



Youth Policy Review

“Counting on Youth” 2006-2007

UNECE Generations and Gender Conference
Geneva, 14-16 May 2008

The review – an independent report to the Fund



Aims

- Potential to improve UN/FPA programming through engagement with youth structures
- Potential to assist youth policy development, nationally and regionally

Overriding concerns

- Participation in policy-making
(participation being another concern of policy-makers)
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Young women's involvement

Thematic contents of the review



Youth demography and migration

Socio-economic conditions

- education and training

- employment and unemployment

- family support and poverty

Youth lifestyles, sexuality and union formation

- substance use, initiation of sex

- sexual and reproductive health

- union formation and childbearing

Youth participation and policies

Countries covered in the review



2006 (Desk review)

Albania
Armenia
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Turkey
Ukraine
Uzbekistan

c. \$8500

2007 (Desk review and field visits)

Estonia
Georgia
Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Macedonia
Poland
Romania
Serbia

c. \$66 000 = < \$75 000

Who we met during the field visits



Ministry / Department / Agency / governmental responsible for Youth (or Education, Social Policy)

Youth NGOs, National Youth Council; other NGOs

(Youth) NGOs in sexual and reproductive health, Y-Peer

EC Youth in Action office, other EC delegation

UNFPA and other UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, WHO etc)

Academics, experts in youth / population / social policy

Youth Policy Review Documents



All documentation is available from:

http://www.unfpa.cst.sk/secured/cst_docs_RRA.htm

The login / password are: cst / welcome (case-sensitive)

Findings



Situations heterogeneous within / between countries, but:

Common concerns:

- ✘ Education quality / labour-market preparation (academic/vocational)
- ✘ Lack of mobility – cultural needs as well as economic (especially in the Balkans)

Regarding demographic issues:

- ✘ Economic uncertainty + expectation of migration
- ✘ Cost of housing (re: union formation)
- ✘ Cost of childcare (re: childbearing)

Findings 2



Participation: by degrees, very little ‘power’
(co-management almost non-existent, role of
National Youth Councils)

Consultation only (governments and UN bodies alike)

There is a substantial knowledge base for policy-making:

- ✎ *Youth NGOs*
- ✎ *Youth workers*
- ✎ *Young people – views, interests, habits, concerns*
- Youth researchers*
- Private sector*

Relationships, synergies, support (or the end of isolation)



UN family European Commission

Council of Europe, Directorate of Youth and Sport

Regional level

European Council of Ministers
CoE Parliamentary Assembly
European Youth Forum

UN in-country offices

EC delegations,
Youth in Action

National level

Youth NGOs,
National Youth Council

Government agencies, inter-ministerial youth cooperation

Youth workers,
Youth clubs

Youth Policy Review Documents



Find out more: Round table discussion on youth policy and participation, national examples and participation of UNFPA staff

Room XXIV, 18:00 (followed by drinks and snacks in the delegates lounge)

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or on CD as you leave the hall