

Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH WORK IN BELARUS



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Contents

<i>Aim of the exercise and guidance for completing</i>	<i>2</i>	
<i>1. Context of youth work</i>	<i>3</i>	
<i>2. Strategic and legislative framework of youth work.....</i>	<i>6</i>	
<i>3. Recognition.....</i>	<i>8</i>	
<i>4. Funding youth work.....</i>	<i>11</i>	
<i>5. Structures, actors and levels in youth work provision</i>	<i>12</i>	
<i>5.1 State structures/public authorities deciding on or providing youth work</i>		<i>12</i>
<i>5.2 National or local youth councils</i>	<i>12</i>	
<i>5.3 Youth and youth work NGOs.....</i>	<i>13</i>	
<i>5.4 Other relevant actors.....</i>	<i>14</i>	
<i>6. Forms and examples of youth work in your country</i>	<i>15</i>	
<i>7. Quality standards.....</i>	<i>18</i>	
<i>8. Knowledge and data on youth work</i>	<i>20</i>	
<i>9. European and International dimension of youth work in the country</i>		<i>21</i>
<i>10. Current debates and open questions/policies on youth work.....</i>	<i>22</i>	

Aim of the exercise and guidance for completing

The purpose of this exercise is to gather knowledge on youth work that can support youth work development and the implementation of the main policy initiatives related to it. The country sheet will provide information on youth work for decision-makers, policy makers, implementers and practitioners as well as for the research and NGO communities. They are often the first source of information for thematic or cross-country analytical work. This analysis is then presented and discussed in symposia, seminars and supports European policy initiatives to develop youth work. It is hoped that over time this knowledge-gathering exercise will contribute to a monitoring process on youth work development.

When gathering information, the country correspondents can refer for definitions in the [Glossary on Youth](#) from the EKCYP website as well as to the [country histories](#) on youth work, to help clarify terms and contextualise the knowledge-gathering exercise in published research.

When completing the ten chapters of this country sheet, correspondents are encouraged to consult with youth sector stakeholders (including from policy, practice and research) to get as full a picture of youth work in their country as possible.

Finally, where numbers are provided, please include a proportionality reference so the readers can get a sense of the size (for example, as related to the total country budget or the number of young people benefitting as a % of the total youth population, etc.).

1. Context of youth work

What are the historic origins and traditions of youth work in your country and if it is rooted in other realms (for example, educational, social or social pedagogy) how are boundaries of youth work defined? For example, has there been any research on the tradition and developments of youth work (many have been published in the [History series](#) part of the [Youth Knowledge Books](#))

What is the context in which youth work happens in your country today, what is on the public policy agenda in general that may affect young people and youth policy?

Youth work is an integral part of the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus. During the soviet period, the youth policy implementation was mostly under responsibility of the Communist Young League of Comsomol and state authorities. In 1992, a new stage in the development and implementation of the state youth policy in the independent Republic of Belarus started with adoption for the first time Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the General Principles of State Youth Policy in the Republic of Belarus".

The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus of 1994 (with alterations and amendments adopted at the republican referendums of 24 November 1996 and of 17 October 2004) guarantees young people the right to their spiritual, moral and physical development. The state creates the necessary conditions for free and effective participation of young people in political, social, economic and cultural development (Article 32).

An important development affecting youth work in the country was the Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 825 "On Additional Measures to Improve the Organisation of Work with Children, Adolescents and Youth in the Place of Residence" of 7 July 1997. On the basis of this law provisions for a multidisciplinary centre for working with children, adolescents and youth in a place of residence as well as the provisions of an educator-organiser for working with children, adolescents and youth at their place of residence was developed. As a result, 11 centres (143 specialists) for work with children and youth at the place of residence were set up under committees (departments) for youth affairs of regional (district, city) executive committees.

In 1998 for the purpose of the legal support of the social services system, the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of 21 June 1998, No. 1136 "Model Provision on the Territorial Centre for Social Services for Families and Children" was approved. As of today, support young families and young people with fewer opportunities are provided by local social service centres (148 centres in total).

One of the sectors provides youth work in the country is youth NGOs. An important development in youth work with organised youth was the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Belarus No.305-Z of 9 November 1999 "On State Support to Youth and Children's Public Associations in the Republic of Belarus". Today there are 320 youth public associations and public associations for youth, including 26 children's public associations in the country.

On 6 September 2002, the Public Association "Belarusian Republican Youth Union" (BRSM) was formed as a result of the unification of the public associations "Belarusian Patriotic Youth Union" and "Belarusian Youth Union". Nowadays, BRSM is the largest youth public association in the country.

An important stage in the development of youth work started with the implementation of the programme "Youth of Belarus" for 2006-2010 (Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus, No. 200 of 4 April 2006). Within the scope of the Programme special attention was given: to improvement of information support of the system of youth work; to professional development of youth and children association's leaders and specialists in youth work; to methodology and evidence bases of youth work; to training personnel in the sphere of state youth policy. Further development was given to work with young people in educational establishments and place of residence as well as to social work with young people at risk.

Since 2008 the Department of Youth Policy and Socio-Cultural Communications of the state education institution "National Institute for Higher Education" has been providing re-training courses for university graduates, who receive a re-training diploma with a qualification of "Specialist in youth work".

In 2009, the strategic document in the field of the state youth policy was approved - the Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 "On the Foundations of State Youth Policy". The law aims to define the objectives, principles and main directions of the state youth policy.

An important step towards recognition of youth work as a profession was made on August 31, 2010. On the basis of Resolution of Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Belarus No. 42 "On Amendments to Issue 1 and Amendments to Issue 27 of the Uniform Qualification Directory of Job Positions", the position "Specialist in youth work" was introduced in a number of enterprises and organisations. As of 1 January 2015, the Republic of Belarus had 1, 285 specialists working with youth at enterprises, organisations, institutions, educational establishments and agencies.

In 2010s a number of acts improving youth policy and youth work was issued. Key documents are the following: Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 124 of 29 December 2010 "On approval of the Regulations on the Multidisciplinary Centre for Work with Youth in the Place of Residence (Place of Stay)", stipulating major framework for a multidisciplinary youth centre; Code of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 243-Z on January 13th, 2011, regulating youth policy implementation and supplementary education of children and young people in educational establishments; Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 181 of 16 April 2012 "On Organisation of the Activities of Student Work Teams on the Territory of the Republic of Belarus", regulating students work teams movement; Resolution of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 128 of 16 November 2015 "The concept of the organisation of youth volunteer movement in the Republic of Belarus"; Resolution of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 82 of 15 June 2015 "On the Concept of Continuing Education of Children and Student Youth", regulating youth work in educational establishments.

The year 2014 marked the starting point for the open dialogue on youth policy and youth work issues "Traditions and the Future of the Belarusian Youth".

The year 2015 was declared the Year of Youth in Belarus. Several significant acts were adopted during 2015. In the framework of the Year of Youth the First Republican Forum of Specialists in youth work was held. This is a biannual event to identify and present good practices and innovative technologies in youth-related activities. The Republican Forum of Youth from Rural Areas as well as other significant events (forums, conferences, round table discussions) on youth issues was carried out.

In 2016, youth workers founded their professional association, <https://youthworker.by/en/>

In 2016, the city of Baranovichi, Brest region, was nominated as the first youth capital of Belarus.

A next milestone was set with the State Programme "Education and Youth Policy" 2016-2020 (adopted on 28 March 2016 by the Resolution of Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 250). Today, this is the guiding document for the youth policy implementation in Belarus. For the purpose of implementing the "Education and Youth Policy" 2016-2020 the Action Plan was adopted. The Action Plan specifies titles of the activities, level of implementation (national and local) and terms of implementation by years and sources of financing. There are four main objectives in the document: 1) formation of active citizenship and patriotism among young people and their social inclusion; 2) adoption of additional measures to promote positive attitude to traditional family values and responsible parenthood, health promotion, prevention of negative phenomena among young people; 3) increase the effectiveness of work on vocational guidance and organisation of youth employment in free time, support youth in entrepreneurship, development of volunteer and student work teams; 4) support for socially significant initiatives of young people, student self-government; strengthening of children's and youth public associations activities.

Thus, contemporary legal and regulatory framework in youth policy is a multi-level system that ensures the constitutional rights of young citizens and covers all spheres of young people's life, including youth work. The history of youth work in the independent Republic of Belarus has long term traditions. It is rooted in social pedagogy, social work, formal and non-formal education, culture and arts, and sports.

2. Strategic and legislative framework of youth work

Are there one or more policy and/or legislative frameworks guiding youth work in your country? If yes, please reference the documents and feel free to quote relevant provisions.

How does it define the purpose and value of youth work?

In the absence of such formal acts, how does the state define the purpose and value of youth work? Who is youth work meant for (all young people or specific groups?).

How is youth work defined by law (in legislation, in policy or programmes)?

How do youth workers themselves define youth work in your country/what do they understand by it?

Youth work in Belarus is provided by specialists in youth work, social workers, pedagogical workers, educators, youth leaders, students' work team leaders, volunteers, specialists in socio-cultural activities, summer camp counsellors, animators, etc. There is no exact definition of the term "youth work" in Belarusian legislation. Nevertheless, on the basis of Resolution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Belarus No. 42 of 30 March 2006 "On Amendments to Issue 1 and Amendments to Issue 27 of the Uniform Qualification Directory of Job Positions", the position "Specialist in Youth Work" was introduced in a number of enterprises and organisations.

In October 2016 updates were made to the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus. In particular, the [Law "On Making Amendments and Agenda to the Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z of 7 December 2009 "On Foundations of State Youth Policy"](#) was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus. The new concepts/definitions such as "mentorship" and "youth personnel policy" were integrated in the law. Mentors are in charge of giving professional support and facilitate personal development of young workers.

Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 124 of 29 December 2010 "On approval of the Regulations on the Multifunctional Centre for Work with Youth in the Place of Residence (Place of Stay)" was adopted. The main tasks of the centre's work with youth as follows:

- to inform young people about their rights and responsibilities;
- to counsel youth on psychological, educational, medical and legal assistance;
- to provide young families with social assistance;
- to assist young citizens who find themselves in challenging life situation with appropriate help
- to organise socio-cultural and sport activities with youth in their place of residence;
- to inform youth about youth organizations and their local activities;
- to exercise other functions in order to provide assistance and create conditions for the development of young people in accordance with law.

In educational establishments youth work provided by student self-governance bodies, student union committees, social and psychological services and departments for youth affairs. These activities are regulated by the [Code of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 243-Z of 13 January 2011](#). Such activities are regulated by local regulatory and legal frameworks alike. In addition to that, the terms “supplementary education”, “supplementary education for children and youth“ have been introduced at the legislative level in the Code.

Non-formal youth work in educational establishments is based on the [Resolution of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 82 of 15 June 2015 “On the Concept of Continuing Education of Children and Student Youth”](#). This law establishes the following priorities for upbringing in educational establishments: consistent and active assistance for youth coming-to-be a citizen and patriot of the country, a professional worker, a responsible family man (Article 1). For the purpose of implementing the Law the [Action Plan for 2016-2020](#) has been adopted.

The Law of the Republic of Belarus No.305-Z as of 9 November 1999 “On State Support to Youth and Children's Public Associations in the Republic of Belarus” defines guarantees, general principles, contents and measures of the state support for youth and children's public associations, associations (unions) of youth and (or) children's associations in the Republic of Belarus at the national and local levels as well as the amount of targeted financing from the republican and local budgets and state extra-budgetary funds allocated for these purposes (Article 1).

There is a widely supported movement of student work teams in the Republic of Belarus. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 181 of 16 April 2012 “On Organisation of the Activities of Student Work Teams on the Territory of the Republic of Belarus” and the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 958 of 23 June 2010 “On Approval of the Regulations on the Procedure of Organising and Financing the Temporary Employment for the Youth Studying in Education Institutions at Extracurricular Time” was adopted.

Special attention is paid to support youth workers who are involved in volunteer movement. In this regard, Resolution of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus No. 128 of 16 November 2015 “The concept of the organisation of youth volunteer movement in the Republic of Belarus” was adopted.

3. Recognition

According to the definition of **recognition** there is **self, social, formal and political recognition** of youth work and of youth workers (professionals or volunteers). What is the situation in your country on these different dimensions of recognition of youth work?

Is there any formal validation system of non-formal education and learning in youth work contexts implemented in your country?

If there is a legal framework for the profession of youth work per se or embedded in other fields, please explain briefly and reference it.

Is your country involved in any European or applying any national initiatives to support youth work (for example, Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio, Council of Europe quality label for youth centres, Erasmus + Youthpass, European Youth Capitals, Youth Friendly Cities, others)?

As it was already mentioned, on the basis of the Resolution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Belarus No. 42 of 30 March 2006 “On Amendments to Issue 1 and Amendments to Issue 27 of the Uniform Qualification Directory of Job Positions”, the position “Specialist in youth work” was introduced in a number of enterprises and organisations.

More information: edu.gov.by/doc-42713

In accordance with the law, a specialist in youth work implements state youth policy in the organisation; coordinates activities in upbringing universal human values, cultural and moral traditions of the Belarusian nation among young people; helping young people acquire knowledge about their rights and responsibilities; informing them about opportunities available to exercise their rights to health, education, social protection, employment, recreation, physical training and sports, etc.; in cooperation with other stakeholders, s/he resolves problems in workplace adaptation of young people, occupational health and safety, working hours, leaves, social protection and other labour and socio-economic conditions; develops and implements comprehensive actions to provide legal, social and economic support to young families; organises public cultural, sports and recreational activities, including the ones at the place of residence of young people; provides assistance to young people, who got into the particularly disadvantaged population group due to their health state; carries out preventive activities against violations and crimes among young people, promoting healthy lifestyles; supports talented and creative youth; provides information on youth organisations and the scope of their activities; provides assistance to youth public associations; enables development and implementation of socially significant youth initiatives; helps to involve young people in the system of international cooperation, to establish friendly and business relations, and to conduct experience exchanges with their foreign counterparts; with other stakeholders, enables organisation of sociological surveys on relevant youth problems; interacts with mass media to cover events related to public youth policy; analyses and informs youth organisations on main aspects of political, social and economic state policy, on main areas of activities and prospects of the entity’s development; within his/her competence, cooperates with local executive and regulatory authorities, social and cultural institutions, and law enforcement bodies; takes part in or-

ganising “The Common Informative Days”; participates in the process of planning the activities of the youth organisation; improves his/her professional skills.

The following actors are existed in the Republic of Belarus in terms of youth work recognition:

- The system of supplementary education of children and young people.
- Multidisciplinary youth centres and clubs (for example, *Youth Centre in Nesvizh; Belarusian Republican Youth Centre for Travel and Excursions; Center for Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Belarusian State University; Ecological and local lore club "Clean World" etc.*).
- Explicitly profit-oriented youth entertainment centres.
- Youth NGOs.
- Departments of youth affairs at educational establishments.
- Youth social services.
- Children and youth summer camps.
- Volunteering and students' work team.

Republican forums of specialists in youth work, marathons of successful practices on youth work, fairs of the good practices in youth work, festivals of creative youth are held in the country. To specific, in the framework of the Year of Youth the First Republican Forum of specialists in youth work was held in 2015. The goal of the Forum was to identify and present best practices and innovative technologies in youth-related activities. The second Republican Forum of Youth Specialists, entitled „Modern forms of participation of working youth in the implementation of the main directions of the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus", was held in 2017. The "Fair of successful practices in youth work" was held in Minsk on 16 May 2015. The aim of the event was to promote good practices in youth work and to establish partnerships among organisations and specialists in youth work alike. Marathon of successful practices in the field of youth work was held on 14 December, 2017, <https://youthworker.by/ru/150-marafon-uspeshnykh-praktik-itogi>. The goal of the Marathon is to identify and to consider successful practices and innovative technologies, methods and forms of youth work.

Number of national and international events are held annually: the Republican Festival of Artistic Creativity of Students and Student Youth "ART-vacation", <http://artviva.by/art-vacations.html>; the Republican Festival of Creativity of Foreign Students "F.-ART.by", <http://artviva.by/fest-art.html>; the International festival-contest "Creativity without borders", http://nchtdm.by/meropriyatiya/1_noyabrya_dan_start_mezhdunarodnomu_festivalyukonkursu_tvorchestvo_bez_granic/; and many others.

Since 2014 the open dialogue "Traditions and the Future of the Belarusian Youth" has been taking place. This project provides a platform for fruitful communication among all stakeholders, decision makers, researchers, youth workers, youth leaders in the country.

Youth leaders and youth volunteers are provided with appropriate trainings by educational establishments and youth NGOs. Some of youth workers use Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio with a view to recognise their competencies. The main training settings, methods and tools are the following: peer learning, blended learning, e-learning, projects, trainings, summer schools, youth exchanges, voluntary youth (students) camps, forums, open airs, forum theatres, workshops, team buildings, art and sports festivals, webinars, live libraries, hackathons, crowd funding, world café and so on.

17 teen-friendly centres supported by UNICEF have been set up in the country on the basis of children's polyclinics, where teenagers can get integral medical and psychosocial aid in the field of reproductive health and prevention of harmful habits.

The city of Polotsk was assigned as the Youth Capital-2016 in Belarus.

4. Funding youth work

If you are able to include numbers, what is the national or local budgetary allocation for youth work in your country? If there are specific national programmes supporting youth work, what is their main aim and budget (please indicate proportionality)? In other words, how is funding for youth work organised in your country? What are the funding opportunities, who are the main funders and what are the guiding principles in allocating that funding?

How important are international funding sources for youth work activities in your countries (Erasmus+, European Youth Foundation, UN System or other sources?)

Youth work is an inseparable part of the state youth policy implementation. In accordance with the [Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z as of December 7th, 2009 “On the Foundations of State Youth Policy”](#) (Article 22), the process of financing the state youth policy implementation is carried out at the expense of the republican and (or) local budgets and other sources not forbidden by law. Special funds may be established for the purpose of financing activities in the sphere of state youth policy.

Also, international funding sources for youth work are provided within programs of bilateral and multilateral cooperation (Union State of Russia and Belarus, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, Eastern Partnership, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN System, Erasmus+).

It has to be mentioned, that the Republican Register of youth and children's associations enjoys state support. The register includes 11 public associations as follows: Belarusian Republican Youth Union, www.brsm.by; «Belarusian Republican Pioneer Organisation», www.brsm.by/ru/pioneer; Belarusian league of intellectual teams, www.blik.by; League of Youth Voluntary Service, www.lyvs.bn.by; Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs, www.belau.info; Association of Belarusian guides, www.belguides.com; Belarussian club of cheerful and resourceful, www.kvn.by; Belarusian Youth Public Organization of Rescuers-Firefighters, rescue01.gov.by/rus/main/organization; Belarusian Republican Scout Association, www.scout-belarus.org; Belarusian Shotokan Federation karate-do, <http://karate-academy.by>; Belarusian Association for Assistance to Disabled Children and Young People with Disabilities, www.belapdi.org.

More information: <http://edu.gov.by/sistema-obrazovaniya/upr-molodezhi/obedineniya/reestr/>

5. Structures, actors and levels in youth work provision

5.1 State structures/public authorities deciding on or providing youth work

Which government levels are involved in planning, supporting and delivering youth work? If there are separate agencies, please mention them here. Please include numbers of people or entities where data is available

The youth policy issues at the national level are within the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus (MoE), Directorate of Educational Work and Youth Policy. In accordance with the [Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 1049 of 4 August 2011 “Regulations on the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus”](#) the MoE is in charge of the state youth policy implementation and youth work issues alike. In the field of state youth policy the MoE provides the following: co-ordinates the activities of state authority, organisations, individual entrepreneurs and all actors implement state youth policy; oversees quality assurance in the field of the state youth policy; carries out the comprehensive analysis of state of affairs in youth field and predicts its tendencies; analyses contemporary tendencies in the youth field and determines directions of its development; co-operates with local executive and administrative bodies in decision-making processes on the youth policy issues and child protection; provides organisational support and conducts fundamental and applied scientific research in the field of the youth policy as well as implementation of research results in this field.

More information: edu.gov.by.

5.2 National or local youth councils

Belarusian Committee of Youth Organisations (BKMO). BKMO is a republican union with the objective to create conditions for the most complete exercise of rights and legitimate interests of BKMO member organisations, supporting the development of civil society in the Republic of Belarus based on patriotic and moral values of the Belarusian nation. BKMO is an umbrella organisation that includes 37 children’s and youth public associations in the Republic of Belarus.

Republican Youth Council at the Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus. This public organisation introduces and reviews proposals to improve legislation and shape normative legal frameworks for youth policy in the Republic of Belarus, discusses relevant issues and problems of young people, develops recommendations aimed at increasing the efficiency of state youth policy decisions, and facilitates cooperation between various organisations and state structures working with the youth. The Council includes representatives of state authorities, public associations and unions, young teachers and scholars, researchers as well as pupils and students.

Public Republican Student Council at the Minister of Education, The Council includes representatives of all 51 higher education establishments in the country. The main objective of the Council is to provide support to stakeholders and decision makers for efficient solutions in the education system by a broader public dialogue on youth issues. Competencies of the Council include issues of student self-governance.

Council of Young Scientists of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus, www.smu-nanb.com unites over 2 100 young scientists from the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus, including 250 candidates of sciences (PhD-equivalent) and approximately 600 postgraduate and graduate students.

Republican Coordination Council of Youth Parliaments. This Council unites leaders of regional youth parliaments (chambers) of the Republic of Belarus,

http://nchtdm.by/meropriyatiya/zasedanie_respublikanskogo_koordinacionnogo_soveta_molodezhnyh_parlamentov1/. The Coordination Council of the Youth Parliaments of the Republic of Belarus is a consultative and advisory body and it was established to coordinate the activities of youth consultative bodies (parliament, council, chambers) with legislative (representative) or executive bodies of the state authorities of the Republic of Belarus.

The Council of Leaders of Working Youth in Minsk. This is an advisory body that insure participation of young workers' representatives in decision making processes.

Youth Chamber at the Minsk City Council was established in 2007 with the aim of popularising of self-government among youth, identifying leaders of the youth movement, providing young people with opportunities to participate in the development and implementation of city programs. Members of the Youth Chamber develop projects and submit proposals to local governments on youth issues, put forward and support civil initiatives aimed at the social and economic development of the city.

5.3 Youth and youth work NGOs

Association of Youth Workers was founded in 2016, www.youthworker.by. The aim of Association is to consolidate youth workers for mutual support and to coordinate of activity by means of creating conditions for developing professional competence and raising the prestige of their work and determining social status of youth workers, protection of rights and interests of its members.

5.4 Other relevant actors

Student self-governance bodies, student union committees, youth public associations, social and psychological services, and departments for youth affairs at educational establishments are relevant actors in providing youth work.

Extra trainings for youth workers are provided by youth NGOs. In the framework of youth NGOs activities there are number of opportunities available. For example, certified training courses for summer camp counsellors, volunteering and students' team's leaders, youth leaders. For more information see: <http://ngo.by/>, <http://adukatar.net/>, <http://brsm.by/>, www.lyvs.bn.by, www.belau.info, <https://www.youthworker.by/en/>

6. Forms and examples of youth work in your country

How is youth work happening in your country, for example, is it youth centre-based, online youth work, detached or outreach youth work, open youth work, are NGOs or local authorities the main providers etc

Are there specific forms the state encourages or supports more and why?

Is there support for youth work targeting specifically young people with fewer opportunities? If yes, who supports it and who carries it out?

Please give three examples of successful youth work practices representative of youth work in your country?

Do you have examples of digital/online youth work developing?

Youth work is mostly delivered within supplementary education system, extracurricular activities, and youth NGOs.

The system of supplementary education of children and young people aimed at ensuring their personal development, formation and development of their creativity, meeting their individual needs for intellectual, moral and physical improvement, socialisation, arranging their leisure activities, helping them in career guidance (Article 228 of the Code of Education of the Republic of Belarus 243-3 as of January 13th, 2011).

As of 1 December 2016, the country had 297 establishments of supplementary education for children and youth; 389.0 thousand young people were engaged in 31.4 thousand hobby groups and clubs (about 18% of the targeting population). Some of them are multidisciplinary but some specialised in arts, technique, ecology, tourism and ethnography, patriotic upbringing, and sports.

The republican institutions of additional education of children and youth are represented by the following institutions of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus:

National Centre for Artistic Creativity of Children and Youth, www.nchtdm.by;

Republican Center of Ecology and Local Lore Studies, www.rctkum.by/;

Republican Center of Innovation and Technical Creativity, www.rcitt.by/ ;

Educational establishment “National Children's educational health-improving center "Zubrenok", www.zubronok.by.

In all regions of the Republic of Belarus successfully operate a network of institutions of supplementary education of children and youth.

In addition to that, all educational establishments (schools, vocational education, higher education) provide pupils and students with professional supplementary education opportunities in their leisure time. Young people are encouraged to participate in after school programmes for children and youth as well as extracurricular activities. As of 1 January 2016, in day-time general secondary education institutions (schools) there were up to 30 100 hobby rings and clubs with total amount of 429 200 young people (about

22 % of the targeting population), who are participating in such after school programmes on volunteer bases.

The vocational education establishments have 3 463 hobby groups and clubs with total amount of 44 100 young people or 47,6 % of the overall students. The higher education institutions have 2 738 hobby groups and clubs with total amount of 57 800 students or 33,5 % of the overall students.

Source: Education in the Republic of Belarus, Statistical book, Minsk, 2017, http://www.belstat.gov.by/ofitsialnaya-statistika/publications/izdania/public_compilation/index_7498/

In the Republic of Belarus operates 424 children's art schools in which 114.6 thousand children and young people aged 6-17 are studying. Art schools are diverse in their areas of activity and divided into musical, choreographic, fine arts, applied art, artistic and aesthetic.

Source: Culture in the Republic of Belarus, 2017, Statistical book, Minsk, 2017, http://www.belstat.gov.by/ofitsialnaya-statistika/publications/izdania/public_compilation/index_7878/

Particular attention is paid to improving the physical education of youth. Youth sports clubs, specialised schools of the Olympic Reserve, and children's and youth sports schools and sections have been put into operation. There are 457 organisations of physical culture and sports, including 11 secondary schools - Olympic reserve schools, and 446 specialised educational and sports institutions with a total number of over 174 000 young athletes in the country.

Republican Volunteer Center. The Republican Volunteer Centre at the republican public organization "League of Youth Voluntary Service" was developed in September 2009 with the purpose to promote civic engagement of youth through its involvement in volunteerism. The Centre provides an opportunity for young people to get information about open calls, projects and activities to participate in.

More information: <http://lyvs.by/>

The Republican Youth Centre started its work on May 19, 2017 at the National Centre for the Art of Children and Youth,

http://nchtdm.by/kreativnoinnovacionnyj_molodezhnyj_cent/

The aim of the Centre is to cooperate with youth NGOs on national as well as international level, to support youth in the framework of implementing the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus.

Regional support centres for youth entrepreneurship have been put into operation. For example, in Minsk it is the Communal Unitary Enterprise "Youth Social Service" that is registered as a small business incubator, www.mcc.by

In the Republic of Belarus there is a widely supported movement of students work teams for the purpose of implementation of the state youth policy as well as provision of temporary employment opportunities for youth in leisure time. In order to support the movement the Republican headquarters of students work teams has been put into operation,

<http://brsm.by/about/directions/republican-state-of-student-teams/about/>

In terms of the digital/online youth work development it has to be mentioned, that number of activities are carried on. The online media library on youth information at the Internet-portal of the Association of youth workers has been launched, www.youthworker.by/ru/normativnye-dokumenty. The media library provides users with key normative documents in the field of youth policy, good practice in youth work, and online library on youth issues.

Opportunities in e-learning and blended learning are also available. For example: Distance Learning Platform of the EDU-HUB of the Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs.

EDU-HUB objectives are as follows:

- provision of information and technical support for specialists working with adolescents and young people at-risk groups;
- organization of the experience and best practices exchange in working with adolescents and young people at risk in the context of counseling and HIV testing;
- widening opportunities for communication of most-at-risk adolescents and young people and their inclusion in the processes of counseling and dialogue in the development of new programs and projects in the field of health protection and promotion.

Source: http://www.belau.info/moodle/index.php?lang=en_utf8

Support for youth work targeting specifically young people with fewer opportunities are provided by local social service centres (148 centres in total). These centres pay much attention to orphans and children deprived of parental care, which came out of orphanages, children's homes or other education establishments.

Non-governmental organization "Belarusian association of assistance to children and young people with disabilities" (NGO "BelAPDiMI") unites on a voluntary basis approximately 3000 families bringing up children and young people with disabilities.

The National Centre of Legal Information of the Republic of Belarus gave young people and youth workers access to appropriate legal information databases, www.pravo.by

7. Quality standards

Are there any competence frameworks or quality standards guiding youth workers and youth work activities in your country? Is there any structure involved in overseeing their implementation? If not, what guides the quality aspects of youth work? What evaluation references are used to assess the quality of youth work?

The competency descriptors for youth workers is defined by the Educational Standard of the Republic of Belarus № 1-09 01 74-2012 in the specialty of retraining of executives and specialists with higher education "Organisation work with youth" with the confirmed qualification "Specialist in work with youth". The competence framework comprises three groups of competences: social-personal, academic and professional (57 in total). The most prominent competencies as follows:

1.) *social-personal competences*: to have a perception of the world, reflecting the ideals of the Belarusian society and state of Belarus, the knowledge of the youth policy of the Belarusian state, the history of the national culture and culture of other nations; to have high civic consciousness and patriotism; to know the religious aspect of the ideology of the Belarusian state, the features of the world religious situation and national culture; to be able to analyse the economic processes taking place in the Republic of Belarus and abroad.

2.) *academic competences*: to know the basics of the psychological-pedagogical theory, patterns, principles, forms and methods of teaching and upbringing; to be able to apply them in their professional and social activities; to be able to design educational systems and manage their development; to be able to analyse and solve problem situations arising in professional activity; to know the theoretical and methodological foundations of social pedagogy and psychology; to know the legal and ideological foundations of the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus, the main fields of work with young people in the conditions of the modern Belarusian higher school; to be able to implement the main state programs, taking into account the conditions of education, professional performance of various categories of youth; to be able to analyse the current situation of acute youth problems, conduct preventive, informative and educational work, using actively the modern technologies of management; to be able to organize sociological research in the field of sociology of youth and use information technologies for searching, collecting and visualizing information; to know and to be able to apply various methods of analysing the organization's needs for personnel, assessing the personal and professional qualities of the employees, staff recruitment and training. to know effective technologies for working with the audience, methods of persuasive impact and hidden control; to know the main regulations of the Labour Code of the Republic of Belarus, the nature of labour law offences, the general rules for regulating labour relations; to know the features of the implementation of various communication technologies in the sphere of culture; to be able to apply new

technologies of socio-cultural activity in the professional sphere; to know the essence and specifics of local history and tourism in the Republic of Belarus, as well as the role of historical and cultural disciplines in the formation of the youth's civic position; to know the patterns of the cultural life of the Belarusian society, the features of the cultural processes in the society; to know and be able to determine the place and role of Belarusian culture in the context of the development of Slavic cultures.

3.) *professional competences*: to know the basic theories of mental development of the personality, known in the world psychological science; to know the various forms of deviant behaviour and their content; to know the social essence of the family as a historical form of population reproduction and the socialization of new generations; to know the specific features of the formation of a young family; to know the basic legislative, normative, instructive and methodological documents of the Republic of Belarus on the organization of ideological and educational work; to know the basic methodological, conceptual, social and psychological-pedagogical aspects of educational work with youth; to be able to analyse and implement in their professional activity, the main ideas of the state youth policy in the Republic of Belarus, to evaluate the situation and the perspectives of educational work in organizations, the impact of social, psychological and pedagogical conditions on its effectiveness (the effectiveness of the educational work); to be able to apply with a purpose both traditional and innovative forms and methods of working with students in the system of ideological and educational work; to be able to carry out real communicative interaction in different situations of professional activity, using forms, methods and techniques of communicative behaviour; to know the theoretical basis of intercultural communication, forms, methods and techniques of intercultural interaction; to be able to analyse real intercultural communicative situations; to be able to analyse the situation of ideological and educational work with young people (including students); to be able to formulate projects for the organization of educational work and its improvement, objectively evaluate the ways of solving youth problems in the conditions of particular educational institutions and organizations; to be able to analyse the main youth subcultures, modern trends in the development of the youth movement in the context of globalization; to have practical skills in neutralizing the destructive potential of the youth radicalisation; to be able to design and plan a professional career; to be able to actively use modern information technologies, use applied computer programs for solving specific tasks

Source: http://nihe.bsu.by/images/cnpo/Standart_1-09_01_74.pdf

It has to be mentioned, that a quality assurance framework for youth workers is determined by employment agreements between employers and a youth workers as well as local job regulations documents.

8. Knowledge and data on youth work

Is there any research or a system of continuous documentation and study of youth work in your country? If there are national research structures researching youth work, please include their name and a link to their page. If data is available, how many young people benefit from youth work in your country on an annual basis (proportional to the total youth population)?

If data is available, how many youth workers are employed and how many are volunteering in your country? Please include any available sources of information on youth work in your country.

As of 1 January 2015, the Republic of Belarus had 1, 285 specialists working with youth at enterprises, organisations, institutions, educational establishments and agencies.

The key statistical document that presents data on the children and youth is the Statistical book “Children and youth in the Republic of Belarus, 2015”. Inter alia, the statistical book presents statistics on educational institutions; supplementary educational institutions; summer recreational camps; sanatorium; health improvement and recreational institutions; where youth work mostly delivered. Data are shown for the country as a whole as well as in a breakdown by regions and Minsk City.

More information:

<http://www.belstat.gov.by/upload/iblock/78c/78ceecdfe5f0b01448aa8dbff465c88c.zip>

Report on the youth in the Republic of Belarus is drafted annually in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 65-Z as 7 December, 2009 “On Foundations of State Youth Policy” (Article 23). The National Report “On the situation of the youth in the Republic of Belarus in 2015” is prepared by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus. The mission of the report is to inform public at large about the situation in the youth field in the Republic of Belarus. The report presents contemporary statistics and sociological data on a wide range of issues, including youth personnel policy, socio-economic support for young people, prevention of crimes among young people, youth participation in the socio-political life of the country, youth and children's NGOs, the system of supplementary education of children and young people and others.

More information:

<https://youthworker.by/images/normativnie%20dokumenti/Doklad%20o%20polozhenii%20molodezhi%20v%202015%20godu.pdf>

The Youth Policy and Sociocultural Communication Department at the National Institute for Higher Education has been carrying out the scientific research on the topic "Professional and Competent Culture of a Specialist in Youth Work" since 2016. Furthermore, the Department issues the academic journal “**Modern youth and society**” and “Education in co-creation“, where number of academic articles dealing with various youth work issues have been published.

More information: <http://www.nihe.bsu.by/index.php/ru/dep-m>

In 2017, the [online media resource on youth information](https://youthworker.by/ru/normativnye-dokumenty) on the Internet portal of the Association of Youth Workers, Belarus was launched, <https://youthworker.by/ru/normativnye-dokumenty>

9. European and International dimension of youth work in the country

Is there an international dimension to youth work policy in your country (for example, is your country implementing the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on youth work, or relevant EU Council Conclusions)?

What international youth work opportunities are present in your country for young people and for youth workers? What programmes are promoted? Which opportunities for exchange of experiences among youth work practitioners are included?

The Republic of Belarus takes part in the EU-funded project "Youth Policy Support in the Eastern Partnership Region", EPYRU, www.eapyouth.eu/. Within this initiative, the EPYRU study visit on youth workers education took place in Minsk on 21-23 September 2015. Main objectives of the study visit were the following:

- Examine the current state of affairs in the area of youth workers' training, and education and on-the-job training of state authorities' staff dealing with youth policy issues in Eastern Partnership countries.

- Design recommendations to improve this activity.

- Present and discuss training programs in the area of youth policy.

- Present and discuss guidebooks/manuals in the area of youth policy.

- Exchange best practices (based on European and international experience) in the area of youth workers' training, and education and on-the-job training of state authorities' staff; discuss applicability and potential of these best practices regarding their use in Eastern Partnership countries.

Number of youth workers take part in mobility programmes of the European Voluntary Service (EVS), https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/evs-organisation_en

Erasmus + Youth. Information Center in Belarus was established in Belarus, <https://www.facebook.com/pg/EP.belarus/about/>. The Information Center provides information support in the framework of the program Erasmus, including the opportunities for youth workers.

10. Current debates and open questions/policies on youth work

What are the open questions, debates and priorities around youth work development in your country?

Is there any cross-sectoral cooperation with other fields? What is the role and what are the strengths of youth work in that cooperation?

Further priorities addressed to youth work development are emphasised at the State Programme on Education and Youth Policy for the period 2016–2020. To be specific:

- to develop a network of multidisciplinary centres for work in the place of residence.
- to promote innovative forms and approaches in youth work.
- to staff the management for professional youth work.
- to facilitate youth participation in the implementation of socially significant initiatives and projects;
- to facilitate young people's engagement in the volunteer and student work teams' movements;
- to provide comprehensive support in successful youth career development, implementation of youth personnel policy;
- to further develop a youth entrepreneurship infrastructure;
- to promote digital youth work in order to raise the level of young people's digital literacy;
- to provide comprehensive support for young people who are in challenging situations.

Source: the State Program "Education and Youth Policy" 2016-2020,

<http://www.government.by/upload/docs/file2b2ba5ad88b5b0eb.PDF>