

## Youth Partnership

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



# COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN CYPRUS



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By: Youth Board of Cyprus

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# 1. Context of national youth policy

## 1.1 Context of national youth policy

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

Youth Policy is becoming a key element of interest and work for the Republic of Cyprus. The Government pays gradually more attention to youth policy and open consultations with young people on youth issues grows into a priority in the public policy agenda.

Up to 2017, the only policy focusing exclusively on youth was the “National Action Plan for Youth Employment”. The rest of the policies were targeting the whole population (including young people).

The development of the [National Youth Strategy](#) (2017-2022) is the cornerstone of the youth policy in Cyprus today, indicating the importance state officials pay on youth policy. This policy document outlines the main elements of the existing national policies targeting youth and sets the priorities under each thematic priority which should be served by the competent authorities for the upcoming years.

The National Youth Strategy (NYS henceforth) was adopted in May 2017 by the Council of Ministers. The vision of the NYS is “all young people of Cyprus to have equal opportunities in empowerment, in order to achieve their full potential in all aspects of life and develop their talents for the benefit of the society and for themselves”.

The Strategy is inspired by the former EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018) and covers the following 8 areas:

- a. Education & training
- b. Employment & entrepreneurship
- c. Health & well-being
- d. Participation
- e. Voluntary activities
- f. Social inclusion
- g. Youth & the world
- h. Creativity & culture

The NYS constitutes the first policy document on youth and the first cross-sectoral policy framework for youth in Cyprus. The strategy has been designed in cooperation with the governmental bodies dealing with youth and the significant contribution of around 3.000 young people who took part in the consultations. One of the basic principles of the strategy is the cross-sectoral, unified approach which is achieved through close cooperation between all the governmental bodies implementing policies or programmes for youth.

The Strategy focuses on young people aged 14-35, a group that corresponds to 278.900 people, 32,9% of the total population which is regulated by the Republic of Cyprus. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical service of Cyprus (2015)

In order to achieve the cross-sectoral principle, the Youth Board of Cyprus has set a Cross-Sectoral Working Group which consists of Ministries' and Agencies' representatives which implement policies or actions for youth. An essential part of the NYS is the consultations with young people, who have the opportunity to discuss current actions and propose suggestions for amendments or new initiatives that better respond to their needs.

Since 2017, the Youth Board of Cyprus- as the competent public authority for youth affairs in Cyprus- has been coordinating the implementation of the Strategy, the preparation of the two 3-year Action Plans and the first Progress Report.

## **1.2. Principles of national youth policy**

### **What are the guiding principles for national youth policy?**

The guiding principles for the national youth policy are essentially the ones that the NYS is founded on:

#### **Recognition**

Young people constitute a unique and decent part of the population. They have their own attitude and deserve to be recognised as equal members of the society. This recognition is a precondition for any investment on youth empowerment.

#### **Importance**

Young people's importance, value and contribution should be recognised by both the local communities and the wider Cypriot society. The abilities and talents of young people are essential for a dynamic social development.

#### **Respect**

Every young person is a separate, unique individual, with distinctive features which should be accepted by society with respect. The particular features which make young people unique are gender, age, race, colour, education, language, physical and mental skills, religious and political views, sexual orientation, identity and gender expression.

#### **Progress & Well being**

In the context of NYS, any plan, action or measure by any involved party should aim for the personal, professional and socio-educational development of all young people, leading to their progress and wellbeing. The state's policies and actions should consider the needs, abilities and strengths of young people and should provide support to them so as to help them develop their physical, mental and emotional skills, qualities and talents.

#### **Active Participation**

Active participation of young people in all matters of their interest and concern is a fundamental aspect and principle of the National Strategy, so that "the youth speaks for the youth" rather than others speaking on behalf of young people. Thus, after providing adequate information to young people, their opinion on any matter that relates to them should be sought for and valued. Young people should participate in every planning and decision-making process actively, contributing to their own development, as well as to social progress. Young people are an equal social partner and should be a reference point in decision making bodies.

## **Empowerment**

Empowering and supporting young people's skills development that will help them:

- a) express their views and ideas
- b) tackle potential future problems and gain control of their life
- c) undertake initiatives and take responsibility for their decisions and actions
- d) participate actively in the creation of their own future and in bringing positive social change.

## **Cooperation**

The constant enhancement of cooperation among governmental institutions, young people and youth organisations, both in Cyprus and abroad, is taken into serious account by the National Strategy. Moreover, the cooperation should be sought for and supported by the local communities, where there is much interaction among various social groups, in the wider Cypriot society, as well as through the creation of opportunities for international cooperation.

## **Accessibility**

All targets and actions of NYS aim at safeguarding equal access to opportunities for young people, without direct or indirect exclusions. Young people are entitled to quality services in a friendly environment, as well as to opportunities for development, which are adjusted to their particular features. In order for opportunities and services to be accessible for young people, it is essential to provide them with accurate relevant information.

## **Justification**

The NYS implementation on all levels should be based on justified evidence which clearly illustrates both the current situation and the voice of the youth. Therefore, regular data collection and analysis are necessary so as to maintain an up-to-date understanding of the situation of young people and to be able to plan effective policies.

## **2. Statistics on young people**

**Mention the number of all young people from the ages of 15 and 29 who live in the country**

**Number and percentage of young people (15-29) in global population- 2019: <sup>2</sup>**

Young people (15-29) in global population	
Number	Percentage
186.729	21,3%

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<sup>2</sup> Eurostat- Child and youth population on 1 January by sex and age (yth\_demo\_010) & Ratio of young people in the total population on 1 January by sex and age (yth\_demo\_020)

### Number and percentage of young people (15-29) by gender in global population -2019: <sup>3</sup>

Young people (15-29) by gender in global population	Number	Percentage
Young women	90.977	10,9%
Young men	95.752	10,4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>186.729</b>	<b>21,3%</b>

### Number and percentage of young people (15-29) with a different nationality:<sup>4</sup>

Young people (15-29) with different nationality	Number	% of global population	% of young population (15-29)
Young women	24.600	2,8%	13,17%
Young men	19.500	2,2%	10,44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.100</b>	<b>5,0%</b>	<b>23,6%</b>

## 3. Actors and structures

### 3.1. Public authorities

#### 3.1.1. National public authorities with competencies in the youth field

#### Ministry in charge of youth (and department within if relevant), their main tasks or objectives

**Ministry in charge of youth:** Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth

**Minister:** Mr. Prodromos Prodromou, appointed in 2019, who acts as the liaison between the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Council of Ministers.

There is no youth department within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport & Youth. The competent governmental body for youth issues is the **Youth Board of Cyprus**, which is a legal entity of public law, founded in 1994. The Youth Board of Cyprus has its own structure and staff, mainly composed of permanent staff and associates employed on a contract basis. The Youth Board operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth.

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<sup>3</sup> Eurostat- Ratio of young people in the total population on 1 January by sex and age (yth\_demo\_020)

<sup>4</sup> Eurostat- Database by themes/Population and social conditions/Demography & migration/Population.

**Main tasks & objectives of Youth Board of Cyprus:** In the context of its advisory role, the Youth Board (O.NE.K) submits to the Council of Ministers, through the Minister of Education, Culture, Sport & Youth, proposals and recommendations on youth related issues that will enhance the further promotion of its objectives.

The vision of the Youth Board of Cyprus is to be established as the organisation which views young people as its priority, inspires and empowers them in order to pursue and achieve their dreams and aspirations. The mission is to offer young people the possibility to reach the maximum of their potential through contemporary policies, innovative programmes and quality services, today, for a better future.

The **aims** of the Youth Board of Cyprus focus on:

- the promotion of progress and prosperity for all the young people of Cyprus, regardless of religion, ethnic and racial origin,
- the enhancement of young people's active participation in the social, economic and cultural development of our country,
- the promotion of a positive lifestyle through the youth's engagement in various activities and, lastly,
- providing effective solutions to current youth problems.

The abovementioned priorities are fulfilled through the implementation of various programmes, which is the second role performed by ONEK, in addition to its advisory role towards the state.

Detailed information on the services offered by ONEK can be found at its website [www.onek.org.cy](http://www.onek.org.cy)

**Number of people who work in the Youth Board of Cyprus:** ONEK employs at the moment 29 permanent staff: 4 Senior Youth Officers, 12 Youth Officers, 1 Chief Accounting Officer and 12 Office Clerical Assistants. The position of the Executive Director of the Youth Board of Cyprus is on a fifth-period contract basis and is currently held by Mr. Menelaos Menelaou.

#### **Other national public bodies which are directly involved in youth policies** **Other ministries or directorates**

##### **Other Ministries:**

The following ministries deal with youth affairs and/or run programmes aiming at youth:

Ministry of Labour, Welfare & Social Insurance,  
Ministry of Energy, Commerce & Industry,  
Ministry of Interior,  
Ministry of Defense,  
Ministry of Justice & Public Order  
Ministry of Health,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development & Environment  
Ministry of Transport, Communication & Works

**Directorates / Agencies:**

Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination & Development,  
Human Resource Development Authority,  
Cyprus Sports Organization,  
Cyprus Theatre Organization,  
Foundation for Management of the Life-Long Learning Programmes,  
Cyprus National Addictions Authority (CNAA)

**Ombudspersons**Commissioner of Volunteerism and NGOs

The [Commissioner of Volunteerism and NGOs](#) is a relatively new institution in Cyprus, which aims at coordinating the different stakeholders who are active in the field of volunteerism and NGOs. Within this framework the Commissioner aims at:

1. Implementing policies to encourage active citizenship at all levels.
2. Creating tools which will facilitate Public Consultations (workshops, questionnaires, online discussions and surveys) in order to strengthen and facilitate better contact between government and citizens.
3. Coordinating all voluntary organizations, local authorities and the Church
4. Supporting the work of voluntary organizations and NGOs.
5. Assist NGOs in utilizing European Programmes and raising funds.
6. Recognizing of non-formal and informal learning.

Presidential Commissioner

The [Office of the Presidential Commissioner](#) has responsibilities related to the management, coordination, support and treatment of humanitarian issues, expatriates and repatriated Cypriots, and Religious Groups of Cyprus. Within this context, the Office organises in collaboration with other Agencies, including ONEK, activities and events for young diaspora Cypriots and young people from the religious groups.

Commissioner for Children's' Rights

The [Commissioner for Children's' Rights](#) is an independent institution which deals exclusively with the rights of the child and whose competences and obligations are prescribed by law. The Commissioner is appointed by the Council of Ministers pursuant to the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights Laws 2007 and 2014 [(Laws 74(I)/2007), 44(I)/2014]], which came into force on 22/6/2007. The mission of the Commissioner is to protect and promote the rights of children. Her role is to represent children and their interest at all levels, to promote public awareness and sensitivity so that children's rights in the family, at school, in the community are safeguarded and to identify and promote the views of children where they themselves cannot be heard, to monitor legislation relating to children and to submit proposals aiming at their harmonization with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to carry out public awareness campaigns, to appoint a representative of the child in judicial proceedings affecting him/her and to represent children in procedures affecting them.

### **Parliamentary commission in charge of youth issues**

**Name:** Parliamentary Committee of Education

Name of president / chair: Mr. Kyriakos Hadjiyiannis

**Role and competence:** Deals with matters related to education, training, science, art, cultural activities, sports, youth, copyright and financial aid for students.

**Name:** Labour and Social Insurance Committee

**Chairman:** Mr. Andreas Fakontis

**Role and competence:** Handles issues related to employment, working conditions and social insurance.

### **3.1.2. Regional and/or local public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

It should be noted that due to the country's small geographical size, there is no administration at a regional level.

On a local level, municipal and community authorities are involved in youth-related issues. Depending on their size, municipal and community bodies may be engaged in drafting local youth policies and in developing and implementing youth activities.

In late 2001-early 2002, the Youth Board of Cyprus, in cooperation with the Municipalities Union designed and put into implementation a structure entitled "Municipal and Community Youth Councils". The Municipal and Community Youth Councils are structures that provide the opportunity to youth organizations, young people and others that are related to youth at local level to express their opinions and ideas on youth matters to the Municipality or the Community Council. Today 27 Municipal Youth Councils (out of the total number of 39 Municipalities) and 10 Community Youth Councils are established in Cyprus (out of the total number of 576 Communities).

The Municipal and the Community Youth Councils provide the youth structures and the young people a forum for an ongoing dialogue with the local authorities responsible for youth matters. It's considered of utmost importance that young people have an active role in shaping their future in co-operation with the local Authorities.

Each Municipal/Community Youth Council follows the statutes and operating regulations set by the Youth Board of Cyprus in collaboration with the local authority. The Chairman of the Council is always a member of the Municipal/Community Council.

Lastly, it should be pointed that the role of ONEK is to support and help the Municipal/Community Youth Councils in regard to any action or issue that benefit young people. This help and support to the Local Authority and the Municipal/Community Youth Councils can be financial, technical and advisory for activities, programs or even infrastructure projects that could be developed.

### **3.2. Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)**

#### **Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) welfare, social, health or other specific services for young people**

With regard to welfare, social and health services, young people have access to the general public systems administered by the competent ministries, namely the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour, Welfare & Social Insurance.

Some structures or organisations that are targeted more specifically at young people and offer their services for the welfare, health and well-being of youth are described thereafter:

#### **1. Commissioner for Children's Rights of the Republic of Cyprus**

The institution of the [Commissioner for Children's Rights](#) of the Republic of Cyprus has been established by the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights Law, 2007 [Law 74(I)/2007] of the Republic of Cyprus, which came into force on 22/6/2007. The Commissioner is an independent institution and deals exclusively with the rights of the child. Its competences and obligations are prescribed by law and its mission is to protect and promote the rights of the child.

#### **2. The Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA)**

The [Cyprus Family Planning Association \(CFPA\)](#) is a non-governmental, nonprofit, voluntary organization in Cyprus aiming to protect and ensure the reproductive and sexual health of all people living in Cyprus. The association provides services to the public since 1971 and is a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), European Network. The CFPA provides high-quality informational, educational and clinical services in an accessible and affordable manner, especially to the marginalized people. In 1996, members of the association formed the "Youth for Youth" group, which consists of young volunteers.

Website:

#### **3. The Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children (PCCPWC)**

The [PCCPWC](#) was formed in 1994 by the District Committees working on children's issues since 1979, with the aim to coordinate all district and national activities, namely "Children's Week" and "Children's Festival". Today, the PCCPWC developed into the national body working towards the full implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of the child and advocating for children, both within Cyprus and abroad. In pursuing its aims, the PCCPWC established the Annual Pancyprian Conference on the Protection and Welfare of Children and funds the Cyprus Children's Parliament, comprising 56 elected children. It issued Position Papers on different serious issues concerning child protection and welfare and has become an active member of Eurochild, of the International Forum for Child Welfare and of the European Anti-Poverty Network. It has also participated in different EU and national programs, investigating and tackling serious children's issues and problems.

#### **4. Cyprus National Addictions Authority (CNAA)**

The [Cyprus National Addictions Authority \(CNAA\)](#) is the supreme coordinating body in the field of licit and illicit addictive substances and pathological gambling in Cyprus, which since November 2017, has

continued and further evolved the work of the former Cyprus Antidrugs Council. In collaboration with Ministries and the other Agencies, CNAA runs programmes for prevention, support and education aiming at students, young athletes etc.

### **3.3. Non-public actors/structures and youth services with competencies in the youth field**

#### **3.3.1 Youth Councils**

##### **National umbrella structures and main youth organisations in the country (name and brief description of what they do)**

###### **Cyprus Youth Council (CYC)**

The CYC is the [National Youth Council of Cyprus](#). It was founded in 1996 and became a full active member of the European Youth Forum in 1997. It currently hosts 63 Member Organizations, political and non-political youth NGOs from both communities of Cyprus, all religious minorities, and foreign students living in Cyprus. It aims at promoting dialogue and cooperation between youth in Cyprus and also connecting them with youth in Europe and globally. Its areas of interest, always in relation to youth, include human rights and equality, employment and social issues, active citizenship and life-long learning, non-formal education and youth policies.

The CYC was formed to promote co-operation between youth organizations in Cyprus and youth organizations in Europe and the world. It is a voluntary, non-profit association open to youth organizations in Cyprus, guided in its actions by the principles described in the UN Charter and the European Convention on Human Rights. The CYC organises events, seminars, workshops and activities that provide the necessary space for its members to exchange good practices, interests and experience on any youth related topic. The CYC is also the main stakeholder in the EU Youth Dialogue that seeks to promote the political participation of all Cyprus youth.

###### **Youth Clubs – Cyprus Youth Clubs Organisation (KOKEN)**

Youth Centers are community, voluntary organizations in rural and urban areas, aiming at the progress and well-being of youth in their local community. At present, a total number of 85 Centers operate and organise activities, events, and seminars. By 01/01/2008, the Youth Centres became administratively independent. During 2008, the [Youth Centers Cyprus Organisation \(KOKEN\)](#) was established. KOKEN operates as a private non-profit organisation and as a coordinating body of the Youth Clubs in Cyprus.

In late 2013, KOKEN initiated a process of changing the status of all the youth centres into NGOs. A common Statute was approved by KOKEN which was then submitted to the Registrar of Societies/Foundations. This gave legal status to all Youth Centres as non-profit organisations. Moreover, it facilitated their operation since the new Statute gave solution to a variety of functional impediments.

Cyprus Youth Clubs Organization is a member of the Advisory body of the Youth board of Cyprus and an active member of the Cyprus Youth Council. At European level, KOKEN is a member of the European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC).

### **The Advisory Bodies of the Youth Board of Cyprus**

According to the Youth Board of Cyprus Law No. 33(1)94, the Board consists of four Advisory Bodies in which youth organizations and youth sections of other organizations participate. These are: the Political Committee, the Students' Committee, the Trade-Union Committee and the General Advisory Body.

### **The Pancyprian Federation of Students' Unions (POFEN)**

The [Pancyprian Federation of Student Unions \(POFEN\)](#) was established in 1973 by hundreds of democratic Cypriot Students in Greece and Cyprus who fought against the Greek junta and dictatorship.

POFEN has 18 member-organizations. The objectives of the Federation include supporting, promoting and enforcing the rights and interests of Cypriot students in any legitimate means available to the Federation through the participation and representation in committees and bodies dealing with student and other academic issues, and in the bodies of all Higher and Tertiary Education institutions. The role of the Federation is very important in Cyprus as it influences the decision-making on student issues.

The regular resources of the Federation are the registration fees of each student member-organization, the annual membership fees which vary for each member-organization and funding from the Youth Board of Cyprus.

### **The Pancyprian Student Coordination Committee (P.S.E.M)**

[PSEM](#) is the representative body of Secondary schools' Students. Its administrative board consists of 10 elected members. The objectives of PSEM is to safeguard the rights of school students in Education as well as their representation in the decision-making processes related to school reforms and other educational policies and matters. Its role has been substantially upgraded and the body is experiencing a notable acknowledgement through the Cyprus state. It should be noted that PSEM's regulations are included in the General Regulations of the secondary public schools' operation of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth. PSEM receives funding from the Youth Board of Cyprus.

### **The Cyprus Children's Parliament**

The [Cyprus Children's Parliament](#) was set up in 2001 and started as an annual session of representatives of High School Students from all over Cyprus. With the support of the President of the Parliament, it was decided that the annual event during which a group of children occupied symbolically the seats of the members of our Parliament, should develop into a formal session in imitation of the normal sessions of Parliament and under his own Chairmanship. The next step was to set up the Children's Parliament as a standing body, in operation throughout the year and not only as an event of Children's Week. In the following three years, the [Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children \(PCCPWC\)](#) trained volunteer "coordinators" who worked with the students at district and national level to create the new permanent institution of the Cyprus

Children’s Parliament. The work of the district groups and plenary sessions of the Children “Parliamentarians” was usually related to the theme of the annual Children’s Week, in which students actively participated.

### 3.3.2 Youth NGOs

The number of Youth NGOs is increasing in Cyprus, leading to a gradual development of the youth ecosystem in Cyprus. These organisations include political youth and student associations, youth unions, youth organisations of religious groups, cultural youth organisations and other organisations supporting youth work and delivering national and/or european level projects. It should be noted that there is no specific legal or policy framework for the functioning and development of youth organisations in Cyprus. The youth organizations function in the framework of the “Associations and Foundations Law”, along with all the other non-profit organisations/associations in Cyprus. Their “youth” character is mainly identified by its Statute and the objectives pursued.

Youth organizations may receive financial support through the National Funding Scheme “Youth Initiatives”, run by ONEK.

The Advisory Bodies of ONEK, referred to in section 3.3.1 above, consist of youth organizations and youth sections of other organisations.

Moreover, the Cyprus Youth Council, as stated in section 3.3.1, currently hosts [63 Member Organizations](#) – political youth parties and non-political youth organisations.

### 3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?

There is no national network for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field of youth, However, in the framework of the National Youth Strategy 2017-2022, a Consultative Committee was established in 2017. The Committee consists of the governmental institutions that are also members of the Cross-Sectoral Committee for the NYS and representatives of young people - such as CYC and KOKEN- described in 3.3.1, with the aim to facilitate dialogue among policy makers and young people and ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy.

## 4. Legislation

### Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

#### National legislation on youth

#### Regional and local legislation on youth

There are numerous references in the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus concerning all people of Cyprus in both constitutionally established communities - the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish-Cypriot.<sup>5</sup> It is self-evident that these references affect young people as well and concern all basic rights and

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<sup>5</sup> [www.parliament.cy › filename › articleFile › mime › pdf](http://www.parliament.cy › filename › articleFile › mime › pdf)

freedoms, e.g. the right to education in Article 20. Nevertheless, there is no reference to “young people” or “youth”.

With respect to the national legislation on youth, the terms “youth” and “young people” are explicitly referred to in the [Youth Board Law 33\(1\)/94](#) which was adopted by the House of Representatives in April 1994 and established the Youth Board of Cyprus.

The National Youth Strategy 2017-2020, described in Article 1 above, puts forward the age range of 14-35 for its target group. Although not legally founded, it was approved and adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2017, “putting the governmental plan for the empowerment of young people into action”, as precisely stated by the President of Cyprus, Mr. Nikos Anastasiades.<sup>6</sup>

As far as regional and local legislation on youth is concerned, all legislation in Cyprus is voted for by the House of Representatives and it always applies on national level.

## **5. National Policy Programmes and Action Plans on Youth**

### **National programmes on youth**

#### **National Youth Strategy 2017-2022 (Youth Board of Cyprus)**

As already described in Section 1.1, the National Youth Strategy is the first policy document in Cyprus which encompasses all the national policy programmes for Youth run by the governmental authorities.

Other national policies with relatively high relevance for young people and/or children is the [National Strategy for Children Right in Health 2017-2025](#) (Ministry of Health), [Strategy for sexual and reproductive health and rights of youth in Cyprus](#) (Ministry of Health) and the [National Lifelong Learning Strategy](#) (Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development)

#### **Action Plans (or other official strategic documents)**

The National Youth Strategy comprises two Action Plans with a three-year timeframe each. The first Action Plan 2017-2019 has been submitted to the Council of Ministers and the second Action Plan 2020-2022 is currently being drafted. The NYS Action Plans includes the governmental programmes and actions around the 8 thematic priorities which are covered by the Strategy, as mentioned in section 1.1.

#### **Programmes and actions for specific target groups**

##### **National Action Plan for Youth Employment (Ministry of Labour, Welfare & Social Insurance)**

The target group of the [National Action Plan for Youth Employment](#) (NAP) is the young people 15-29 years old who are not in employment, education and training (NEETs). The NAP includes, inter alia, actions of the revised Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendation for the “Youth Guarantee”, according to which a quality offer for employment, education or training should be

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<sup>6</sup> <https://bit.ly/2VtA2J9>

provided for each young person 15-24 years old within four months from the date it became unemployed or completed/ left its education. Within this framework, measures for facilitating the inclusion of young people in the labour market are promoted as well as measures for the enhancement of their skills. Special attention is also given to the empowerment of youth entrepreneurship in the country through various grant schemes.

## 6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

### National level

The total budget allocated to Youth Board of Cyprus for 2020 is €14.275.814.<sup>7</sup> This amount also includes the EU contribution allocated to ONEK as the National Agency of the EU Programmes “Erasmus+ Youth” and “European Solidarity Corps”. The budget used for the national programmes targeting youth, run by other Ministries and Agencies, is not included in the above mentioned amount.

**Regional level:** Not applicable

## 7. European dimension of youth policy

### 7.1. Council of Europe youth sector strategy and programmes

The Youth Board of Cyprus actively participates in the Council of Europe’s European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ). The Executive Director of ONEK, Mr. Menelaos A. Menelaou is also a member of the current CDEJ Bureau, which has been elected for a term of office running from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021.

ONEK provides views and practices followed in Cyprus, on topics and policy papers discussed at the CoE Committee of Ministers. It should be noted that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, in collaboration with ONEK and the Human Resource Development Authority is coordinating the establishment of a validation mechanism on non - formal and informal learning in Cyprus in accordance with the “Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on youth work”.

ONEK also participates in the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCY), sharing information concerning youth policy, research and practices in Cyprus for youth.

In addition, ONEK coordinates the implementation of the CoE campaign “No hate Speech” at national level, which will run again in Cyprus with a series of offline and online activities.

Last, ONEK supports the participation of Cypriot young people in activities organised by CoE, such as the Youth Peace Camp.

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/arith/2019\\_2\\_085.pdf](http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/arith/2019_2_085.pdf)

## **7.2. European Union youth strategy and programmes**

Upon Cyprus accession in the European Union (01/05/2004), the Youth Board of Cyprus participates in the Youth Working Group of the EU Council. ONEK, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport & Youth and other agencies dealing with youth issues, contributes to youth policy documents to be adopted by the Council of Ministers.

Furthermore, ONEK acts as the National Agency of the EU Programme “Erasmus” in the field of youth and the “European Solidarity Corps”.

Youth Board of Cyprus is also responsible for the implementation of the European Information Network Eurodesk.

ONEK is also a member of the National Working Group which is responsible for coordinating and organizing the EU Youth Dialogue (former Structured Dialogue). The National Working Group consists also of representatives of the Cyprus Youth Council and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport & Youth. Within the framework of the Structured Dialogue, the Cyprus Youth Council, as the coordinating body of the EU Youth Dialogue at national level, organizes in coordination with the National Working Group a series of public consultations in all major cities of the Republic of Cyprus as well as in rural areas.

Last, ONEK participates and contributes in the Youth Wiki platform, introduced by the Executive Agency of Culture, Education and Audiovisual (EACEA) of the European Commission, with the aim to support evidence-based European cooperation in the field of Youth, by providing information on national policies in support of young people – in a user-friendly and continuously updated way.

## **8. Further sources of information on youth policy**

Youth Board of Cyprus: [www.onek.org.cy](http://www.onek.org.cy)

National Youth Strategy 2017-2022: [https://onek.org.cy/wp-content/uploads/ONEK\\_brochure.pdf](https://onek.org.cy/wp-content/uploads/ONEK_brochure.pdf)