existing problems of youth in Ukraine at the local level related to the EU youth goals, development of specific solutions. Presentation of works and group discussion of results of works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each group can be thematic, for example, the first group works out solutions through the prism of local governments (ie, how local self-government bodies can help solve this problem for young people); the second - civil society institutions; third - youth spaces; the fourth is youth.
Results	Common understanding of youth dialogue is updated, we develop communication and interaction of group members.

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Methodology and methods	<p>Presentation and discussion of 11 EU youth goals.</p> <p>Individual work - each of the participants on the Padlet board has the problems of young people (which were highlighted in the previous stages) in accordance with the EU youth goals.</p> <p>Work in groups - elaboration of existing problems of youth in Ukraine at the local level related to the EU youth goals, development of specific solutions. Presentation of works and group discussion of results of works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each group can be thematic, for example, the first group works out solutions through the prism of local governments (ie, how local self-government bodies can help solve this problem for young people); the second - civil society institutions; third - youth spaces; the fourth is youth.
Results	11 EU youth goals were discussed and practically worked out by identifying key youth issues at the local level and identifying specific solutions.

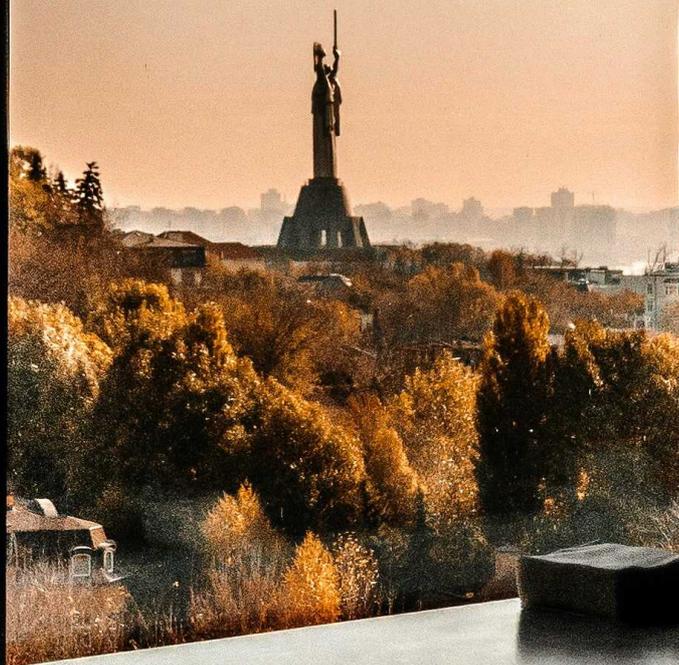


Title of the sessions	Implementation of the Youth Dialogue at the local level
Aim and objective	Planning the implementation of the youth dialogue in local communities.
Methodology and methods	Individual work - on the Padlet board, participants record their short plan for the implementation of youth dialogue at the local level according to the scheme "What? Where? When? With whom?"
Results	A map-plan for the implementation of youth dialogue in local communities has been created.

Title of the sessions	How to adapt youth dialogue to Ukrainian realities
Aim and objective	Discussing the concept of youth dialogue in Ukraine at the local level
Methodology and methods	Work in groups with the document of the concept of youth dialogue at the local level in Ukraine - discussion of basic provisions, recommendations for improvement.
Results	Forming a common understanding of the adaptation and implementation of youth dialogue at the local level in Ukraine.

Title of the sessions	5 words about the facilitator of the Youth Dialogue
Aim and objective	Discussion of competencies, principles of the facilitator of the Youth Dialogue
Methodology and methods	Each of the participants individually identifies 5 key features / principles of the facilitator of the youth dialogue couples, where they discuss their thoughts and experiences and agree on 5 common positions, couples unite in fours and agree on 5 key positions. The groups are grouped into 1 joint group, which should identify 5 key positions acceptable to all participants.
Results	Understanding the principles of facilitation of youth dialogue, development of communication skills, constructive dialogue skills, ability to negotiate and effective group interaction.

**Policy paper “Youth Dialogue in
Ukraine and the Eastern
Partnership countries” was
adopted by the General Assembly
of the National Youth Council of
Ukraine on October 17-18, 2020**



The launch of the Structured Dialogue in the EU began with the development of two main documents: White Paper: A New Impetus for European Youth, 2001) and the European Youth Pact (2005). These two documents emphasize the importance of consulting with young people on policy areas that directly affect young people themselves. In 2005, a Resolution of the Council of the European Union invited the European Commission and the Member States to develop a structured dialogue with young people and youth organizations, youth experts and civil society institutions, which are actively involved in decision-making processes.

Subsequently, the Structured Dialogue was transformed into the EU Youth Dialogue and together with the EU Youth Goals became a benchmark for the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027. The EU Youth Dialogue is a European youth participation mechanism that has been supporting the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 for 18 months on a priority theme and ensuring the involvement of young people in the decision-making process in the development and implementation of youth policies from local to national levels. young people and decision-makers in Europe. In general, youth dialogues and consultations are multi-level processes conducted at the local, national and international levels to transfer knowledge and suggestions from young people to the government on social and political issues. Each of the cycles of the program includes phases of consulting with young people to identify problems and find common solutions, implement activities, monitor the effectiveness of this cycle.

Youth policies, strategies and target policy documents should be evidence-based and tailored to the real needs and situations of young people. To do this, it is necessary to conduct ongoing research, develop knowledge in relevant areas and provide a broad coverage of youth, youth organizations and organizations working with youth. At the same time, in Ukraine today only 2% of young people are members of youth NGOs, 6% attend certain events of NGOs, and half of Ukrainian youth have not heard of any activities aimed at supporting youth initiatives and solutions. problems of youth.

At the same time, in Ukraine there are no unified statistics on youth participation in public and political life. This indicator can be assessed indirectly with the help of statistics and surveys of youth NGOs, as well as the results of surveys conducted in recent years with the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, as well as donor organizations.

However, the legal framework related to the decentralization process does not define a clear scheme of organized cooperation with youth at the local level. Oblast and district state administrations and municipal authorities may initiate the establishment of advisory councils, in accordance with the Government Resolution of December 18, 2018 № 1198 "On approval of standard provisions on youth advisory bodies". At the same time, due to the low level of culture of participation in Ukrainian society, non-perception of youth as an equal partner, the activities of such a mechanism of youth participation are often nominal.

Having held 25 open meetings with young people from all over Ukraine, using the thematic framework of the European Youth Goals, and taking into account the concept of European Youth Dialogue, with adaptation and localization to Ukraine, the National Youth Council of Ukraine identified the most problematic issues for Ukrainian youth. Among the developed European youth goals, the most relevant was goal №6, "Support for youth from small towns and rural areas", no less important were №4 "Information and constructive dialogue", №5 "Mental health of youth", " 7 "Quality employment for all", №8 "Quality education" and №11 "Youth organizations and European programs". The development of problems and proposals for their implementation has become an extremely important stage not only in understanding the Youth Dialogue and Youth Goals, but also in general showing solidarity between young people in finding common solutions to overcome youth problems, meet their needs and requests.

Taking into account paragraphs V.23.434.d (Development of cooperation between youth organizations in Ukraine, the EU and its Member States), V.23.434.a (Promoting the integration of young people into society in general, encouraging their active public position and initiative) Association Agreements with the EU, we aim to strengthen the participation of young people at various levels, which is why we emphasize: the importance of European youth dialogue in Ukraine for European integration and to enable Ukrainian youth to convey their views, ideas and solutions to representatives profile institutions, in the competence of which are the tools for resolving the issues raised, the development of a culture of participation and consultation;

- potential and opportunity for better adaptation and application of youth dialogue in Ukraine, dissemination as a practice of consulting with young Ukrainians;
- potential for the development of youth dialogue in the Eastern Partnership countries as a catalyst for qualitative change and maintaining contacts between people.

In this regard, the National Youth Council of Ukraine recommends that the authorities responsible for the implementation of youth policy:

- increase the system of work to expand the level of real participation of young people in decision-making processes through the tool of Youth Dialogue. In this regard, we call for an improvement in the legal framework to support the Youth Dialogue at various levels, including best practices and principles of joint governance (according to the Council of Europe system). Youth dialogue should become an inalienable right of every young Ukrainian to participate in decision-making and state-building processes at all levels in a sustainable and effective manner;
- on the basis of the NYCU as a profile institution that already implements the Youth Dialogue in Ukraine to create a coordinating group and develop a comprehensive program "Youth Dialogue";
- create a funding tool for the Youth Dialogue program to increase animation at the local and regional levels. To this end, it is necessary to regulate the provision of funding for events and information and analytical materials and moderators, which will help solve the identified problems, serve to empower vulnerable groups of young people;
- ensure the inclusion of the results of consultations with young people and the developed ways of solving problems in legislative and program documents that regulate the areas and decision-making processes related to youth;

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a glowing lightbulb. The person is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. The lightbulb is illuminated from within, casting a warm, golden glow. A thin, copper-colored wire is attached to the top of the lightbulb, looping upwards and to the left, where it connects to a string of small, glowing lights. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the lightbulb and the hands holding it.

**The Eastern Partnership
Youth Dialogue: Vision from
National Youth Councils**

The Eastern Partnership Youth Dialogue: Vision from National Youth Councils

Key principles:

— The EaP Youth Dialogue should be inclusive, especially towards young people facing socio-economic, geographical and other obstacles to engage.

— EaP Youth Dialogue should be developed based on a meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes; ensuring representativity, inclusiveness, transparency, effectiveness and have a rights based approach at heart. When setting the topic for the EaP Youth Dialogue cycle it should also be done through participatory mechanisms. As an illustration, active citizenship, human rights as well as media literacy are some of the main topics that should be discussed.

Objectives and desired impact:

Overall objectives:

— Contribute to structured and meaningful participation of youth organisations and young people from the EaP countries in decision-making and policy-making processes;

— Empower young people's active citizenship through their engagement in civil society at local, national and international levels.

Specific objectives:

1. Youth participation component: The engagement of a wide range of young people on a local, regional and national level through different participation methods. Thus, fostering democratic participation, empowering young people to be active citizens and amplifying their voices to decision-makers on local, national, regional and EU levels.
2. Policy component: NYCs from the EaP countries should be meaningfully included in co-producing youth policies through the EaP Youth Dialogue. It provides the platform and funding through the EaP Youth Dialogue grant allowing youth organisations and non-formal youth groups to exchange and advocate for inclusive and rights-based youth policies and programmes at the local, national and regional level. In order to facilitate links between EaP and EU policies, cooperation between youth organisations from the EaP region and with the EU institutions should be facilitated.
3. Stronger youth civil society component: NYCs from the EaP countries cooperate in the process of engaging young people and promoting youth interests at the national and regional level. NYCs should also be recognised and supported through funding schemes allowing them to be the focal-point for youth engagement at the national level. In order to ensure a positive impact of youth work in the society, smaller youth organisations should also be fostered and funded allowing longer term planning and different activities to be implemented.

The Eastern Partnership Youth Dialogue: Vision from National Youth Councils

Impact of the EAP Youth Dialogue:

- NYCs in the EaP countries successfully advocate for rights and needs of young people at national and regional level.
- Youth Organisations in the EaP countries are strengthened, they are more sustainable and able to carry out activities to engage and empower young people and represent their interests towards authorities.
- Civil society participation in policy and decision-making processes in EaP countries is more frequent, transparent and structured.

And as a result:

- Youth policies in the EaP countries are based on the rights and needs of young people. Young people thus benefit from improved policies and programmes.
- Policies, strategies and programmes concerning the EaP are developed with participation of young people and youth organisations from the EaP Region.

Involvement of the National Youth Councils in the EaP Youth Dialogue:

- NYCs should be playing an active role in establishing the architecture of the EaP Youth Dialogue on national and regional (EaP) level.
- NYCs should be considered as lead partner organisations together with governmental bodies responsible for youth and contributing to co-creation of the mechanisms of the EaP Youth Dialogue; being meaningfully involved in implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the process to ensure quality youth participation.
- NYCs represent the interests of youth organisations and young people, and should engage with youth ministries to develop, monitor and evaluate youth strategies, policies and programmes of the youth sector through the EaP Youth Dialogue at the national level.
- NYCs are the focal point for independent and democratic youth-led organisations that are transparent and work for youth development. Generally as well as through the EaP Youth Dialogue, the NYCs engage and support the development of youth at local level including youth who are the most vulnerable and excluded, e.g. minorities.
- The EaP Youth Dialogue should contribute to development of the programmes and policies for youth in the EaP region. Thus, NYCs should part-take through already existing civil society engagement mechanisms. as well as seek for reinforced engagement in EaP Structures to connect EaP Youth Dialogue process and current policy cooperation at the EaP level.

The Eastern Partnership Youth Dialogue: Vision from National Youth Councils

Proposal for the coordination and implementation of the EaP Youth Dialogue

- On the EaP level the process is coordinated by an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the European Youth Forum, the European Commission, National Youth Councils and National Governments responsible for youth affairs. The body provides expertise and support for the national EaP Youth Dialogue implementation, sets the broad framework for the EaP Youth Dialogue cycle and monitors its implementation. It also established a policy connection between the EaP Youth Dialogue and current policy processes and their advancement at the EaP level.
- Within the Advisory Committee each EaP country holds a rotating Chairmanship that is shared between the National Youth Council and the Government.
- The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) or similar entity does financial administration of the EaP Youth Dialogue.
- National Dialogue Working Groups are organized according to the co-creation principle which will include different roles and responsibilities for National Youth Council representatives and governmental bodies with National Youth Councils coordinating the work of the National Dialogue Working Groups. National Dialogue Working Groups are administrating the grants for the activities at the national level. EaP NYCs together with government representatives develop the implementation plan for the EaP Youth Dialogue for national, regional and local levels. NYC in each country is in charge of coordinating and conducting local and regional youth dialogue events and consultations with adequate financial and political support; National Dialogue Working Groups are providing necessary reports and inputs to the EACEA or similar entity and the Advisory Committee.
- External experts e.g. EaP Civil Society Forum's Working Group 4, the EU-CoE Youth Partnership, could be invited as guests to the meetings of the Advisory Committee to support its work.

Partners involved in the EaP Youth Dialogue process:

- As representative bodies of young people in their countries each NYC should have a leading role in developing, implementing and following up on the EaP Youth Dialogue process. They should also be actively involved in creating links between the EaP Youth Dialogue and ongoing policy processes in the EaP Countries, as well as the EaP and EU cooperation.
- In coordination with NYCs, youth organisations at local and regional level should be actively involved within the implementation of the EaP Youth Dialogue.
- National governments and (youth) ministries; the EaP Youth Dialogue should be connected with youth policies at national and EaP regional level. Thus, the involvement of relevant ministries in charge of youth at national level is important.
- The involvement of other national ministries, including ministries of foreign affairs, ministries of social affairs, ministries of education, and others, should depend on the theme of the EaP Youth Dialogue and the policy area being discussed.
- Regional Government Offices/Departments should be engaged to support and promote the engagement of youth, especially the most vulnerable groups, within the EaP Youth Dialogue at the regional level.
- Bearing in mind different national contexts, as national actors may also include youth agencies (state bodies), committee of youth of national parliaments, local municipality representatives, independent experts in the field of youth, youth workers association, representatives of international organisations and other actors as appropriate.

The Eastern Partnership Youth Dialogue: Vision from National Youth Councils

Challenges and opportunities of the EaP Youth Dialogue:

Opportunities :

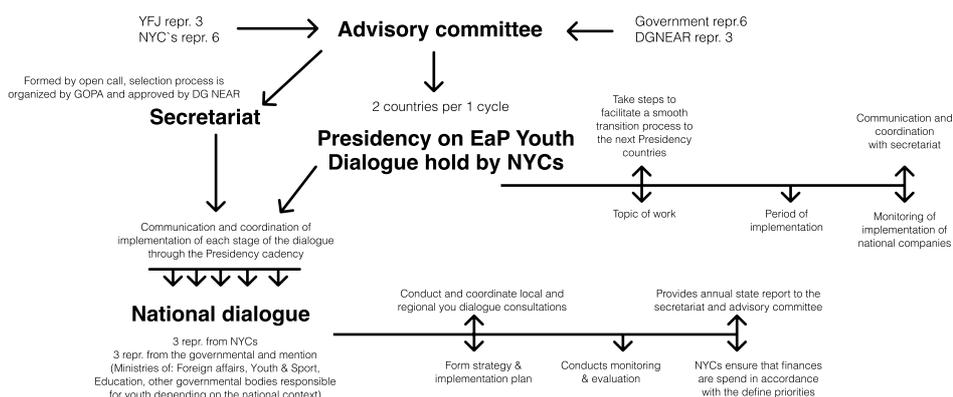
- Increased cooperation with EaP Civil Society Forum, National Platform Working group 4, or Youth Working Group, if it is created, as well as youth workers and their CSOs.
- Partnership between NYCs and SALTO Participation and Information, and other relevant EU structures could be an opportunity to capacity building of youth organisations.
- For NYCs to contribute to the development of innovative and collaborative practices of participation in the EaP region that benefit youth organisations, young people and decision-makers.

Challenges :

Youth development often comes in the middle of the clashes of political powers in the country and advocating for programmes and policies based on the principles of meaningful youth participation might be considered as a source of opposition to the government. There is a general lack of recognition of the work that youth organisations do. Thus, the EaP Youth Dialogue could face a lack of consideration, opposition and eventually attempts to be managed by governments involving more youth organisations that are in line with government's political line. Despite the need for increased cooperation between youth to develop a culture of peace and create spaces to exchange on sensitive topics, persisting tensions and conflicts in the region could affect the process of involvement of youth in the EaP Youth Dialogue. On the other hand, this challenge through the EaP Youth Dialogue could be transformed into an opportunity to build bridges between young people from conflicting parties.

- Lack of financial sustainability could affect the impact, outreach and objectives of the EaP Youth Dialogue. Without adequate financial support, the process would not be efficient, impactful and meaningful. Specific EU funds should be dedicated to National Working Groups and actors to support the EaP Youth Dialogue to develop innovative youth participation practices and mechanisms. It also would ensure that independent youth organisations could make use of this funding. In addition, there should be recommendations made to the National Governments from the EaP countries to support this process financially.

These challenges lead to questions about how to ensure smooth running of the Dialogue that would be impactful and empower youth participation.



Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)



Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

Youth and youth structures represent a crucial partner for developing of the countries, region, whose abilities could align the EaP region with EU standards, principles and values on meaningful youth participation in the decision-making process per EU Youth Participation Strategy, EU Youth Strategy and European Youth Goals.

However, the degree of youth participation in the EaP region is affected by tokenism, the indifference of authorities in youth participation, etc. For example,

U-Report Ukraine provides results for the survey that 56% of young people would like to join the decision-making processes concerning youth but do not know how to do this. A similar situation could be observed, including in Moldova, where youth are interested in participating in the decision-making process, but decision-makers do not hear their voice.

To better understand the actual situation in terms of youth participation and EaP Youth Dialogue, the National Youth Councils (NYCs) of the EaP region conducted a series of activities to promote the youth dialogue in the EaP region. These were different educational posts on social media, focus groups and interviews with its member organisations. In parallel, CNTM (Moldova) created a model of questionnaire addressed to all youth structures and youth representatives who are not part of CNTM to ensure participation of all interested stakeholders, giving space for alternative vision on the establishment of EaP Youth Dialogue. This model of the questionnaire was adapted to the national context by NYCU(Ukraine). At this stage, responses were received from youth NGOs, including members of EaP CSF, local advisory youth councils, youth and pupils councils, youth centres and alumni of the “youth worker programme”, local authorities.

Among problems that young people the most frequently encountered at the local level were mentioned the following: lack of information about various opportunities and meaningful leisure activities (including internet access), access to the good quality education, employment of young people, as well as conditions to start own business, lack of mobility due to poor infrastructure (bus connection, bad roads, financial difficulties and instability of young people), inconsistency of local youth programs with the real needs of youth, the inclusion of young people into decision-making processes. Also, many respondents pointed out that decision-makers do not consider their voice, and there are many stereotypes about youth participation. Meanwhile, youth mentioned a lack of knowledge and competencies to advocate for youth rights among local youth structures.

According to the interviewed and questioned participants, more than 50% of respondents do not know about Youth Dialogue. However, most respondents would still choose a single national platform that would promote and intensify efforts to represent the voice of young people at the national and international levels. Related to the coordination mission of EaP Youth Dialogue Platform, more than 70% chose EaP NYC's (European Youth Forum (YFJ) members) for the coordination function based on the existing efforts of promotion and adaptation of EU Youth Dialogue in the EaP region, as well as long-term and practical activities in the field of youth meaningful participation and advocacy initiatives for youth rights, including at EU, CoE and UN levels; constructive dialogue with stakeholders, etc. so being trusted by young people.

Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

Regarding the political context of cooperation, it remains clear that the EU has focused on the three associated partners and strongly supports collaboration between the three countries, which are implementing the AA and DCFTA (Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia). However, in the case of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus, the concept of the EaP is used to send a strong political signal to the societies of those countries rather than to make unrealistic proposals of cooperation with the current authorities. This gives one of the biggest challenges of the implementation for the future EaP Youth Dialogue. Therefore, it is suggested to have a clear active role and coordination function for the NYCs that are part of the European Youth Forum, considering quality standards in their activities, values and principles to which members of YFJ have to align to. As an added value in favour of NYCs could be regarded as their experience to advocate for youth rights, including being in the opposition with state institutions, just having a priority to promote and to protect youth rights according to their mission, even if it was/is not convenient for some state institutions (ex. RADA, CNTM for their active advocacy initiatives which were not supported by the Ministries of Youth/Education). Their recognition by national (except Belarus) and international institutions dealing with human rights issues, demonstrated experience to work with UN or CoE institutions and other EU NYCs considerably will position the EaP NYCs as a bridge between the EaP region and all institutions and organisations across the world, creating a powerful advocacy platform for youth rights in EaP region.

In general, it will contribute a lot in establishing the typical (or similar) architecture of the EaP Youth Dialogue at the national and regional (EaP) level. In some cases, such an approach can lead to the faster internal recognition of the meaningful youth participation in the decision-making process, creating a space for the structured dialogue on youth between stakeholders and youth, creating including a conversation between generations, or at least contributing to better political development in the youth field in EaP region and contributing to the implementation of EU association agreements with the EaP countries which have signed it.

To confirm the previous statement on youth non-information on Youth Dialogue, it is relevant to mention that according to the official data provided by European Commission, between 2014 and 2020, 955 young people from the Eastern Partnership participated in the Youth dialogue with policymakers events funded within the Erasmus program. This means that most young people from the EaP region have little or no experience in EU Youth Dialogue. Therefore the proposed structure of the future EaP Youth Dialogue should not only replicate in many ways the EU Youth Dialogue implemented within the European Union but allow as much as possible EaP NYCs to be involved in EU events to learn in practice the best experiences of dialogue with decision-makers and in this way NYCs will become drivers of reforms in youth field of EaP region.



Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

Starting with the idea that participation is key to building healthy and sustainable democracies, where participation is a right enshrined in international human rights law, underpinned by Sustainable Development Goals and responding to the goals of the Eastern Partnership beyond 2020, a future EaP Youth Dialogue modelled on the EU Youth Dialogue shall serve the following main objectives:

- The overall aim of this process is to develop a policy framework to advocate for quality youth participation and representation mechanisms institutions;
- Ensure structured and meaningful participation of youth organisations and young people from the EaP countries in the national, regional, and EU policy-making processes related to EU-EaP dialogue on youth.

Based on European Youth Forum and its Member Organisations institutional framework, NYCs of EaP region are built upon democratic values and principles, considering democracy and democratic participation as a key aspect of our work, thus, emphasise the need for policymakers and institutions to walk the talk and provide the space and means for quality meaningful youth participation and representation mechanisms in institutions. Based on this, we, National Youth Councils of the EaP region, aspire to create favourable conditions for the young people's expression and self-realisation, ensuring youth leadership in participatory processes without judgment and tokenism, ensuring diversity and inclusiveness in this process so giving the space for developing of an attractive society where every young person matters and can fully exercise their rights. NYCs of the EaP region consider that EaP Youth Dialogue has to be developed based on the following **"values and principles of EaP Youth dialogue"**:

Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

1. **Young people as a value** - From young people, with young people and for young people.
2. **Representativeness** - EaP YD and NYCs as umbrella organisations promote the rights of young people and represent the interests of youth organisations.
3. **Cohesion** - We understand mutual respect, integrity, sharing the same values and goals between EaP YD members, and increasing the participation of young people, especially those with fewer opportunities.
4. **Diversity and Inclusiveness** - To have diverse and inclusive youth participation and representation mechanisms, EaP YD must consider that young people without discrimination are part of its programs and activities, ensuring that no one is left behind.
5. **Ethics and Integrity** - By integrity, EaP YD and NYCs refers to its position vis-à-vis members and partner organisations, where all participants in EaP YD should demonstrate a solid commitment to integrity and ethical values and possess the highest personal and professional ethics, and be committed to representing the long-term interests of the organisation and its beneficiaries or stakeholders.
6. **Accountability and Transparency** - EaP YD and NYCs emphasises the importance of transparency of the activities carried out by the member organisation. A member of EaP YD should ensure that it operates openly and transparently. It is accountable and uses trusted channels of communication and consultation to engage effectively with its stakeholders.
7. **Independence and non-political/institutional affiliation of its members**- the members of EaP YD coming from CSOs must not have an institutional or political affiliation, which would jeopardise the activity of the Youth Dialogue. Throughout the activity in the youth dialogue, the member organisations will act exclusively in the interest of the young people.
8. **Effective and meaningful participation** - a value that sublimates the importance of involvement and meaningful participation of young people in the activities organised by EaP YD without tokenism. Quality youth participation and representation mechanisms in EaP YD should provide an enabling environment that encourages youth participation and provides the necessary tools for all young people, including the most vulnerable, to be fully aware of their rights. At the same time, members of EaP YD should seek to identify, engage with and encourage the participation of its stakeholders in decision-making and planning activities for youth participation and advocacy actions for youth rights. For youth participation to be meaningful within the EaP YD, young people need to be on an equal basis with policymakers, engage with them and set the agenda together.
9. **Sustainability and continuity** - To make youth participation in institutional processes long-lasting and sustainable, there is a strong need to build trust and partnership between all involved stakeholders, including creating a space for an exchange involving all parties of EaP YD, youth organisations, young people and other relevant stakeholders across Europe. Also, it is necessary to allocate sufficient resources to develop, run and follow up on youth participation and representation mechanisms created under the EaP YD where EU Commission and EaP Governments are the main contributors in EaP YD. Also, other EaP YD members, especially NYCs, could cover some expenses if they have additional co-funding resources within other projects.

Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

Structure/vision of EaP NYCs on EaP YD

The proposed structure replicates in many ways the EU Youth Dialogue implemented within the European Union and gives more ownership and viable platform for dialogue and action for national governments of EaP countries and EaP NYCs to promote and to advocate for youth rights having on the board including the EU institutions and European Youth Forum who will facilitate and create direct connections of EU institutions with the EaP youth dialogue members (in particular EaP NYCs, who represent the voice of young people) in the consultation and negotiation related to EaP countries dialogue on youth topics, including taking in consideration intersectoral approach for youth needs (education, labour and entrepreneurship, health, etc.).

As the base for all architecture of the future EaP dialogue, country-level structure plays a crucial role in changing social behaviour and fostering participatory culture formulated on meaningful youth participation. Considering the difference in political situations, it is still important to establish similar constructions and mechanisms of interaction in all six countries, including creating synergies between EU youth dialogue and future EaP youth dialogue which will facilitate better implementation and localisation of EU Youth Goals in EaP countries.

On the country level, it is proposed to establish additional structural component to the initial structure of EaP YD proposed by GOPA:

1) **Youth Dialogue Coordinating Committee**

Function and Tasks:

- Meet regularly (at least once in 3 months)
- Developing and ensuring the implementation of annual national action of EaP YD (in concordance with regional priorities)
- Discuss youth policy issues at the national level
- Discuss and define thematic areas to be focused on for the upcoming 18 months
- Prepare and coordinate participation in intra-regional and EaP level events
- National and regional advocacy
- Development of methodology for the regional and local consultations
- Initiation and development of policy documents promote meaningful youth participation in the decision-making process, etc.
- We consider that Coordinating Committee has to be **consist of 9 members** which represent the fellow structures:

- 1. Ministry/Youth Agency (Co-Host)**
- 2. National Youth Councils (Co-Host)**
- 3. Youth organisations whose activity correspond with the EU youth participation principles (eligibility criteria have to be developed)**
- 4. One member delegated by the Working group on youth and regional development (participants from each country regions/rayons)**
- 5. Subgroup on the youth of WG4 of the EaP CSF National Platform EaP countries (by one member per country)**
- 6. One Young European Ambassador delegated by this national platform**

Observers:

- EU Delegation (could be including not just observers but including members of CC)
- EaP CSF National Platform and its secretariat
- Network of Youth Centers
- Co-management structures on youth participation

Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

IMPORTANT: There should be established clear procedures and rules for selecting other youth structures for the **Coordinating Committee**.

2) Working group on youth and regional development

which represents local youth NGOs, youth councils, youth initiative groups, youth centres, youth workers, will delegate one representative to the Youth Dialogue Coordinating Committee. It is essential to mention that in Moldova, during the consultation with stakeholders, the majority of respondents representing local youth councils opted for their direct engagement in EaP YD without giving importance to their umbrella structures (Network of local youth councils). Hence, local youth councils prefer to have them as active actors in this structure. In this regard, this new structure in the scheme of EaP YD will facilitate the efficient integration of grassroots structures in the work of EaP YD.

Main functions:

- Local facilitators for EaP youth dialogue (multipliers);
- Consultancy and monitoring of youth rights at the local level;
- Developing and ensuring the implementation of annual regional priorities of EaP YD.

Stakeholders to be involved:

- Youth organisations/non-organised youth
- Local youth councils
- Youth centres/ houses
- Youth advisory councils and other co-management structures
- Youth workers
- Other youth groups

The working group will have the right to delegate its representative to the Coordinating Committee to ensure direct regional representation of the voice of young people.

The selected regional representative from each EaP country will also be included in EaP Youth Dialogue Advisory Board.

3) Think Tank on Youth Policy and Participation - Expert Group

The mission is to contribute to their expertise on achieving the EaP YD on promoting and localising youth policy at the national and regional level. Also, their role will be to come up with their feedback on policy proposals at the national level or similar initiatives connected to youth and contribution to the consultations at local, regional and national levels if it will be required. By experts, activity will be facilitated by the activity of the Advocacy platform for youth initiatives (initiatives advocated by Coordination Committee or working group on youth and regional development).

The expert group will consist of recognised experts on youth whose competences by the Coordination Committee will select. EaP Civil Society Forum and WG 4 in the national context should play the role of experts and consultants for the NYCs and youth NGOs concerning the state policies and focus within European integration. Otherwise, the proposed structure of EaP Youth Dialogue will be the scattering of efforts, as the same youth NGOs are represented in NYCs and national platforms of civic society. Within the Advisory Board at the regional level, these structures can have observer status and form an informal EaP Civil Society forum network on the interregional level. This will allow the inclusion of their expertise into the overall EaP Youth Dialogue process.

Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

4) ToT of EaP YD for Working group on youth and regional development

To achieve a proper understanding of meaningful youth participation and the formation of an appropriate base for the YD at the local level, it is suggested to provide capacity building training of trainers (ToTs) for the participants of working groups on youth and regional development who will create an internal Pool of trainers. In 2020 and 2021, NYCU (Ukraine), together with its member organisations, had the experience of running a series of online schools for the facilitators of youth dialogue. This kind of event received a large number of applications. Also, it showed the need for additional training, as, at the very local level, there is insufficient knowledge of youth participation. It is foreseen that the ToT of EaP YD can be managed and certified by the Secretariats of the national level. The ToT pool of trainers will consist of YFJ qualified trainers to ensure their experience and quality education of the trainees who will be part of our Pool of trainers having an mission to disseminate the concept of Youth Dialogue at local and national level.

5) Secretariat

To ensure well mobilisation of all structures under EaP YD, including the realisation of the decision taken by the Youth Dialogue Coordinating Committee, is required to establish a secretariat point which will ensure that all activities at the national level are taken in concordance with expectation and internal regulations elaborated for EaP YD activity. In this sense, we consider that this function has to be given in the responsibilities of NYCs as they are more experienced to work in coordination activities at the local and national level.

6) Annual National Youth Forum/Conference

Such activities already are done annually by NYCs (CNTM, NYCU, etc)
The Annual Forum will work as a prototype of the EU Youth Conference at the country level. Therefore, this space will be used to evaluate and monitor the current cycle and action plan of the national level, planning for the upcoming one. The presentation of the results of the national youth wellbeing index will also take place. The youth index will serve as one of the leading indicators of the program's overall success and changes. Also, there will be discussed advocacy actions plans initiated at the national level and their impact, or establishment of the priorities for some advocacy campaigns at the national level. The outcomes of the national forum will be submitted to the national EaP Country Youth Dialogue Coordinating Committee for further action at the EaP level.

7) Regional Youth Forums

At this stage, the members of EaP YD will use this dialogue platform for evaluation and monitoring of the current cycle and action plan of the national level, planning for the upcoming one specifically per each region in part. Also, there will be discussed advocacy actions plans initiated at the regional level and their impact, or establishment of the priorities for some advocacy campaigns at the regional level. The working group will decide the number of regional forums **on youth and regional development** with prior consultation of the Youth Dialogue Coordinating Committee.

Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

On the international (EaP regional) level, it is proposed to establish additional structural component to the initial structure of EaP YD proposed by GOPA, which in our opinion, will give more ownership and responsibility for the EaP YD to the national governments, as well as will strengthen the role of EaP NYCs:

1 EaP Youth Dialogue Advisory Board

- Total 18 Members (by 3 per country) +1 from YFJ
- European Youth Forum
- EaP NYCs
- EaP Ministries
- Youth representative of regions in EaP countries (by 1 per country)
- Observers:
- EaP CSF Secretariat
- EaP CSF National Platform
- EU Delegation, + EU institutions and agencies (DG NEAR, DG EAC, EEAS, other)

There should be established clear procedures and rules for selecting other youth structures for the Advisory Board. To ensure the efficiency of the Advisory Board, it's recommended to limit it to 3 representatives from each member country, plus one representative from YFJ, having in total 19 members.

European Youth Forum should also have the right to represent general positions and outcomes of the EaP Youth Dialogue during the high-level events organised by EU institutions with focus on the EaP region, including creating synergies between EaP YD with EU YD and its actors. EaP NYCs should receive an invitation to participate in the EU Youth Conferences, having a statute as permanent members/participants in EU Youth Conferences and also ensuring that they have the floor for presenting the perspectives for youth rights under EaP YD, creating space for collaboration with EU states in the implementation of EU YD and EU Youth Goals.

Among tasks and responsibilities of the Advisory Board will be:

- Regular meetings with hearings of the intermediate progress reports;
- Developing and ensuring the implementation of EaP regional annual action of EaP YD;
- Prepare and coordinate the development of the EaP Wellbeing Youth Index;
- Monitoring overall progress of the EaP YD program;
- Developing and implementation of regional and EU advocacy campaigns for fostering youth rights in the EaP region.
- Participation in the negotiation for youth rights or programs between the EU and EaP region, including in the dialogue between the EaP countries, for example, Erasmus + or EU association agreements.

Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

2 Presidency of EaP Youth Dialogue (Ministry/Youth Agency + NYC)

The Presidency of the EaP Youth Dialogue should be established to strengthen this responsibility for Ministries and NYCs. It is proposed that there will be Co-charing of 2 countries for six months. This formula will allow us to ensure the sustainability of EaP YD as the international agenda of EaP YD will be co-financed by two states, making this more viable and not so expensive for states involved. Among Presidency responsibilities will be the following:

- Fostering of cross-border cooperation;
- Setting priorities for the upcoming cycle;
- Pushing up the implementation of the EaP YD agenda;
- NYCs, which act as secretariat on the country level will also act as secretariat during the presidency of their country (will make sure that meetings are happening, follow up activities take place etc.)

The theme of the cycle corresponds to the one chosen for the EU YD, but priorities are defined following the needs of the EaP region.

The activities at the regional level are facilitated by the NYCs of the countries that took the Presidency.

3 Annual EaP Youth Summit

Informal networks of EaP NYCs already exist, so it shall be strengthened through the Annual EaP Youth Summit to plan Youth Dialogue cycles and the exchange of different localisation practices, evaluating the outgoing cycle. The Advisory board will act in between Annual EaP Youth Summits, at the same time the Summit will serve as additional space for representation of the voice of young people for a wider number of actors, creating a dialog between all stakeholders coming across the country.

Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

Youth Summit will involve Ministers on youth, Youth agencies and allow them together with EaP NYCs to take ownership of the EaP Youth Dialogue process by signing the Joint Declaration of Ministries. The participants will be invited including representatives of EaP CSF (youth subgroup) and those who are hosting the EU YD cycles at the indicated moment.

During the Youth Summit, the EaP Youth Index results should be presented as one of the leading indicators for measuring the effectiveness of the EaP Youth Dialogue programme overall. To better understand EU priorities and mechanisms of work, it is suggested that EaP representatives would be invited to the EU Youth Conferences with the opportunity to contribute to the general agenda.

4 Informal Network, joint working groups and expertise on issues connected to youth

Informal Network, joint working groups and expertise on issues connected to youth will serve as space, where EaP Civil Society Forum, EaP NYC and other representatives of EaP Youth Dialogue like youth researchers, youth workers, student associations, young entrepreneurs (including social entrepreneurs), youth employment agencies can join informal working groups and share their experiences and expertise for the relevant youth issues.

The structured dialogue with youth could be fed into the EU policy-making process towards the region and the EaP countries individually, throughout this informal group. For example, currently NYCs and their MO as members of EaP CSF, if they are selected, will participate in the events of the Civic Society Forum and its thematic groups. Altogether, it is essential to ensure the participation and representation of EaP NYCs in the EaP Civil Society Forum Youth Conference, including giving them the possibility to come up with their panels and themes of discussion, so having an ownership in such events. Giving this opportunity to NYCs to lead their activities on youth under EaP CSF events like EaP CSF Annual Assembly and Youth Conference (as we indicated that members of EaP CSF will participate in all public activities organised under EaP YD) will contribute to the better connection between two structures in promoting youth rights in the EaP region.



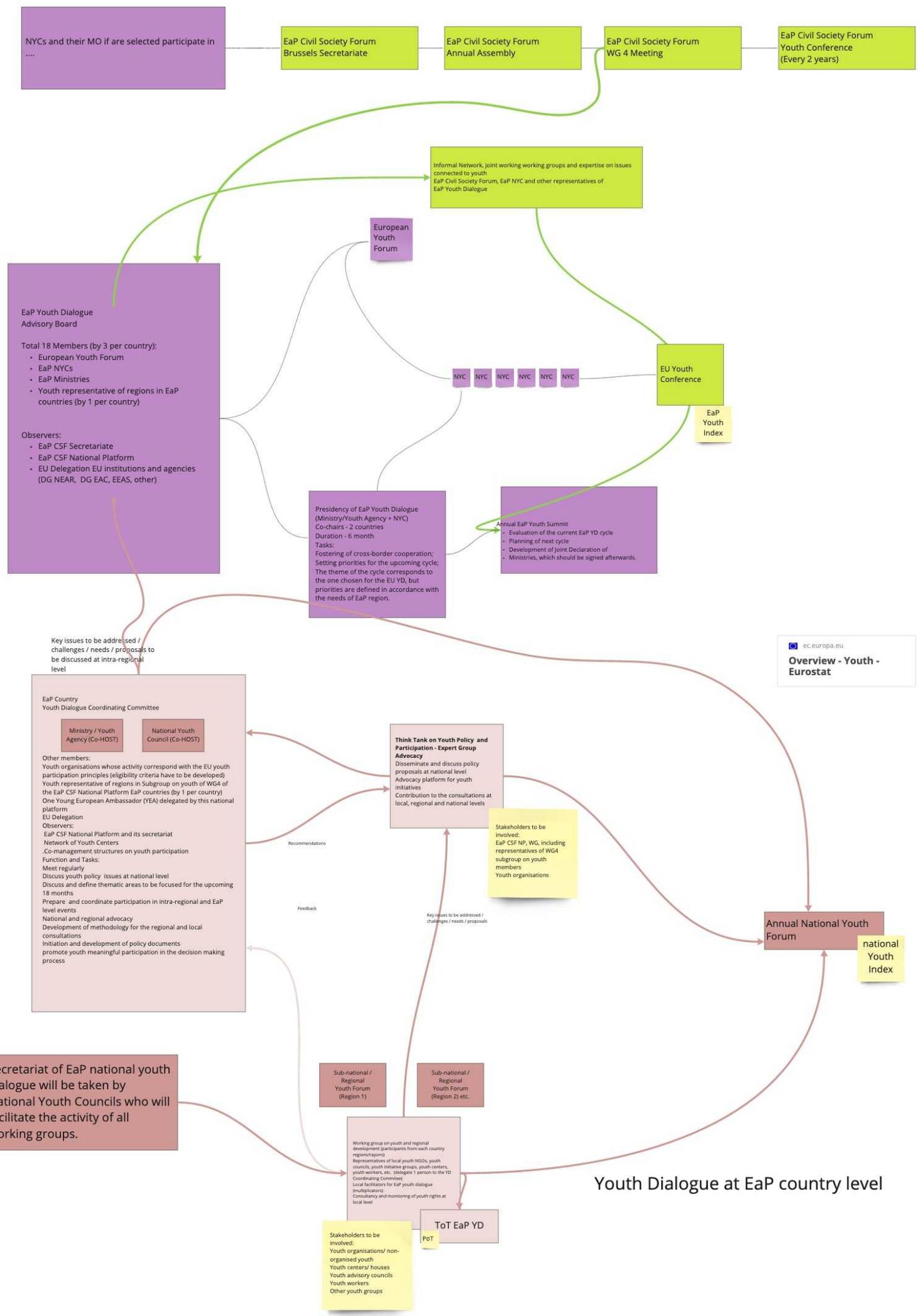
Recommendations of EaP NYCs for the EaP Youth Dialogue Framework (Revised and amended)

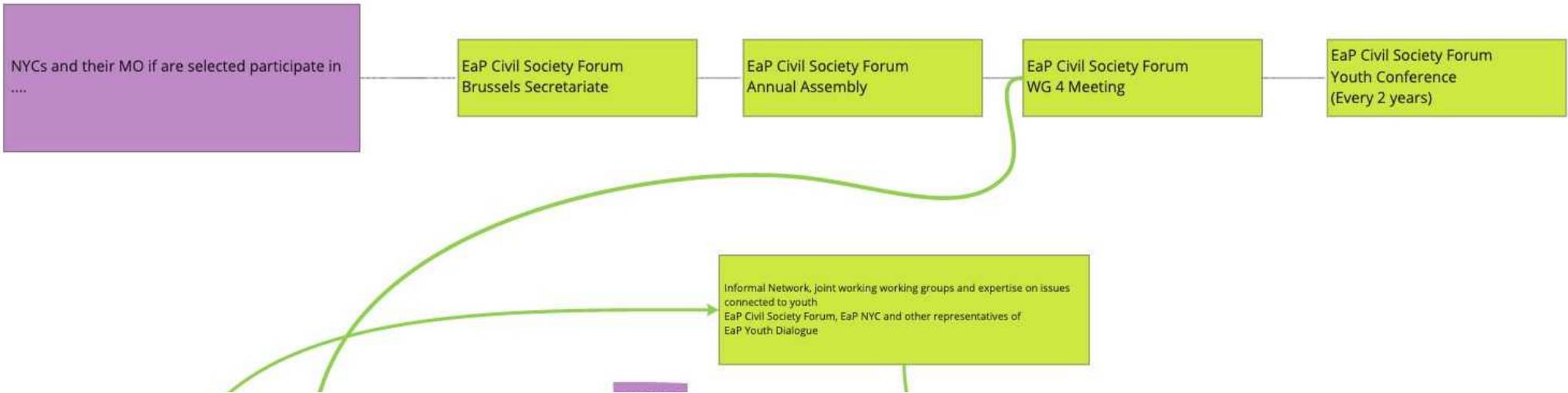
5 EaP Youth Index

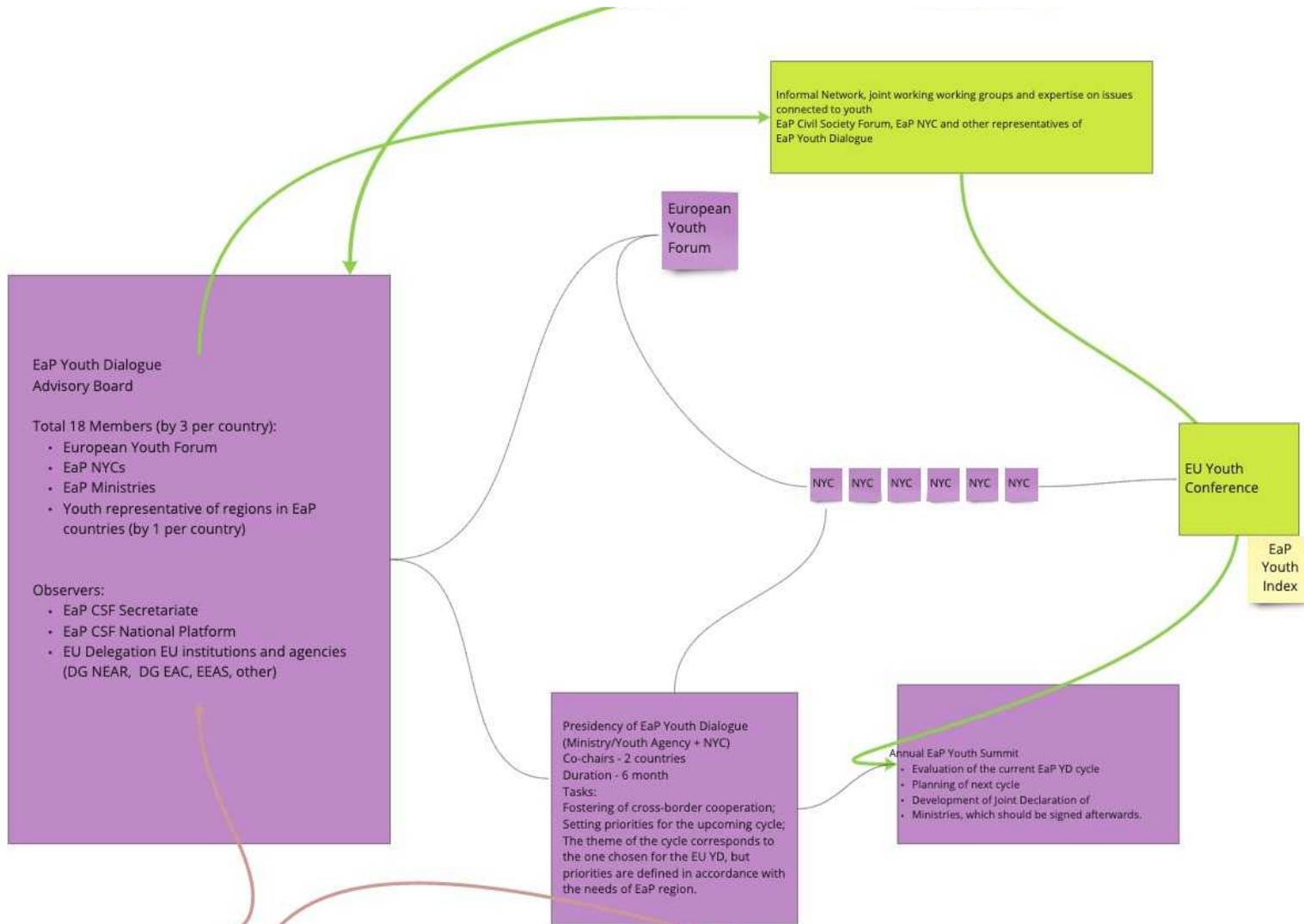
Considering the past experience of CNTM in developing the Youth Index for EaP, as part of EaP YD, we are interested in developing a Youth Index for the six countries of the EaP region. Youth Index for EaP will provide a picture of youth's situation and the problems they have in the EaP region.

The aim behind the effort to construct a Youth Index for EaP is to fill in this gap, to make policymakers more accountable towards youth perspectives so youth issues will be the job of every line ministry within the Government. At the same time, the Youth Index will also provide Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representing youth interest with an effective advocacy tool. Their arguments will be based on sound arguments and hopefully more convincing.

The primary need for the Youth Index is the idea that public policy should be better targeted at youth because the youth situation is different from the adult situation. By distinct, we mean usually worse off as compared to adults. The index is needed to capture this difference, show and measure the youth disadvantage. At the same time, Youth Index will give us an understanding of the youth's statistical situation in different countries of EaP.







Key issues to be addressed / challenges / needs / proposals to be discussed at intra-regional level

EaP Country Youth Dialogue Coordinating Committee

Ministry / Youth Agency (Co-HOST)

National Youth Council (Co-HOST)

Other members:

Youth organisations whose activity correspond with the EU youth participation principles (eligibility criteria have to be developed)
Youth representative of regions in Subgroup on youth of WG4 of the EaP CSF National Platform EaP countries (by 1 per country)
One Young European Ambassador (YEA) delegated by this national platform
EU Delegation

Observers:

EaP CSF National Platform and its secretariat
Network of Youth Centers

.Co-management structures on youth participation

Function and Tasks:

Meet regularly

Discuss youth policy issues at national level

Discuss and define thematic areas to be focused for the upcoming 18 months

Prepare and coordinate participation in intra-regional and EaP level events

National and regional advocacy

Development of methodology for the regional and local consultations

Initiation and development of policy documents

promote youth meaningful participation in the decision making process

Think Tank on Youth Policy and Participation - Expert Group Advocacy

Disseminate and discuss policy proposals at national level
Advocacy platform for youth initiatives

Contribution to the consultations at local, regional and national levels

Stakeholders to be involved:
EaP CSF NP, WG, including representatives of WG4 subgroup on youth members
Youth organisations

Recommendations

Feedback

Key issues to be addressed / challenges / needs / proposals

Annual National Youth Forum

national Youth Index

Secretariat of EaP national youth dialogue will be taken by National Youth Councils who will facilitate the activity of all working groups.

Sub-national / Regional Youth Forum (Region 1)

Sub-national / Regional Youth Forum (Region 2) etc.

Working group on youth and regional development (participants from each country regions/rayons)
Representatives of local youth NGOs, youth councils, youth initiative groups, youth centers, youth workers, etc. (delegates 1 person to the YD Coordinating Committee)
Local facilitators for EaP youth dialogue (multipliers)
Consultancy and monitoring of youth rights at local level

ToT EaP YD

PoT

Stakeholders to be involved:
Youth organisations/ non-organised youth
Youth centers/ houses
Youth advisory councils
Youth workers
Other youth groups

Youth Dialogue at EaP country level

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