

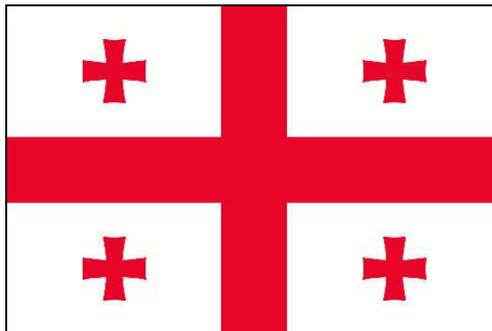
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Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

REVIEWS ON YOUTH POLICIES AND YOUTH WORK IN THE COUNTRIES OF **SOUTH EAST EUROPE,** **EASTERN EUROPE & CAUCASUS** - Georgia -



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	2
2. Executive summary	4
3. Situation of Youth	7
3.1 Definition of youth	7
3.2. Key figures on young people	7
3.3. Living conditions and situation of young people	8
4. Youth work and youth policies	21
4.1 Institutions, actors and structures	21
4.2 Context of youth policies and youth work	33
4.2.1 Youth policy	33
4.2.2 Youth work	35
4.2.3 Youth research	36
4.3 Legislation and provision of youth work	37
4.4 Strategies, Programmes, Action Plans in youth work and non-formal education/learning	38
4.5 Strategies in cross-sectorial policies	40
4.6 European and International dimension	41
4.7 Budget/Funding	44
5. Trends, needs, challenges and expectations	46
6. Sources of information	50

1. Introduction

Background

Recently, both the European Commission and the Council of Europe have renewed their strategies in the youth field; they confirmed the need for investment in research in order to promote the development of evidence-based policy in Europe. Youth research is regarded as essential in order to achieve the overall objectives of a youth policy strategy. As a result of the two new European strategies in the field of youth, a renewed forward-looking strategy for the EU-CoE youth partnership has been developed for the period 2010-2013. One of the three priorities is "promoting evidence-based policy" through further development of the EKCYP and its tools.

Within the new strategy national networks of EKCYP correspondents were nominated by the member states ministries. The correspondents drafted country sheets on national youth policies and answered questionnaires on the topics of Participation, Information, Voluntary Activities and a Better Understanding of Youth. The results and findings were uploaded on the Youth-partnership webpage in the section country information of the EKCYP; besides of this, the EU-CoE youth partnership, in cooperation with SALTO Resource Centers SEE and EECA, has organized series of seminars on youth policy co-operation held in the last years in the two regions of Eastern Europe and Caucasus and in South East Europe. These seminars showed a lack of information and knowledge about the situation of youth policy, youth work and its structures in the various countries of the regions.

In order to respond to this lack of information the EU-CoE youth partnership started new project *"Reviews on youth policies in the countries of South East Europe and Eastern Europe and Caucasus"* to collect information on the situation of young people and youth policy.

Georgia is one of the countries who did not nominated correspondent for the EKCYP and as a result there is no official information on Youth policy and situation of Young people; considering this fact, the new EU-CoE youth partnership project has double importance. The aim of the project is to collect and to provide with comprehensive information and knowledge on the situation of young people, on youth work and on youth policy in Georgia, to collect facts about ongoing, realized and upcoming projects related to youth, which should lead to enhance the dialogue between the various stakeholders and actors and between the European countries. The main idea of the research is to compile a review, based on already existing documents and information and according to a common approach and structure.

Methodology

A survey conducted on such a wide scale addressed especially on youth policy is an unprecedented event in Georgia. It was carried out between 1st of September and 31st of October 2010. For this survey was used crosssectorial approach in order to cover every single stakeholder that could deliver us needed information. On the first stage appropriate sources and the target groups were identified for the research among them were most of the ministries of the Georgian government, different Non-Governmental organizations, International organizations and institutions, all these stakeholders were asked by an official letter to provide with necessary information and support the project¹. The support letter from Council of Europe Director of Youth and Sport was essential in this regard. The official answers to the letters were collected sorted out and filtered by priorities and spheres. Documents were diverse, quantitative, containing statistical information such as the numbers of young people, age range and so on as well as qualitative providing more comprehensive information about aims and objectives of different stakeholders responsible on youth, statutes or programs organized for youth.

The structure and common approach of the research instrument/base document was the template which was developed during the preparatory meeting in Strasbourg from 28-29 June 2010. The participants of the meeting were representatives' from: the CoE directorate of Youth and sport, the youth partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union, individual experts from the SEE and EECA countries representing governmental structures and NGO sector.

After a lot of information was gathered and sorted out, we started the drafting process of the policy review. The main challenges of the work was the delay in providing timely information from Governmental structures; most information was in Georgia which also took a lot of time resources; one of the biggest challenge was that drafting of the State Youth Policy document by government started a long of our project and ministry of Sport and Youth affairs was unable to deliver official information which was biggest problem as review is about Youth policy.

For timely provided and full information I would like to express my special gratitude to following Stakeholders and organizations: Gabril Khabuliani – Children and Youth National Center; Vladimer Vardzelashvili and Giorgi Avaliani - Ministry of sport and youth affairs of Georgia; Avtandil Beroshvili - Civil Registry Agency; Tengiz Tsaava - National Statistics Office of Georgia; Giorgi Asanidze - Sport and youth affairs committee of parliament of Georgia; Tinatin Goletiani – Oficce of Public defender of Georgia; Inga Paichadze – World Bank Office in Georgia; Baqar Metreveli – Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance; Ekaterine Mgeladze – Ministry of Internal Affairs; David Gvineria – UNICEF Georgia.

¹ See source of information at the end of the survey

2. Executive summary

This document is the review on the situation of young People and youth policy in Georgia, policy review is based on already existing facts, information and different statistical data connected with mentioned topics.

Youth policy review of Georgia is organized in the framework of the Partnership Agreement between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth for the 2010-2013 periods, agreement considers to organize series of surveys about youth policy and situation on youth in the countries of South East Europe and Eastern Europe and Caucasus.

The survey included the topics concerning youth such as: general conditions of youth, important numbers and figures connected to youth, the situation about youth policy and youth work, governmental and non-governmental bodies responsible for youth, youth researches, legislative bases and rights of young people, state programs and initiatives for youth, Youth programs at European and international level, funding of youth field and etc.

The survey has obviously showed all fundamental challenges and problems which exist on the way of development of youth policy and youth. It's clear that the lack of youth policy in previous years, has significantly impeded development of this sphere and it rapidly brings back. If we compare it with other Eastern European, Caucasus and south-east countries only document which Georgia developed was in 2001 - "State concept for supporting Georgian youth" but unfortunately it has never been implemented

For today at law level there are only two codes which concern partly youth and generally regulate the relationship between youth organizations and the state, they also define the age of the youth in indirect way.

Young people of the age between 15 and 29 represent approximately 24% of the total population of Georgia, which is peculiar with its cultural interests and various needs. For this age-group the highest problem is unemployment and social guarantees, it's remarkable that in spite of carried out youth employment programme the 80 % of youth of the country doesn't have a paid job, also there doesn't exist any social privileges for young families, the state insurance program so called "cheap insurance" doesn't functions well as it has specific features and covers a narrow range of benefits which are not needed or used by young people in the 16-30 age group for example: general analysis, emergency hospital treatment and insurance against accidents because of the difficult economic situation the health system is hardly affordable for the majority of young people.

In the sphere of reproductive health it's remarkable: EU/UNFPA funded programme Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth, focusing on the health development, and empowerment of young people in the region in sexual and reproductive health and rights issues. In scope of the noted projects

there was opened 8 reproductive health medical informative centers for youth, which is positive development for this direction of health.

Because of not having appropriate legislation youth rights are often violated which is described in detail in official reports of the different human rights organizations, for example we can note the report of the public defender about children and youth right and the 2010th world report by the organization Human Rights Watch, where is written about facts of violation of the rights of children and youth; Particularly there is described arrest of young demonstrates by policy, who used to speak about the facts of beat during the detention.

Here it has to be mentioned that it is roughly violated the fundamental rights of ethnic Georgians who are deprived of rights of existence, property and free movement, which is the brutal violation of fundamental principle of the human rights. According to the data of 2010 from occupied territories there is nearly 146973 young people displaced under age of 30.

Significantly is improved the situation of the education of youth, the reform in education was on of the successful reform. The state has concrete policy towards the reform in schools, where the plan of activities till 2015 year is distinctly defined.

The educational system is the only field where the cross-sectional attitude towards educational system is very well visible. It's also important step in educational system to involve in Bologna process and to get to close with European standards, which supports youth mobility.

The steps taken in the field of sport are also important, which concern mainly activities aiming at improving youth health lifestyle. There is separate law drafted by the parliament in the field of sport, the initiative about making the sport obligatory subject in the Georgian public schools is also remarkable.

Concerning the structures responsible for youth we have to mention the ministry of sport and youth affairs which was established on 2010, the fund of children and youth development subordinated to the ministry, children and youth national center, also the committee of sport and youth of the parliament of Georgia. Territorial unites foreseen by the charter of the ministry of sport and youth affairs in regions (don't exist any more).

The structures mentioned above are responsible for creating, developing and implementing the youth policy. It's notable that the new ministry started active work on creating youth policy from the day of establishment.

From the youth structures the most developed ones are the youth NGOs, despite the lack of attention from the state side the youth work is developing step by step and it managed to reach some development. Many new youth NGOs were established, which work through non-formal education, human rights, participation, cultural, educational and youth policy fields.

As youth supportive programs carried out by the state the most remarkable is the programme “*patriot*”, which is running from 2005 year, except of that we have to mention the grant for Georgia given by world bank with support of Japanese government, in the framework of the grant youth centers were set up in 8 regions of Georgia.

2010 was unprecedented year for youth sector, as in the current year the whole amount of financing of youth field has overacted 10,000,000 Gel (4,201,680 Euros).

3. Situation of Youth

3.1 Definition of youth

Official definitions of youth, age and youth groups in the country by policy instruments, laws and/or constitution.

The work on the development of a legal framework and admission of regulating acts on youth issues began only in the late 1990s in Georgia. Significant steps have already been made in this direction but, as our data show, there is still a lot to do. Today there are two main laws related to youth:

- The law concerning state support to children and youth unions (June 22, 1999)
- The law concerning the protection of under-age children from harmful influence (September 28, 2001)

Present legislation does not define the age of youth. However, it defines the form of youth organization, according to which youth organization is non-commercial legal entity, created according to Georgian civil code, which unites citizens (based on foundation documentation the 2/3 of the members should be 18 to 26 year-old young people). With common interests, defending their freedom and rights².

According to the draft of “National policy of youth of Georgia”³ which was developed at the end of 2010 the term “youth” includes the age from childhood to adulthood. Youth age is the important period during which biological and psychological growth takes place and individual integration in the society. During this period young people try to gradually develop their skills and abilities to be able to freely play their role in any sphere of the social life. As a rule, this process continues until they reach a certain stage of development, responsibility and independence. It is still difficult to define the borders of age because diverse age limits of this part of life are quite different, on the one hand, from the approaches existing in the UN and the European Union, and, on the other one, national institutions. Taking into account specific environment and needs, it is possible to define three groups of youth: from 14 and 17, from 18 and 22 and from 22 to 26 years old.

3.2 Key figures on young people

Statistic data of Georgian citizens is registered by National Agency of Statistic of Georgia. which annually publish demographic indicators according to the age groups. Based on data of January 1,

² The law concerning state support to children and youth unions

³ draft of “National policy of youth of Georgia” 2010

2010 total population of Georgia is 4, 436, 400, among them young people from 14 to 35 is 1, 365, 700 which is 30.70% of population,. 52 % (2, 350, 500) of the population lives in urban areas and 48 % (2, 085, 900) lives in rural areas. According to data during 2009 63 377 people were born and 46 625 have died, which means that birth rate is positive. Registered marriages during 2009 were 31 752 Registered divorces 4 030.

3.3 Living conditions and situation of young people

There are numerous pre-conditions for development of youth resources in the country. Young people living in any country have certain needs and requirements, which are given below:

- Education (formal, informal);
- Employment;
- Security;
- Medical coverage;
- Self-realization;
- Having information on own rights, opportunities and responsibilities;
- Economic, creative, political and public activities;
- Leisure, rest, travel;

Upon fulfillment of all requirements or during development of external conditions the state shall provide state programs to the young people. Young people are a significant part of the society and require special approaches; therefore, it is important for different state programs to include this specificity. Within the Georgian government Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia shall carry out a lobbyist's role; its work shall be directed towards providing better focus on the youth in the strategies and programs of different state structures and, based on the youth needs, providing for their development. The state shall provide to the youth the programs through which the youth will self-realize and be included in the decision-making process⁴.

Culture

Georgia has a long history and rich cultural heritage. A modern independent state was established not long ago, but its system of values was formed over centuries. The country has been built on the unity of Orthodox Christianity which brings together Asian and European elements.

⁴ draft of "National policy of youth of Georgia" 2010

The developments of the 1990s and the collapse of the Soviet Union have created a new reality for Georgia. Earlier Georgia was not considered by the world as a separate social and political entity and consequently it had little access to different values on which every democratic state is based. But through close contact with the rest of the world Georgian has been molded by a new environment and new directions have emerged.

Independence had a deep impact on cultural values too. New types of music began to establish themselves in Georgia, along with a variety of new sorts of entertainment. New directions emerged in terms of people's perception of Georgia as a state and Europe-inspired aspirations appeared, and these trends were closely connected to youth. The younger generation has always played an important and active role in cultural developments.

One of the interesting issues is the number of cultural organizations and their availability all over Georgia. There are 42 theaters in Georgia, out of which 20 theaters are in the capital city, Tbilisi and on average 2 theatres are in regions. There are 14 cinemas in the country – 5 of those are in Tbilisi. More over, it is important to mention the number of libraries: according to statistic data of 2003 there were 2123 libraries in Georgia. But in 2008 the number of those decreased to 824. Consequently, the number of readers declined considerably: In 2003, 1421300 people visited libraries while in 2008 number of readers fell to 778300⁵. Nowadays, there are 112 museums in the country, which were visited by 616200 people in 2009, comparing with the data of 2004 the number of visitors is almost doubled⁶.

Education and Training (formal education, vocational education, drop outs, success figures, literacy rate)

Education is especially important as almost all its aspects are closely connected with youth issues. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, developments in Georgia were also reflected - for the worse - in the education system. Since 2003 however, there has been visible progress in the field of education. The changes brought in concerned all levels of education, from elementary schools to higher education institutions. Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia developed new strategy of reforms of general educational system for 2010-2015. According to the new strategy policy the main priority of the state policy is to provide quality education and, respectively, invest in future generation. In this regard, the Georgian Government has taken a number of important steps and carried out numerous initiatives. Among them is introduction of unified National Examinations that is acknowledged as one of the important accomplishments within Georgian educational space. It is already fifth year students enter higher educational institution only on the basis of their knowledge

⁵ Ministry of Culture and Monument protection of Georgia

⁶ National Agency for cultural heritage

without any corruption. This examination system enjoys great support of civil society. At the same time, a process of school infrastructure development is being accelerated. Schools were equipped with heating and electricity facilities. Providing schools with computers is still underway. Through creating school boards, the society got actively involved in the school management and decision making process. From new strategy of reforms of educational system for 2010-2015 following directions should be underlined: new national Curriculum, learning Computer sciences and English language from first Grade, access to education for non-Georgian schoolchildren, creating student self-governance bodies and teaching political culture at schools, Supporting national and international Olympiads, strengthening patriotism at schools, joint programs of schools and museums and many other innovative approaches.⁷

Georgian education system aims at establishing modern and innovative educational and scientific environment in close cooperation with civil society, advocates freedom of choice, fair competition, equal opportunities, civil integrity, and respect for cultural identity, promotes acquisition and development of knowledge and skills necessary for social success and self-realization. Georgian Education system consists of three steps: General education, professional education and higher education⁸.

At this stage general education system is one of the priority of our Government. Ministry of Education and Science is implementing various innovative and modern projects: English Language Learning Strengthening Programme, Inclusive Education Assistive Program, Development of Inclusive Education in 9 Regional Public Schools, Strengthening the General Education within the Penitentiary Establishments of Georgia, Public School Management Strengthening (Decentralization) Programme, Civil Integration Programs, The Pre-school Sector Support, Civil Activity Development Program 2010, Supporting Gifted and Talented Youth Programme – National and International Olympiads⁹. Based on data of 2010, there are 2 462 public schools in our general education system, out of which 283 schools are private¹⁰

The aims and goals of vocational education in Georgia are following¹¹:

- Meet education demands of the population, support professional, career development and social protection of individuals;
- Feed economy with qualified staff competitive both on local and international labor market; ensure a match between the fast changing labor market and VET system;
- Maintain competitiveness of employed by re-training and professional development;

⁷ General Education reforms strategy 2010-2015

⁸ Mission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

⁹ Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

¹⁰ National Statistics office of Georgia, data 2010

¹¹ Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

Reviews on youth policies and youth work in the countries of South East Europe, Eastern Europe & Caucasus

- Foster appropriation of the people's educational capacities with the new social-economic conditions to support self-employment and entrepreneurship;
- Support student mobility;
- Ensure professional development of minority groups and create employment opportunities for them;
- Develop Lifelong Learning;
- Develop School-Business Partnership in VET.

All the above –mentioned is implemented by 41 public schools and 60 vocational educational organizations all over the country¹²

Higher education is available in 71 High educational organizations all over the country Higher Education system of Georgia consists of three cycles: First cycle – Bachelor's Degree; Second cycle – Master's Degree; Third cycle – Doctor's Degree.

It is also important to mention that according to UNESCO Institute for Statistics literacy level among young people is 99.8%¹³

In the Juveniles Correctional Establishment the general education curriculum is provided. It is should be noted that six juveniles held in custody can get any kind of psychological assistance, as well as, vocational educational courses such as courses of hair –dressers, computer and carving . It is also planned to starts courses of enamel and political course of “QUIP” rehabilitation program.

Employment & Entrepreneurship

The problem of unemployment is still present in Georgia today and it has worsened with the global economic crisis. However, it would be unfair to compare this situation with that of the 90s. It took quit long time before Georgia recognized unemployment as a phenomenon, before calling it a problem and beginning to look for ways of solving it. In this situation, it is no wonder that no attention was paid to youth employment. Nowadays, situation has dramatically changed, as unemployment and creation of new working places has become one of the important issues for our government, as well as society. It is to be mentioned that, following the Rose Revolution, the Georgian government has been actively conducting youth employment-oriented projects. A notable example was a student employment program, conducted in several phases, which involved quite a large number of young people. Specifically, projects initiated under this program were either projects providing additional professional training, in which the state was supported by private companies, or projects to give students training in practical work-oriented skills for their future

¹² <http://www.mes.gov.ge>

¹³ <http://www.uis.unesco.org>

usage. These apprenticeships were of 1,5-3 months' duration only. In both cases, students received from the government a certain sum of money as a scholarship but they received no pay from the host companies where they worked. Although it was a positive step to youth employment it is difficult to assess the effectiveness of this unfortunately short-lived program.

As for official employment data of young people, according to National Agency of Statistic, only 31.9% of young people are employed¹⁴. However, there is a different indicators provided by Institute of marketing and social analysis. According to November 2009 data, only 20% of young people are employed¹⁵.

Entrepreneurship

Against the background of high unemployment rates and the recent economic crisis, many try to find a way out through creating their own business. At the same time, trade is often considered to be a new business direction. This is perfectly natural as it is relatively easy to start a business; it requires little start-up capital and similar precedents are numerous. According to the National youth report of Georgia: 38% of young respondents have considered the possibility of launching their own business, and this is a significant figure. However, only 25% (93 respondents) of those planning to start a business have taken any specific action. General preparatory activities are excluded from these figures; for instance, 54% of the above-mentioned 93 respondents claim to be gathering information and 23% are working on business plans. Indicators for other actions are insignificant compared to these two.

It is also interesting to see what obstacles young people encounter when they work on their own business (93 respondents). The survey results show that the main obstacle is that of insufficient initial capital (59%) and this is followed by taxes and responsibilities (10%) and credit refusal (8%).

Hence, the major problems in launching a business are of a financial nature, which reflects the situation in the country.

Several further questions were put to this group of 93 respondents with business plans. These questions referred to the state guarantees regarding the launching and conducting of a business.

To the question 'Does the state make available documents and permissions?' 50% of respondents gave a positive answer and 30% a negative answer. A relatively smaller positive indicator concerns property protection guarantees; 40% of respondents are convinced that their property will be properly protected. On the issue of profit, the positive indicator is even smaller; only 34% of the respondents think that the state will not hinder their attempts to make a realistic profit.

¹⁴ National Statistics office of Georgia, data 2010

¹⁵ National Report on Georgian youth

Health & Well-being (health insurance, age of coverage, mortality, morbidity, violence),

Today, the right to health care is guaranteed for every citizen according to Georgian law. But the extent to which this law is applied in reality needs to be investigated. It is interesting how positive or negative the perceptions of young people are in this matter and what their concrete health care problems are.

Events of the early 1990s had a negative impact on the Georgian health care sector and at all levels - hospitals, clinics, and emergency care - the services were depleted. In this situation, it is difficult to talk about the quality of the medical services. The work of reviving the health system began in the late 90s and accelerated in 2004-2005, but only in some specific areas. The greatest achievement is considered to be the organizing of an effective emergency service. The situation is better in hospitals and clinics since many have been privatized. As a result, doctors' salaries have risen and working conditions have improved.

In spite of various reforms implemented in health and medicine field, and besides the availability of medical organizations for young people, financial problems still remains unsolved. Georgian National survey of young people shows that the most accessible is the emergency service; 73% of young people say that it is wholly accessible. Polyclinics and first aid centers are the second most accessible. Analysis of these results is quite easy. Protecting health is closely connected to financial means and those who have money can get use a medical service; those who don't have to resort to the emergency service. This fact explains the high accessibility of emergency service and polyclinics. The emergency service is usually free and the polyclinic fees are also low. In contrast, stationary medical services are very expensive and for 28% of young people are not accessible at all. The same is true of diagnostic service, especially over the last few years, and this is out of reach for 32% of young people. As for medicines, they are partly accessible (40%), but 23% are unable to buy medicines at all.

It is also interesting to know statistic data of health according to under international standards:

- Number of hospitals 241
- Number of beds in hospitals 13 600
- Average duration of staying in hospital per person 6.2 days
- Number of doctors 20 600
- Number of appointments 7073700
- Number of people suffering from infectious diseases 323 514
- Number of registered Aid patients 1 560, out of which 1 333 is a citizen of age 15-40
- Number of registered Tuberculosis patients 6 108

- Number of registered abortions 24 300

In terms of youth reproduction health, it is crucial to mention: EU/UNFPA funded programme Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in the South Caucasus (RHIYC) is a large-scale, multi-party initiative focusing on the health development, and empowerment of young people in the region in sexual and reproductive health and rights issues. Project targets are youth between 15-24 in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Across the RHIYC, the emphasis is placed upon community participation and the sharing of knowledge and information to support behavior changes, counseling and services. NGO activities in three countries include:

- Making youth – friendly information and services available at youth information centers at the universities;
- Training peer educators to share S&RH information with their peers;
- Developing messages for healthy behavior change through information website, TV, Radio, and campaigns involving young people (festivals, contests, etc);
- Working to educate community leaders, parents on adolescent S&RH issues.

In the scope of the mentioned project, 8 new medical-informational organizations in reproduction health have been opened on Tbilisi, Gori, Batumi, Kutaisi, Gurjaani, Ozurgeti, Mtskheta, Zugdidi. Different event were held 3 youth festival, 3 national forum, training fro non-governmental organizations, informational campaigns etc.

Unfortunately, at this stage our government cannot provide with any relevant programmes for young groups.

Insurance

Health care and health insurance are indivisible in the modern world. In Georgia, insurance as a service appeared quite recently and covers mostly a few types of risk; only travel insurance, vehicle insurance and property insurance are available. For health insurance, ‘corporate’ insurance is becoming very popular. This means insuring a group of people who work together and it gives them a chance to benefit from a range of services while paying a modest sum of money. Individual insurance packages were introduced very recently but only a few insurance companies provide this service, which is more expensive than for corporate packages. In 2008, the government started to work on a project to introduce an ‘inexpensive’ health insurance program, which was quickly implemented through the joint collaboration of the government and insurance companies. The project was widely advertised and has increased the popularity of the health insurance service. The inexpensive insurance program offered by the state has specific features and it covers a narrow range of benefits. The first is analysis, which can be carried out in any polyclinic and is very inexpensive, the second is emergency hospital treatment, and the third is

insurance against accidents. The other additional services, which are included in the above-mentioned packages, are not included in state insurance packages. The government's action is positive however since they can argue that additional benefits would make the insurance expensive. But the fact is that the services of this inexpensive insurance package are not needed or used by young people in the 16-30 age groups. Data of National Statistics office of Georgia reveals that in 2009 2778 young people died (age range 0-34)

Human and Youth rights

Human and youth right is a vast issue including wide spectrum of rights and freedom in the field such as court, civil, political, social and economical rights. Various reforms have been carried out in this direction and still are underway.

Nevertheless, the facts of violation of rights of children and youth are still the problem to overcome. "Human Rights Watch" world report of 2010 reveals the facts of arresting young people participating in demonstration in May, 2009, who later stated the facts of threats and beating. Moreover, in June police used rubber bullets without warning and attacked the peaceful demonstration protesting the arrest of young activists. As a result 17 people were injured and 38 were arrested, who after being released stated the fact of offense by police¹⁶.

"Human Rights Watch" world report of 2010 also reveals the problems in execution system and free media. Even more, the rights of being, possession and relocation are highly violated on the occupied territories of Georgia. According to the data of 2010, number of refugees under 30 from the occupied territories is 146 973¹⁷.

Also, information given in the report of Public Defender of Georgia is worth mentioning. According to the report, improving the children' situation should start with reading of children' rights, which includes their thorough understanding and participation in the decision making process¹⁸. The report also speaks about the hidden facts of violation in educational organizations. According to the "Convention of Children's Rights" article 19, in the definition of violation one of the highlighted aspects is psychological violation, as well as, disregard, negligent and rude treatment.

The same report also speaks about the devastating situation of homeless children. In 2008, first thorough survey which was initiated by international and local organizations was carried out to study the real situation of homeless children

This survey, which was held in 4 big cities: Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Rustavi and Batumi, revealed that 1 600 juveniles spent almost all day in the streets as they do not have any shelter based on hard social

¹⁶ "Human Rights Watch" 2010 World Report

¹⁷ Ministry of internally displaced persons from the occupied territories. Accommodation and Refugee of Georgia

¹⁸ Public Defender of Georgia 2009 Report

conditions or other different reasons. It should be said that government has not investigated this problem. The only effort to deal with the above – mentioned issue was the scheme oriented on homeless children developed by the Ministry of Labor, Social and Health Care ,where homeless children were mentioned only in the chapter 16 with the heading “ Sub-program for providing homeless children with shelters” (the Order N 118/n of March 23, 2009). This is, undoubtedly, positive step taken in this direction. However, the Public Defender’ report says that the program includes a lot of inaccuracies and still contain many unanswered questions.

In terms of youth rights, the law about supporting children and youth unions by government, where youth rights are presented with the view of their involvement in the working process of non-governmental organizations, according to which the are allowed to:

- a) Provide President and executive government with information and data about conditions in children and youth right
- b) Refer to the legitimate institutions with the proposal of including changes in Georgian Laws and other normative document in order to defend children’s interests.
- c) Participate in creating, discussing and implementing governmental youth programs on the basis of state youth policy

According to data of 30 August, 2010 of Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, there are 218 juveniles in the custody, out of which 4 are girls; average age range is 16-18. Over the five years period, 84 convicts were pardoned and punishment period was halved for five of those¹⁹.

It is also interesting the datas of the Ministry of Internal Affairs²⁰ where it is written that only in the first eight month of the 2010 against 5286 young people under 30th was started Criminal prosecution.

Acoring to the draft of “National policy of youth of Georgia” 2010: Georgia acknowledges and adheres to the internationally accepted youth rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Main youth rights are:

- Life;
- Freedom for religious believes;
- Equality;
- Living in safe environment;
- Education;
- Inclusion;

¹⁹ Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance of Georgia

²⁰ Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

- Development;
- Access to information and services facilitating their development;
- Protection from physical and psychological pressure;

The part on responsibility is an important component for strong guarantees for legal protection of the youth for it is in direct connection with defining the limits for realization of their rights and creating the mechanisms for effective protection.

Responsibilities of the youth;

Protection of their rights and freedoms;

For those decisions which influence their future;

General education;

Maximum usage of existing opportunities for own development;

Respect for own self, environment and country;

Valued membership in the civil society and participation in the state building process;

Care for the part of the society, which needs special protection, care and attention²¹.

Nowadays, Georgia is connected to the following international documents focusing on Human rights:

- Pact of civil and political rights and additional minutes of UN.
- Rights of the child
- Convention on rights of the child and additional minutes
- Convention on children protection and cooperation in international adoption
- Convention 138 on the minimal age of employment
- Convention on worst forms of child labor and the ways of eradication (182)
- European convention on legal status of illegitimates

Documents against discrimination

- European frame-convention on “protection of national minorities”
- Convention on liquidation of any forms of racial discrimination
- International convention on suppression of punishment and punishment of the apartheid

Women Rights

- Convection on eradication of any forms of women discrimination
- Convection on women political right
- Convection on equal remuneration of the equal amount of work

Leisure

²¹ draft of “National policy of youth of Georgia” 2010

According to National Report on Georgian youth the part of the research concerning entertainment and leisure time was aimed at finding out the most popular ways of spending free time. In answer to the question: “How have you been entertained in the last 3 months?” 86% of respondents mentioned watching TV. This is a form of entertainment they experience every day. ‘Having fun with friends’ is the second most common entertainment (67%), and is followed by ‘listening to music’ (55%). As for the Internet, it takes fifth place with 41% and computer games are placed 12th with 12%.

For the majority of today’s global society, where technical progress and the development of communications have reached a high level, Human relations are limited. In such ‘developed’ countries, the Internet, video and online games and music are the main sources of entertainment. In Georgia, when young people name ‘having fun with friends’ as one of their forms of entertainment, this may be explained in two ways: first, in our country new means of communication (internet) are not so developed and widespread that they influence Human relations and second, that this process has just begun and needs time. It’s also worth mentioning that in the issue mentioned above, the cultural originality of Georgian society plays a big role. The particular ways of having relations with friends and others are reflected in the traditional ways of creating entertainment.

Mobility

In the last 20 years Georgia’s development has not progressed smoothly and we have seen frequent dramatic events. The minimal achievements of a new national government made the first years of independence “unforgettable” for people. As a result of armed confrontation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the economy was destroyed and these two territories were practically lost for Georgia. The same period coincided with civil war and military revolution. However, from the mid-90s, the situation in the country started to stabilize, though Maley social-economical problems remained unsolved. Taking into account all these problems, it is not surprising that youth issues and policy were not of primary importance in this period. Therefore young people, along with different government structures and organizations, had to start building a youth plan from scratch.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, devastating political and economical situation caused migration problem and more and younger people wanted to leave the country for different reasons. Based on the research of Georgian Youth 19% of youth over 16 has been abroad, out of those 52% as tourists and 15% for educational reasons. In fact, the above-mentioned percentage is very low mainly caused by strict visa regime with EU. As a result of complicated visa procedures and tight deadline there has been a lot of cases when Georgians could not participate in various projects of EU Youth in Action, what on its turn limits mobility of Georgian youth.

In connection with Mobility, Bologna Process should be mentioned as Georgia got involved in the process based on the communiqué accepted at the conference of European Ministers responsible for Higher education in 2005. The purpose of Bologna Process is to create the European higher education area by making academic degree standards and quality assurance more comparable and compatible throughout Europe. Being included in this process Georgia is responsible for creating the European higher education area by the year 2010, what will prove that Georgia recognize that mobility of students and staff among all participating countries remains one of the key objectives of the Bologna Process.

Participation and Volunteering

As for participation, there is no document in Georgian legislation which regulates and defines standards.

Religion

Georgia has a long history and rich cultural heritage. A modern independent state was established not long ago, but its system of values was formed over centuries. The country has been built on the unity of Orthodox Christianity which brings together Asian and European elements.

The collapse of the Soviet Union modified the religious makeup in Georgia. This was due to the fact that, once borders were opened, large numbers from the ethnic minorities residing in Georgia returned to their homelands (e.g. Jews, Greeks). This trend was also partially linked to the ethnic conflicts and tension between Russia and Georgia, due to which some Russians and Ossetians left Georgia.

Moreover, following the end of the Soviet Union, many religious denominations gradually appeared in Georgia, many of which most Georgians had not heard of before. However, the followers of these denominations are not numerous.

Based on data of 2002, percentage of different religious confessors is shared in the following way: Orthodox Christians 83.9%, followers of Armenian apostolic church 3.9%, Catholics 0.8%, Muslims 9.9%, other 0.8%, no religion 0.7% (2002 data) Orthodox Christianity largely dominates in Georgia and about 87% of Georgian youth considers religion as an important part of their life. Presumably, such an attitude is based on firmly established historical and traditional values.

Sport

Sport has always been one of the traditional directions in Georgia. At this stage, as government pays great attention to this sphere there is the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Committee of sport and youth affairs and Law on the Sport. Hereby it should be mentioned that there are 68 sport

federations. Besides of the professional success and achievements in sport Georgian youth is not active in this field and most of them does not run healthy lifestyle. In order to address this problem Georgian government is developing sport policy.

According to the Georgian Law on Sport, Georgian Parliament defines the main directions and priorities in this filed²².

According to the law the aims and goals of Georgian legislation are:

- a) Creating recovery model
- b) Forming physically and mentally harmoniously developed person
- c) Protecting and ensuring constitutional rights of Georgian citizens to participate in sport sphere
- d) Defining the responsibilities and operation fields of central and local governments in this sphere
- e) Creating legislation borders for unlimited operation of governmental, social and other sport organizations
- f) Defining the responsibilities and rights of physical and juridical units in sport and regulating relationships among them
- g) Introducing advanced technology and achievements of science in sport

Ministry of sport and Youth is responsible for creating and coordinating sport policy.²³. Within the limits and borders defined by Georgian legislation the main mission of the ministry is:

- o Creating, planning and coordinating the implementation of youth and sport policy
- o Creating and implementing overall policy to develop physical education and sport
- o Creating overall calendar plan for recovery models and sport events.

²² Georgian law on sport

²³ Ministry of Sport and youth affairs of Georgia

Reviews on youth policies and youth work in the countries of South East Europe, Eastern Europe & Caucasus

4. Youth policies and youth work

4.1 Institutions, actors and structures

The biggest challenge for the state in the youth sector management process is coordination of the activities of the stakeholders working in this sector. There is a guaranteed possibility that National Youth Policy Document with its different aspects will promote youth development, including such mechanisms as coordination and cooperation with organization working on youth issues. Diversity of approaches, at the same time, requests that absolutely every services rendered, if possible, shall fully comply with real needs of every young person. Each activity shall be directed towards different sub-groups of young people including male and female groups, city or regional residents and different age groups. This approach will provide for the participation of the youth and stakeholders in one process²⁴.

The youth sector includes following governmental and non-governmental structures

State department of sport and youth affairs existing since 1994 until 2010

The sport and youth affairs committee of parliament of Georgia

The ministry of sport and youth affairs founded in July 2010

Children and youth development Fund - Subordinated to ministry of sport and youth affairs

Regional territorial units of the ministry of sport and youth affairs which foreseen by the statute of the ministry (not existing now)

Children and youth National center

International, donor organizations and diplomatic corps;

Youth organizations, students and school self-governance;

local self-governance bodies and agencies directly related to the youth;

Mass media.

State department of sport and youth affairs of Georgia

“The youth affairs department of the Georgian republic” was founded in 1994 by the decision of Cabinet of Ministers based on resolution number 44. In 1998 by the decree number 255 of the president of Georgia it was reorganized and named as a “State department of youth affairs of Georgia”.

²⁴ draft of “National policy of youth of Georgia” 2010

On 6th of January 2006 by the decree number 3/3 of the minister of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport two different state departments of youth and of sport were united under the same ministry and was given the status as a “State department of sport and youth affairs of Georgia”

The sport and youth affairs committee of parliament of Georgia

The sport and youth affairs committee of parliament of Georgia has been created after the elections of parliament of Georgia in 2008. The Committee is formed by 11 members of parliament.

Under the competence given by law and its own statute committee:

- Stimulates Young People as one of the most important sector for development of country through integration in civil society
- Coordinates state Youth policy
- Ensures the development of legislative base in sport and youth field
- Controls the creation of supportive terms to involve youth with disabilities in social life.
- Coordinate relationships between youth organizations, ensures state support and protection their rights and interests
- Creates appropriate legislation to fight against drug dependence, prostitution and alcoholism among youth
- Is working on youth economic, social and legal arrangements

It has to be mentioned that in December 2008 at the committee has been created scientific consultative council for development of youth affairs which was consisted from experts, representative’s non-governmental, governmental and international organizations. Council has done a certain work for creating law on youth but at some time it stopped and could not finish.

Nowadays committee mainly works about sport issues.

Ministry of sport and youth affairs of Georgia

The Ministry of sport and youth affairs of Georgia was founded on 7th of July 2010 based on decree number 183 of government of Georgia.

The Ministry of sport and youth affairs of Georgia acts according to Georgian legislation and is working on creation of state youth policy and coordinates implementation process. In frameworks of given authority by the Georgian law the ministry has following main aims and objectives in the youth field:

- To create, coordinate and develop state youth policy

- In order to resolve children, youth and young family's social, economical, cultural-educational, health and employment problems, ministry develops and realizes appropriate state policy.
- Under its competence depend on the specific signs typical for youth work out and implementation the united state policy, for settle a problem about health care, social, economic and cultural-elucidative employment of children, youth and young families.
- State support for especially talented children youth young scientists, sports Male and creators.
- Prepare the state programs in order develop methods to fight against criminal and offences among children and young people
- Making conditions to encourage sick invalid and social unprotected children's and youth involvement in social life and control children's working activities
- Organize children's youth cultural, scientific, sport arraignments and support other people making the same
- Consolidate collaborations between Georgian and foreign governmental and non-governmental organizations working at the same issue in order to develop this filed
- Working out the projects and improving the legislative in force to make law more complete

Ministry of sport and youth affairs of Georgia since its foundation is working on the project "State Youth policy of Georgia"

Children and youth development Fund

"Children and youth development Fund" is the legal entity the Ministry of sport and youth affairs of Georgia. The strategy of the fund is the governmental support for children and youth organizations. The fund based of competition finances the projects of organizations which are members of children and youth development fund's register. Mainly found is financing a small grants and projects.

The main decision maker of the fund is the deliberative vote of ministry of sport and youth affairs which composed from 15 members, 9 of them are appointed by the minister included himself/herself and 6 of them are referred by the found director.

Children and youth National center

Children and youth National center was founded by the decree number 617 of the president of on 5th of November 2007. The main purpose and activities of the Center are:

- According to main direction of the National youth policy to discover and show the intellectual physical and spiritual potential of young people of Georgia, to formulate and make appropriate conditions for self-realization of young people
- To realize the appropriate activities corresponding to the United Nations Convention on Child rights;
- To conduct annual monitoring on child and youth conditions and to present the results of the report to the president of Georgia, to support child and youth partnership and international cooperation.
- To deepen the patriotic aspiration among children and young people, work out and participate in state and presidential programs aiming at resolve the problem of children and youth.
- Support for care of different kind of social unprotected children, and support for discovering especially talented children and youth
- To Support to initiative groups to organize the mass youth activities, youth days and different games. Based on interests of young people to encourage creating the cultural centers and youth clubs.
- To support to organize leisure and free time of youth and to encourage the propaganda of healthy physical and spiritual lifestyle.
- In order to Encourage the relationships between children and youth organizations ministry plans the seminars, trainings, conferences, symposiums, concerts, festivals exhibitions, charity projects and other activities
- Making the large-scale cognitive educational and resting-sanitation programs for children and young people, organizing youth camps, supporting child and youth tourism.
- Contribute to the executive authorities in order to realize state youth policy under its competence.

In 2009 was implemented 21 different arrangement and project By the National children and youth center.

Youth Organizations

The YNGO sector is quite developed and diverse around the capital, as well as in Eastern Georgia. and not that well developed in the rest of the country. Despite unresolved conflicts in two regions, Georgian society is ethnically diverse, yet very cohesive and there are Maley YNGOs representing different ethnic groups.

YNGOs are vibrant in the biggest cities of the country, active in all spheres: political, social, cultural, educational. Yet, scarce support to development of youth work at local level as well as low capacity of local public authorities makes it difficult for initiative groups and YNGOs to survive. Lack of permanent communication with the mountainous regions of Georgia is a big obstacle to continuity of youth work in this part of the country.

A particularly important role in the development of youth work in Georgia has been played by strong university and faculty-based student unions. Their ability to motivate and catalyze students has been a motor for the active involvement of youth in the political processes of the country. Strong student unions also lead to the development of another important category of YNGOs, i.e. professional sectorial organizations. Student unions have also served as a first-step involvement in youth work for Maley leaders of YNGOs, and still provide an important learning environment for young people about being active in associated life.

Despite the diversity of YNGOs, few are self-sufficient and do not depend on project funding. many YNGOs have had to change their priorities following the shift in thematic focus of donors in Georgia, as there have been few funding opportunities from the state, this in itself not being an on-going offer²⁵.

Number of the youth NGOs is unknown as there is no official statistics on it, by the law all Non-governmental organizations are registered by the same law including Youth NGOs which makes impossible to count them.

Among the NGOs working in youth field, such as youth policy, research, participation, non-formal education, minorities/religion and international youth organizations, should be mentioned

National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia

The National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia is an umbrella organization which gathers 46 children and youth organizations in Georgia, NCYOG unites political and non-political YNGOs, covering the whole specter and a broad scope of social, student, professional, educational and cultural interests of youth. Based on this, and given its aim to support all member organizations and promote interests of YNGOs in Georgia.

NCYOG is a full member of the European Youth Forum since October 2000.

In 2005 NCYOG with partner youth Councils founded “Eastern European Youth Cooperation”,

Since 2008 NCYOG is a founder of the “Alcohol Policy Youth Network”

From June NCYOG is a part of the “Danube-Black Sea YOUth network”.

²⁵ YFJ Report on the Study Visit to Georgia 2005

Tasks and values:

- To represent and advocate interests of youth organizations in cooperation with authorities and different institutions in Georgian society;
- To support and develop youth work and to propose youth policy issues to the state and international institutions;
- To advocate promotion of democracy, pluralism, Human rights and values on which every democratic country is based.
- To support Euro-Atlantic integration, which is main priority of Georgia's Foreign Policy?
- To promote voluntarism, diversity and solidarity among youth organizations.

Fields of work:

- Focuses on creation youth policy, promotes non-formal education and pays special attention to youth work development in the regions of Georgia;
- Collaborates with state institutions, international organizations and NGOs for realization its main tasks;
- Carries out activities which combats drug abuse, juvenile delinquency and involves famous people in these campaigns;
- Advocates promotion of democracy in Georgia through preparing young local observers, involving them in election observation missions, simultaneously popularizing high turnout at election;
- Takes part in projects which are hold by the European Youth Forum and is permanently represented in different structures of the European Youth Forum;
- Keeps partnership relations with international organizations and foundations such as: Council of Europe, European Commission, World Bank, USAID and so on;
- Has a close partnership relations with different European National Youth Councils;

SALTO multipliers in Georgia²⁶

The network of SALTO EECA Multipliers was created in 2004 in order to support the development of the YOUTH Programme in the Region as well as to increase its visibility and quality of realized

²⁶ <http://www.salto-youth.net>

YOUTH projects in Eastern European and Caucasian Countries. Nowadays the Network gathers 30 youth workers from all 7 EECA countries and 4 among them is from Georgia:

- Academy for Peace and Development
- Association ATINATI
- Youth Association DRONI
- SIQA - Georgian Association of Educational Initiatives

The Multipliers Network in EECA region is voluntary-based, consisting of national teams and international working groups (specialized in different fields) with shared values and responsibilities. The network has common standards and criteria for entering and staying within it. It aims to promote international youth cooperation (especially within Youth in Action Programme) and sustain the results.

Purpose of the Network

- Promotion of the EECA region and the level of cooperation within the framework of Youth in Action programme;
- Raising the quality of national and international youth work in EECA and beyond;
- Promotion of European Values (like cultural diversity, respect to Human rights, democracy, tolerance) with special emphasis on principles of non-formal education for it;
- Creating more possibilities within the Youth in Action programme for youngsters from EECA region for international cooperation with special emphasis on young people with fewer opportunities;
- Lobbying the interests of Youth field in EECA region on National and European levels, and support the integration of the region into wider political framework (like European Neighborhood Policy, Eastern Partnership and other);
- Develop, adapt, share and disseminate informational and educational materials like publications, web resources, etc. on various aspects of international youth work;
- To mobilize the potential on national level for promotion of European/International cooperation (national, regional, local authorities, private sector, other international organizations);
- Development of quality multiplying activities through creating mutual learning opportunities that support a sense of purpose, direction and continual growth;

Youth Organizations Forum of Georgia

“Youth Organizations Forum of Georgia” is Non-profit, non-governmental, non-political youth organization, which represent union of youth organizations and organizations working on youth issues.

Forum aims at the support for development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of an effective youth policy in Georgia and to support development of the field of youth work in close cooperation with governmental and non-governmental institutions through lobbying interest of young people as a starting point.

Forum Goals

- Forum contributes to the development process of youth policy in Georgia and to its further implementation and evaluation.
- Forum creates non-formal educational opportunities for young people, youth workers, youth trainers and youth leaders for their personal and professional development.
- Forum runs awareness raising activities about different activities, resources and other types of information available and useful for young people for better coordination among youth organizations and young people.
- Supports youth organizations in the structural and organizational development.
- Promotes active involvement of young people in the development of the civil society and active participation.
- For implementation of its goals forum:
 - Implementing educational activities, participates in local and international events;
 - Coordinates activities of youth organizations;
 - Governs Youth information Centre of Georgia
 - Organizes annual Forum of Youth Organizations of Georgia as a conference event;
 - Runs Youth Information Centre of Georgia.

Georgian Organization of the Scout Movement

Scouting first came to Georgia around the 1920s, by way of the British business community in the western part of the country. There was not formalized Georgian Scouting within Georgia prior to the breakup of the former Soviet Union, and Scouting became extinct in the period until the Soviet Union collapsed.

In 1992, students at the University of Tbilisi, notably those in the School of Medicine, took an interest in starting Scouting. Their efforts to create Scout groups were supported by the Scouts de France, working closely with the World Scout Bureau and its Office for the CIS; subsequently Georgian Organization of the Scout Movement (GOSM) was set up, grouping together those who

were in agreement with the educational objectives of Scouting. In January 1994 the Organization was legally registered in the country.

The Georgian Organization of the Scout Movement (GOSM) became the 147th member of the World Scout Movement on 26 December 1997.

The objectives of the GOSM are:

- to contribute to the development of young generation in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual potentials both as individuals and responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national, and international communities;
- To make opportunities for self-realization and self-determination of the young generation;
- To contribute to formation of a person based on national and world cultural values;
- To contribute to formation of the professional interests and practical skills in the young generation.

GOSM carries out the following activities:

- Coordinates small groups' work;
- Organizes meetings, lectures, seminars, exhibitions, concerts, expeditions, excursions, camps, hiking, sport competitions and other activities;
- Establishes different clubs.

Association of Young Economists of Georgia (AYEG)

Date of establishment: 25th April, 1989

Association of Young Economists of Georgia (AYEG) is non-profit, non-political, non-governmental organization. AYEG is dedicated to support the development of civil society, promote democracy and cooperate with partner organizations, institutions and private sector in order to contribute to the community advance.

The Association of Young Economists of Georgia assists changes in sustainable economic and social development of the country. On this, the Association of Young Economists of Georgia dedicates all its passion and professionalism.

The AYEG fields of Activity are:

Support Business Climate Improvement

AYEG has been actively working on business climate improvement in Georgia for more than ten years. To this end, the AYEG has been actively cooperating with the state and private sectors, as well as with international organizations. The AYEG contributes to SME development, business climate improvement through drafting and analyzing new laws, and to advocacy and empowerment

of entrepreneurship. Qualified experts permanently provide consultations to Georgian SMEs, analyze regulatory environment, prepare education programs focused on raising entrepreneurship awareness and developing business skills.

The AYEG works with:

- Small and medium size enterprises;
- Farmers;
- IDP women wishing to start their business;
- Persons/groups interested in business regulatory issues.
- Support democracy and economic reforms
- Public sector development is one of the key AYEG activities. The AYEG is actively involved in the democratic processes and economic reforms. Respectively, the AYEG experts develop policy papers, recommendations training materials to be used with target groups. The AYEG tends to strong collaboration with state agencies on following hot issues:
 - Public finances;
 - Self-governance;
 - Social affairs, etc.
 - Support professional development of young economists

Since its establishment, the AYEG has been working with Georgian youth, especially with young economists. The AYEG offers them participation in training sessions in economic/business topics; the Research Center where young people can conduct their own researches on actual issues in the country and/or in business sector; seminars, workshops, competitions, etc. The AYEG ensures formation of motivated young generation as full-fledged members of our society. The youth enjoys the opportunity of:

- Developing analytical and research skills;
- Raising the level of economic and business awareness;
- Networking, etc.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Georgia – YMCA (this is international organization and it is just a name, YMCA is very well known youth NGO world wide. they are member of European Youth Forum.

General Terms:

- The Young Men's Christian Association of Georgia is the national union of all Young Men's Christian Associations in Georgia.

- The purpose of the association is to unite the young people to put into practice the Christian principles of respect, responsibility, caring and honesty, through programs and activities that promote the development of healthy mind, body and spirit for all.
- The association doesn't pursue political aims and doesn't follow any political or religious denomination.

The goals:

- To support the local YMCAs in conducting joint and coordinated activities;
- To stimulate the development of the YMCA of Georgia by promoting the strengthening and further extension of the member YMCAs and by encouraging the creation of the YMCA in new areas and locations;
- To react to the emerging needs of the community through initiatives, charity actions and programs according to the lifestyle and living standards of the community.

The objectives:

- To provide leadership for the YMCA movement and formulate national standards, working objectives and policies for assistance of local organizations. These standards, objectives and policies are to be provided as guidance and should not be Maledatory to follow;
- To establish friendly relations between Georgian and international YMCA movements;
- To represent the movement in dealing with the authorities, and with other national and international organizations;
- To provide the activities of national and international scope that can not be implemented by the local organizations separately. These activities must by implement upon the agreement with respective local organization;

Youth Union “Public Movement Multinational Georgia” (YUPMMG)

Youth Union of Public Movement Multinational Georgia was registered on 14 February 2003 which is the umbrella organization and unites youth organizations and young people from different ethnic communities living in Georgia. The major priority of the Union is to bring together the youth from different ethnic, cultural and religious background and help them to be integrated into the civil society of Georgia. Organization is seeking the ways for solving the problems young generation is facing currently, to promote development of the youth policy in the country.

The Union is carrying out the following activities for children and youth: educational seminars, trainings and conferences; intercultural summer camps with training elements; cognitive excursions; sports, cultural and entertainment activities, as well as charitable actions. Topics of the events vary from gender issues (popularization and strengthening of gender policy), Human rights

protection (in particular minority rights), intercultural education and communication to conflicts prevention and resolution, social cohesion, civil integration etc.

These activities serve to consolidate young people from different ethnic groups. The Union also works for strengthening of youth NGOs from minority communities. They receive considerable assistance (charity events, organizational and educational support), which enable those organizations to pass the stage of establishment faster and get the capacity that is necessary for protection of their rights and fulfillment of activity aimed at establishing the open civil society based on a dialogue and cooperation.

The organization is also oriented at support to the programs carried out by the European Institutions, including strengthening the capacities through informal education and active participation in the process of further development of the civil society in Europe and for early solution of the problems.

Our organization is actively cooperating with the Council of Europe and its structures (European Youth Foundation, Directorate on Youth and Sports etc). The Union is member of such international organizations as “Minorities of Europe”, “European Confederation of Youth Clubs”, and Association of Local Democracy Agencies.

Youth Information Centre of Georgia

Youth Information Centre of Georgia (YICG) is the centralized source of information on national and international youth possibilities.

It is possible to obtain the information through office consultations as well as through hotline and web portal.

YICG is the joint initiative of Tbilisi City Hall and “Youth Organizations Forum Georgian”. Legally it is the non commercial, non for profit law body founded by Tbilisi City Hall

YICG aims to contribute to the development of youth, youth organizations and initiative groups in Georgia through providing an information support and consultations.

Main objectives of the centre:

- Raising youth awareness on youth possibilities
- Supporting accessibility of informational
- Consulting young people on actual topics
- Supporting youth involvement into the process of civil society building
- Promoting the cooperation between the youth organizations and initiative groups in order to implement joint socially useful projects.

Youth Voices Georgia (YVG) - World Bank Tbilisi Office

In May 2004, the World Bank selected a group of young people for the "Youth Voices" group (currently called Youth Voices Georgia – YVG). These were young active people aged from 15 to 25 who expressed their interest in discussing and analyzing issues of concern to young people in Georgia. The goal of forming the Youth Voices group was to bring to the World Bank fresh ideas and recommendations for youth programs and policies that are informed by their experiences, perspectives and priorities. The aim of the ECA Youth Voices groups in general is to establish a mutual learning initiative for youth stakeholders in individual countries and for the World Bank.

The Youth Voices initiative is part of the larger effort on behalf of the World Bank to engage in a systematic dialogue with young people, either as individuals or as youth groups, so as to include their perspectives and needs in the development process.

Some of the concrete objectives of the Youth Voices Georgia are to:

- Fill in an informational gap among the young people in remote regions, youth representatives of ethnic and religious minorities and young people living in conflict areas;
- Provide them with non-formal education;
- Promote their civic integration;
- Support youth initiatives;
- Fight youth idleness;
- Support IDP and other socially vulnerable youth.

Currently the YVG includes 9 members and is diverse in terms of age difference (18-25), educational, work/volunteering backgrounds and regional representation.

4.2 Context of youth policies and youth work

4.2.1 Youth policy

Definition of youth policy, brief history of youth policy, post-conflict situation, transition situation, local/national policies, initiatives towards development of youth policy, how do you deliver youth policy, how do you evaluate youth policy, three youth policies priorities for your country

Development of modern Youth Policy in Georgia started after the collapse of the Soviet Union with creation of independent student organizations and youth groups, when Georgian youth faced a new reality and began to develop a new system of values which encouraged the creation of new aspirations and interests.

The first youth organizations in Georgia were founded soon after the country's independence and the pioneers in this field were the university student unions and councils. These organizations were the first groups to work specifically on youth and youth policy issues.

The events of the last 15 years have shown, however, that even students' unions, whose normal preoccupations should be centered on defending students' rights and creating better conditions for studying, have usually tried to enter politics, with the covert or overt support of different political powers. Most of the students' unions were in fact the youth wings of political parties or social movements, and hence were not focused exclusively on youth policy and issues. This tendency obviously related to the leaders of these students' unions and not to all the members, but the fact still remains. With this in mind, there is no longer any doubt why most political parties have their own youth wings. A similar situation still applies, since almost all political parties active in Georgia have their own youth groups.

It should be mentioned that in 1995 the National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia was created, quickly succeeding in uniting the main youth NGOs into a single organization, and since then has actively worked on youth policy issues at national and international levels.

Besides the politically oriented unions, in the same period another group of youth organizations came into being in Georgia: the so called NGO group. These NGOs focused mainly on obtaining grants from foreign organizations in order to conduct one-off events. The majority found themselves with no valid aim or functions once they were unable to obtain grants.

We should point out that both tendencies still exist in today's Georgia. But, along with the above-mentioned types of youth groups, today there are also youth organizations which are more oriented towards culture, education, the defense of young people's rights and other social issues.

While defining state youth policy it is important to find out what is the Governmental attitude towards the young People. How well is organized appropriate Governmental structure that is responsible for development of youth policy and what is their capacity? How improved and flexible is youth legislation? What is the level of development of youth organizations?

The first governmental structure responsible for development of youth policy in Georgia "The youth affairs department of the Georgian republic" was created in 1994. during its existence the department had several successful initiatives about youth policy development, among them is to be mentioned two legislative initiatives concerning youth and youth policy, which are the only legal bases up today in terms of youth policy. It is very important to mention the decree 92 of 12th March 2001 of the president of Georgia on "State concept for supporting Georgian youth", but unfortunately it was never implemented because of budgetary problems. The decree 132 of 6th April 2000, entitled "Public Youth Council based with Administration of President of Georgia" and passed by the President, was also an important step. But it was ceased in 2004.

In terms of international direction: in April 21 1994 Georgia joined to the children rights convention of United Nations.

The most important is the participation of department of sport and youth affairs in the first world congress of ministers responsible on youth in August 8-12 1998 when the ministers announced 12 August as international youth day

Unfortunately due to social-economical and general problems of development in the country youth policy issues never became as one of the priority of state policy. Besides of this, territorial problems in Abkhazia and South Ossetia raised and as a result of armed confrontation this territories were occupied by Russian Government. The number of Internally Displaced People raised and hit the top level. To solve this and other important problems become number one priority of the government. All these reflected to all directions of the state policies and had negative influence on youth policy in Georgia.

However the situation has been changed since new ministry of Sport and youth affaires was created, they started work on the "state youth policy" document and by the end of 2010 ministry has published first draft of it. According to the Draft "National policy of youth of Georgia" is the document, which defines the attitude and vision of the state. It clearly indicates the mission, role and vision of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia as the link between the state and the youth. Youth is the main resource of the state without development of which existence of a strong and successful state is impossible. This is the main principle of the Strategy²⁷.

4.2.2 Youth work

Despite of the lack of interest and attention from state authorities to the youth and youth organizations and worsen economical, social and political situation, youth work is developing by its own. Number of youth NGOs were created, which are working in the field of non-formal education, Human rights, participation, culture, education and youth policy fields.

The status of this kind of Mentioned organizations is non-governmental, noncommercial juridical persons, which is created according to Georgian law. The most of organizations were registered in the second half of nineties with basic European values, as after Georgia gained its independence EU and international aspirations were no more obstacles for young people. Youth non-governmental sector reached certain development independently from any national support:

- Raised the number of youth NGOs in the country
- More organizations participate in international projects or are involved in international structures

²⁷ draft of "National policy of youth of Georgia" 2010

- Number on international and national projects are realized with international support
- Democratic values are increasing among young people through youth NGOs

Although it should be mentioned that despite successes reached on the basis on enthusiasm and total voluntarism of youth organizations it does not allow the sustainable development of these sector. On the one hand there is no any quality standards of the youth work in Georgia, and on the other hand the state financial support for youth work and youth NGOs was extremely minimal, which is a problem of today as well.

It is also problem to get the long-term financed projects from international institutions, which supports sustainability on an organization. On the National level financial support was the problem of the state youth Policy and minimal budget dedicated for youth, which was also problem of the state budget for several years. The work with international donors had another challenge as it was connected with new skills of project writing, communication and lack of experience, if talk about more precisely newly born youth nongovernmental organizations had not enough appropriate experience to get sufficient funds to write new projects or search for new donor organizations.

Without having youth work standards it is hard to define who youth worker is or what are the requirements and competencies for this, it is also unimaginable to talk about amount of youth workers as there is no kind of statistics on it.

It is much better situation on youth mobility, after Georgia got its independent state borders become open and young people got a lots of opportunity to study or participate in different international projects, in this since it was extremely important projects financed by the European Youth Foundation and European Union youth program Youth in Action, where number of young people had an opportunity to participate in the training courses, international meetings and different seminars held in European countries. On the other hand, despite of these opportunities young people still experience problems connected with mobility, there are many examples when because of visa procedures selected participants are unable to attend the activity. Mostly visa procedures for the participants of the international activities are the same as regular visa applicants have.

4.2.3 Youth research

Based on the draft of “National policy of youth of Georgia” 2010 research on youth needs became a part of the governmental policy. In order to achieve this result, the units of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs responsible for planning, together with other relevant structures, is responsible to

conduct periodical research on youth development. The database shall be created with the support of the LEPL, Department of Statistics”²⁸

Although Situation with youth research is quit difficult, as state structures did not organized any research before drafting “National policy of youth of Georgia” 2010. Despite of this “national report on Georgian youth” has to be mentioned, which was initiated by national council of youth organizations of Georgia. Research was conducted at the and of 2009, the report of the survey is widely used by governmental, nongovernmental and international institutions.

Another regional research was financed by the World Bank office in Georgia which was conducted in frameworks of the project “youth development and involvement” the project amid to establish 8 regional youth center and to study needs and interests of young people who are living in this regions.

From the other small scale projects attention should be paid to the surveys which are financed by Soros foundation, the projects are ongoing and will be finished by the end of November 2010:

- Youth participation in democratic processes
- Youth policy research

4.3 Legislation and provision of youth work

In 1998 the state department of youth and sport started initiative to create and develop legislation and normative basis connected with youth. The department Maleaged to create and adopt two legislative initiatives which are the only legal bases up today in terms of youth policy:

- The law concerning state support to children and youth unions (June 22, 1999)
- The law concerning the protection of under-age children from harmful influence (September 28, 2001)

Department also initiated one important amendment to the Georgian low of “state custom” according to which Parent or legal representative of the child is free of charge when he/she is the defender in action about abolished rights material and moral harm of underage person.

In the draft of “National policy of youth of Georgia” 2010 is writtenthat: “Creation of the legal environment requires many consultations and maximum inclusion of the society because only that law is successful, which gives equal development opportunities to all subjects in the youth sphere. For legal support to this sphere, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia will initiate frequent

²⁸ draft of “National policy of youth of Georgia” 2010

and active consultations with the state agencies and non-profit and international organizations. The Ministry is totally open and is ready for any cooperation in the matter of unified state policy.”

Georgian constitution and other legislation define the citizen’s rights and responsibilities according to their age groups.

The lowest age of criminal responsibility is 14²⁹.

Participation in referendums, elections of government and self-government institutions is allowed at the age of 18.

A person of 25 can be elected as a member of Georgian parliament. A person over 28 can be appointed as a judge. Georgian citizen can be elected as Georgian President at the age of 35³⁰.

Juveniles under 18 are not permitted to buy alcohol and cigarettes, as well, as visiting casinos, bars and night clubs after 23:00 pm.

4.4 Strategies, Programmes, Action Plans in youth work and non-formal education/learning

In the first years of Georgia’s independence young people were involved in all political processes and they actively participated in frequent mass meetings and demonstrations. In the late 80s and early 90s university students were responsible for organizing Majority of the dissident movements.

Students were active during elections and referendums, especially during the first years of independence when people were filled with enthusiasm and society had a common goal. Over the following years, the lack of progress in political processes, as well as civil war and ethnic conflicts, made the population gradually lose their enthusiasm.

Our survey shows that 54% of young people have taken part in elections or referendums held during the last 3 years. This is a relatively good result; however it is interesting to know why the number of young voters decreased. Those respondents who have participated in elections in the last 3 years were asked: “Why did you take part in elections?” 60% of the answered that they ‘were fulfilling their civil duty’, 22% said that they ‘wanted to change something’ by voting, and 15% answered that it was because they ‘had a favorite candidate’. Only 3% took part in elections as a member of a political party.

Other young people have taken no part in elections or referendums over the last 3 years. Because they are not interested in politics or they think their vote is not important.

²⁹ Criminal Code of Georgia

³⁰ Georgian constitution

It is significant that only a small number of respondents take part in demonstrations and mass meetings; only 9% admitted that they have taken part in demonstrations or mass meetings in the last three years.

Socially active young people are mostly involved in youth NGOs and political organizations. Their involvement is reflected in the demaneds expressed in street demonstrations because in reality they represent the opposition. They are involved but nobody listens to them. As for youth NGOs, they are on a very low stage and they concentrate only on their own local projects. The media don't pay any attention to them.

Among the problems of youth participation and voluntarism there are several reasons to be mentioned. Young people are so busy with their own prosperity that they forget about being socially active; they often have a wish to be involved, but don't know how to make it happen. Being involved in the social sector is not profitable; they have low salaries and prefer to go into business or international organizations.

When we speak about youth participation, the most important thing is that they should be part of the decision-making process at state, regional and municipal levels. This means that young people should have representatives in local City Halls and Municipalities, so they will be involved in decision-making and their opinion will be acknowledged.

In this regard it should be mentioned Scientific-consultative Council on youth at the Parliament of Georgia established in 2008 which comprises representatives of non-governmental organizations, the government and student unions and should work on youth policy and legislation issues. And advisory council at the ministry of youth and sport which makes decisions on giving funds from Children and Youth Development Fund. Advisory council comprises with 15 members, 6 from youth NGOs and 9 appointed by minister included himself.

In terms of youth programs and activities following should be mentioned: annual youth NGO forum which is held form 2007, forum is a place for youth organizations to meet, share experience and discuss the most problematic issues concerning to youth. "Youth Forum" was organized by cooperation of following organizations: Academy for Peace and Development, Charity Humanitarian Center "Abkhazeti", National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia, Youth Association "Droni" and Association "Atinati", youth forum is supported by Tbilisi city Hall. From 2009 youth NGO forum is organized by "Georgian youth organization Forum".

State department of sport and Youth affairs organized number of state programs in 2003 – 2008:

“stipend of Georgian president for especially talented youth and children” “youth International Partnership” “Tsinandali grant for young creators “ “Dzegli 2003” “Oqros akvani 2003” “Physical and spiritual recovering of youth” “the meeting-seminar of young Scientifics and creators” “Governmental support for children and youth unions” and since 2005 presidential programs “gift for children” and the camp “Patrioti”.

The project youth camp “patrioti” was the biggest than other youth projects, in frameworks of the program several youth camps were build up in regions of Georgia, where annually about 30000 young people have opportunity to spent a week with other youngsters from all over the Georgia.

It is remarkable that children and youth national center organized more than 21 different youth projects.

From the projects financed with international support one of the most important is the project “Youth Development and involvement” which is financed by Japanese government through World Bank office in Georgia. The project was signed in July 2008 between government of Georgia and World Bank. Project is realizing by “children and youth national center”, the project aims: to contribute Georgia civil sustainability through involving young people with different ethnical, religion and region backgrounds in every day life, to support economical and political development of young people. The project supports youth participation and improves business environment for young entrepreneurs:

The grant project consists with 3 different directions:

- Youth centers and civil integration – in frameworks of the project 8 youth center was build up in regions of Georgia (Gurjaani, marneuli, axalcixe, gori, zugdidi, ambrolauri, lentekhi, varcikhe)
- Support the business of young entrepreneurs – to inform young people about possible grant competitions in the field of business.
- To train youth workers – to prepare Human resources for “children and youth national center”, increase organizational and material resources. To support youth policy and involvement in decision-making process.

At this moment 8 youth center is already built and youth webpage is developed:
www.youthcenter.ge

Herby it should be mentioned that youth projects are regularly financed by World Bank Civil Society Fund (CSF) which seeds and supports activities that strengthen mechanisms for inclusion, accountability and participation with public sector, other civil society organizations and the private sector. The activities covered under the project include workshops and seminars to enhance civic engagement skills and knowledge, appropriate communication campaigns to influence

policymaking or public service delivery, and innovative networking efforts to build the capacity of IDP youth. In 2010 ten small scale projects was financed by the fund.

4.5 Strategies in cross-sectorial policies

Education and training, employment, creativity and culture, health and well-being, social policies, protection and inclusion, housing and autonomy, youth justice, leisure and sport, military and alternative services, child and family policies

At this moment there is no cross-sectorial approach to youth and youth policy issues in Georgia. Because of this very often we have doubled (same) projects from different organizations. This field needs governmental coordination. There is a hope that newly created ministry of sport and youth affairs will support to solve this problem, as the ministry is part of government and main actor to define state youth policy.

4.6 European and International dimension

European Union, CoE, Others. Which activities and who are the actors in the country? What are the benefits for young people? What kind of impact do policies and programmes have on the national youth policy?

The first approach of Georgia towards the Europe was the membership of the Council of Europe in 1999; it was a step towards the integration into the European family of States. On the one hand with this event historical fairness was restored and on the other hand completely new format of co-operation with European countries was established.

It is already well declared that Georgia has clearly defined foreign policy and the way of euro Atlantic integration, which means building of the new state based on the European values of freedom, Human rights and democracy. The process of EU integration supports Georgia to become a full part of the European Family, it is a priority to deepen political dialog with European Union and get more involved in the European Neighborhood Policy as well as to meet the new challenges of the new Eastern Partnership initiative.

Now Georgian Youth has a new ways to develop and new opportunities to meet challenges which are offered from European family. The most visible and accessible in this regard are European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and “Youth in Action program” of European Union.

With support of European Youth Foundation 55 projects was financed during 2008 – 2010 with total budget of 477 900 euro.

It is also important participation in European Union “youth in Action” program. This program is supported by The SALTO Resource Centre for Eastern Europe and Caucasus (EECA) Region. SALTO EECA Resource Centre was formed in October 2003 by European Commission. It continues work on the basis of EC decision to support the cooperation within the YOUTH in ACTION Programme with Neighboring Partner Countries from Eastern Europe and Caucasus Region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine. Aims of the EECA Resource Centre:

- To raise visibility and awareness of the YOUTH in ACTION Programme opportunities for the Eastern Europe and Caucasus region,
- To provide support and expertise to National Agencies of the YOUTH in ACTION Programme by contributing to events promoting cooperation with the EECA region,
- To promote international co-operation with EECA Partner Countries,
- To support project organizers in the development of contacts, partnerships and projects.

According to the SALTO Resource Centre Georgia’s participation in “Youth in Action” program by numbers is following.

Number of applicants received from **Georgia** for SALTO EECA’s activities (by years):

2007: 53

2008: 82

2009: 68

Number of Selected applicants received from Georgia for SALTO EECA activities (by years):

2007: 8

2008: 9

2009: 10

Additionally SALTO sent participants from Georgia to SALTO all-European module training courses (e.g. SOHO, BiTriMulti, etc.) and European Citizenship TC:

2007: 2

2008: 3

2009: 6

Total number of EVS volunteers from the Programme Countries of the Youth in Action Programme (i.e., EU and EFTA members, Turkey)hosted in Georgia:

Number of EVS volunteers granted on decentralized level in 2007: 17

Number of EVS volunteers granted on decentralized level in 2008: 44

Number of EVS volunteers granted on decentralized level in 2009: 37

Total granted EVS volunteers in 2007-2009 (to be hosted in Georgia): 98

Total number of EVS volunteers sent from Georgia to the Programme Countries of the Youth in Action Programme :

Number of EVS volunteers granted on decentralized level in 2007: 27

Number of EVS volunteers granted on decentralized level in 2008: 37

Number of EVS volunteers granted on decentralized level in 2009: 61

Total granted EVS volunteers in 2007-2009 (to be sent from Georgia): 125

Number and names of SALTO multipliers in Georgia:

At the moment the SALTO EECA has 4 multipliers of the Youth in Action Programme:

- Giorgi Kakulia from Academy for Peace and Development
- Giorgi Kikalishvili from NGO “DRONI”
- Pavle Tvaliashvili from SIQA – Georgian Association of Education Initiatives
- Rusudan Kalichava from NGO “Atinati”

Total Number EECA newsletter subscribers from Georgia:

At the moment (27.10.2010) there are 125 SALTO EECA newsletter subscribers from Georgia

Total number of MySALTO users from Georgia:

At the moment (27.10.2010) there are 879 MySALTO users from Georgia

It is also important to mention the projects which are realized by UNISEF in Georgia:

Project: “Accessibility to quality education pre-primary and secondary education”

Aim:

- Advocacy for policy enhancement
- Qualitative and quantitative accessibility
- Reduce the disparities

- Improve access to quality education and enhance teachers' curricula.

Sport and Physical education are the key priorities, backed up by initiatives promotion of healthy life style, influence mindset, attitude and behavior

Impact on policies

- Make sport an physical education key priorities
- Development of national policy
- Development of sport curricula
- Development of a teachers training system on Physical education and sport

Project: Juvenile justice and related youth inclusion.

Aim:

- Developing a project in order to strengthen social services and promote their quality. Provide services operated by NGOs, non formal education, sport and leisure activities, vocational training, computer classes, consulting expertise for social workers.
- Develop a map of service in order to connect young people to the services that can be useful to them.

Impact on policies

- Reduce secondary crimes
- Prevent crimes
- Divert children's attention, implementing activities in order to improve their conditions

4.7 Budget/Funding

Financial investment in youth activities, sources and donors, budget allocation to activities

Financial support of youth sector in Georgia was always problematic, and the main sign of it is undeveloped Youth policy for Maley years. Although research showed that in the field of youth a lot of funds are spend from different sources of the government, but it is also evidence that all these costs are not effective as the conditions of young people is not getting better. The main problem in this sphere is nonselective expenditure of state funds.

Below you can see already spent funds from state budget and other donor organizations to realize different youth activities and projects.

Youth program of the Ministry of sport and youth affairs

Budget 2010: 6,000,000 GEL

Purpose: Youth Camp ANAKLIA, Project "PATRIOTI"

Youth program of the Ministry of sport and youth affairs

Budget 2010: 2,145,600 GEL

Purpose: Hosting Costs of Youth Camp ANAKLIA for Georgian participants

Children and Youth Development Fund of the Ministry of sport and youth affairs

Budget 2009: 100,000 GEL

Budget 2010: 70,000 GEL

Purpose: to support youth organizations

reserved fund of president of Georgia

Budget 2010: 960,311 GEL

Purpose: Hosting costs of Youth Camp ANAKLIA for international participants, Project "PATRIOTI"

Children and Youth National Center

Budget 2009: 500,000 GEL

Budget 2010: 150,000 GEL

Purpose: Different youth projects and activities

Grant from the government of Japan and world bank office in Georgia allocated for Georgian government

Budget 2008: 1,219,350 USD

Purpose: youth project "Youth Development and involvement"

Civil Institutionalism Development Fund

Budget 2009-2010: 454,156 GEL

Purpose: Different youth projects and activities

World Bank Civil Society Fund (CSF)

Budget 1999-2010: 550,000 USD

Budget 2010: 45,000 USD

Purpose: Different youth projects and activities

European Youth Foundation

Budget 2008: 157, 400 Euro

Budget 2009: 211, 000 Euro

Budget 2010: 109, 500 Euro

Purpose: Different youth projects and activities

UNICEF

Budget N/A: 1,200,000 USD

Purpose: Project: "Accessibility to quality education pre-primary and secondary education"

UNICEF

Budget 2008-2011: 2.000.000 USD

Purpose: Project: Juvenile justice and related youth inclusion

As we can see from the list the total budget of national funds spent for youth activities during 2010 was more than 10,000,000 Million GEL, but it is also fact that the conditions of young people is not better than it was last year.

5. Trends, needs, challenges and expectations

If we look throughout the Youth policy history in Georgia we will see several attempts to structure Youth Policy in the Country, First was the decree 92 of 12th March 2001 of the president of Georgia on “State concept for supporting Georgian youth”, but unfortunately it was never implemented because of budgetary problems. The second is draft “National policy of youth of Georgia” developed by Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. Between of these attempts there was a gap of having no Policy at all, but State youth programs should be mentioned as steps from government for Georgian youth. Among them the biggest is annual “Patriotic” Camps, which is organized very summer since 2004 and lets up to 30000 thousand young people participate and spend time. Despite of the successful realization of the program, most experts, NGO representatives or just youth workers evaluate it as not effective in terms of needs and challenges young people face in their everyday life. Unfortunately ineffective waste of state money and free time of young people leads to negative impact on youth and unhealthy way of life. Most of youth in Georgia has no or low level of access to educational recourses, information about different formal or non-formal educational means is not disseminated; situation is most alarming for youth living in the regions, and this serve the reason for high level of migration of youth in big cities, etc.

Since July 2010 situation has been changed as the Ministry of Sport and Youth affairs of Georgia was established. But it should be also mentioned that current ministry is former State department of Sport and youth affairs of Georgia and practically State department reorganized as a Ministry with almost same staff and same leadership. New Ministry clearly declared that by the end of 2010 they were going to prepare “National policy of youth of Georgia” which was going to be adopted by the government. Ministry fulfilled its promise and draft of the “policy document was published but it did not reached to the government yet.

The quality and the level of policy document initiated discussions and debates among Youth NGO representatives, experts and Youth workers. Main concern about the draft of the policy document was that it was not enough discussed among them and the ministry was organizing only presentations for university based students self government. Unfortunately absence of inclusion and youth participation during development of the policy document resulted to the lack of quality and credibility of the draft of “National policy of youth of Georgia”

From the observation it is obvious that policy document does not include clear definitions of things such as Youth Work, Youth Policy, Non-formal Education, Youth Participation and Decision making process. What is more important policy document does not include any action plan about how the ministry is going do deliver the Policy which they have developed.

The main trend to this direction is that the policy document should be much more structured and as inclusive as possible, main aspects and priorities of the policy document according to the needs and challenges of Georgian youth should be following:

Youth Participation, Employment, social protection, Non-formal education, Voluntarism, Youth Organizations, Youth Research, Healthcare

Having in to consideration all above mentioned and the study which was conducted in frames of EU-CoE youth partnership project *“Reviews on youth policies in the countries of South East Europe and Eastern Europe and Caucasus”* following conclusions can be made up:

The youth sector in Georgia is in an unenviable situation due to the lack of political stability, funding, political will from the part of the government, lack of resources and capacity on the side of youth organizations and because of the armed conflicts that has slowed down the activities.

The Georgian government does not put youth high on the priority list of its work; it concentrates on visibility events like the “patriot camps” that spend very high amounts of funds without a real impact on the youth policy

The Georgian youth NGOs are disabled by the situation in the country and have managed to make much progress despite the difficult situation – still a more concrete plan, priority assessment and roadmap is needed.

The international institutions and organizations are not coordinated in their efforts in the youth field – many of them have similar project and provide funding for similar activities this makes the youth field more weak to make a point of their work.

There is no law on youth – even worse, there is no proper governmental research to picture the real needs of young people and to properly asses the main priority of the future legislative development.

Territorial Conflicts in Georgia has even more slowed down the work with youth but it is not to be considered a justification for a decline, but a motivation for investing even more into developing youth policy and a youth sector that will contribute to society development.

Young people and youth in Georgia, need to create it own stable policy on the situation in the country, concentrate deeply on identifying the real reasons for the situation they are in and propose solutions that would influence even the way in which the state treats youth in the country

To Learn and train others on methods and opportunities for fund raising and how it can be connected to the sustainability of youth NGOs and how it can modify and influence the youth policy development in the country

Lobby the government for elevation of youth high on the priority list, conduct regular meetings and propose concrete solutions to the government – offer work and assistance , not just express needs

Lobby the ministry for inclusion of youth NGOs in the legislative process on youth as well as inclusion into a proper survey/research on youth in Georgia

Youth NGOs need to increase the level of assertiveness and ability to reach out to the decision makers; they also need clear goals and an almost obsessed dedication in achieving them.

Lobby the international partners for more coherence in supporting projects and activities, lobby for diversified funds and against the particularization of the young society that brings to its weakness

Georgia is a democratic semi-presidential republic, with the President as the head of state, and Prime Minister as the head of government. The executive branch of power is made up of the President and the Cabinet of Georgia. The Cabinet is composed of ministers, headed by the Prime Minister, and appointed by the President. Legislative authority is vested in the Parliament of Georgia, with 150 members elected for 4 four-year term. Despite considerable progress made since the Rose revolution, Georgia is still not a full-fledged democracy. The political system remains in the process of transition, with frequent adjustments to the balance of power between the President and Parliament.

Georgia maintains good relations with its direct neighbours Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey and participates actively in regional organizations, such as the Black Sea Economic Council and the GUAM. It is also very important to mention the Eastern Partnership (EaP), which represents a specific Eastern dimension within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). It has been launched on 7 May 2009 during the EaP summit in Prague. All 27 EU Member States and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine participate in the EaP.

Eastern partners and Georgia among them seeks to intensify its relations with the EU. The Eastern Partnership is the reply of the EU to the challenges and aspirations of the partner countries.

The EU is proposing to its partners: new association agreements including deep and comprehensive free trade agreements with those countries willing and able to enter into a deeper engagement, gradual integration in the EU economy and easier travel to the EU through gradual visa liberalisation, accompanied by measures to tackle illegal immigration.

The Partnership would also promote democracy and good governance; strengthen energy security; promote sector reform and environment protection; encourage people to people contacts; support economic and social development; offer additional funding for projects to reduce socio-economic imbalances and increase stability.

It is very important to mention Georgia's Reforms in different fields and as a result according to a new report by the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Georgia was the top reformer in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and led the global top 10 reformer rankings on the ease of doing business in 2005–2006. The *Doing Business* survey tracks indicators of the time and cost to meet government requirements in business start-up, operation, trade, taxation, and closure.

If we look Georgia Youth Policy development in a broader context internal unresolved conflicts with South Ossetia and Abkhazia has to be mentioned, Georgia has a large number of IDPs and refugees. Important part of that population is youth. Armed conflict between Georgia and Russia in august 2008 should be point out as it had a negative effect on the youth sector in Georgia; most international projects have either been cancelled or postponed, while EVS and other volunteers have left the country. The conflict had a major effect on the work of youth NGOs, disrupting not only the everyday functioning of the organizations but jeopardizing the resources and support that was available, besides building more dividing lines between young people from two countries involved in the dispute. At this moment peace building and post-conflict development work is a transversal element in all state policies in the country, and youth policy is no exception to that.

After almost three year after conflict many things changed Georgia could recover from resulted from the war and continuous its reforms in different spheres and among them is youth. New ministry of Sport and Youth affairs is actively working on National Youth Policy document which had to be adopted at the end of 2010 but from the observation it is clear that the document needs lots of improvement and adjustment to the real needs and challenges that Georgian youth is facing.

6. Sources of information

The ministry of sport and youth affairs of Georgia: www.mes.gov.ge

City municipality: www.tbilicy.gov.ge

Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia: www.mes.gov.ge

Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.: www.moh.gov.ge

Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia: www.mcs.gov.ge

Civil Registry Agency: www.cra.gov.ge/

Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories: www.mra.gov.ge

Ministry of Defense of Georgia: www.mod.gov.ge

Social Service Agency: www.ssa.gov.ge

Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance of Georgia: www.mcla.gov.ge

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia: www.mfa.gov.ge

Presidential Office of Georgia: www.president.gov.ge

Ministry of Finance of Georgia: www.mof.ge

National Statistics Office of Georgia: www.geostat.ge

patriarchate of Georgia: <http://www.patriarchate.ge/>

Children and Youth National Center: www.cync.ge

Public Defender of Georgia: www.ombudsman.ge

Association of Young Economists of Georgia: www.economists.ge

Ministry of Internal Affairs: www.police.ge

Youth Information Centre of Georgia www.youth.ge

Civil Institutionalism Development Fund: www.cidf.ge

National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia: www.ncyog.ge

YMCA of Georgia: www.ymca.ge

Institute for Pooling and Marketing: www.ipm.ge

Council of Europe office in Georgia: www.portal.coe.ge

United Nations Development Programme: www.undp.org.ge

UNFPA Georgia : www.georgiaunfpa.ge

World Bank Group – Georgia: www.worldbank.org.ge

Save the Children: www.cciq.org.ge

Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Georgia: ec.europa.eu/delegations/georgia

UNESCO Institute for Statistics: stats.uis.unesco.org

UNICEF: www.unicef.org/georgia

SALTO: <http://www.salto-youth.net>

Sport and youth affairs committee of parliament of Georgia: www.parliament.ge

– European Youth Foundation: <http://www.yvf.coe.int>

Constitution of Georgia

National Report on Georgian Youth

Youth Policy Development in EECA Seminar report Poland, 2009

Youth Policy Development in EECA Seminar report Budapest, Hungary, 2008

Annexes

Statistics³¹

	Georgian youth by age groups		
		Male	Female
15-19	341 400	174 100	167 300
20-24	363 700	184 000	179 700
25-29	342 600	172 200	170 400
30-34	318 000	156 700	161 300
TOTAL 15-34	1365700	687 000	678 700
Total population of Georgia	4 436 400	2 108 900	2 237 500

The figures of ethnical minorities among youth³²:

	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	TOTAL
Abkhazians	231	227	238	284	980
Armenian	22288	19079	15587	14399	71353
Azerbaijani	30443	25033	20484	20221	96181
Greek	867	783	604	674	2928
Kists	636	611	535	512	2294
Kurds	2043	1738	1426	1248	6455
Ossetians	2169	2108	1974	2350	8601
Russian	3337	3749	3634	3235	13955
Ukrainian	284	305	299	283	1171

³¹ National Statistics office of Georgia, data of 1st of January 2010

³² National Statistics office of Georgia, data from controlled territories of Georgia 2002

