

**YOUTH CARE SYSTEM FRAMEWORK:
ANALYTICAL REPORT ON THE CONDUCTED COMPARATIVE
ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK WITH DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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ABBREVIATIONS

AL	Albania
AZ	Azerbaijan
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BiH-RS	Bosnia and Herzegovina – Republika Srpska entity
FBiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina – Federation entity
BG	Bulgaria
EE	Estonia
ECTS	European Credit Transfer System
FI	Finland
HR	Croatia
IC	Iceland
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCED	International Standard for Classification of Education
SEIS	Single education information system
LSG	Local self-government
LYO	Local Youth Office
LAP	Local Action Plan
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
ME	Montenegro
MAS	Master of Academic Studies
MOS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
NEET	Youth not in education, employment nor training
NQF	National Qualification Framework
NSY	National Strategy for Youth
NGO	Non-governmental organization
BAS	Bachelor Academic Studies
BVS	Bachelor Vocational Studies
RF	Russian Federation
RO	Romania
RS	Republic of Serbia
RNM	Republic of North Macedonia
RYCO	Regional Youth Cooperation Office

SI	Slovinia
SK	Slovakia
SMART	Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound
LoY	Law on Youth
LoFEUS	Law on the Foundations of the Education and Upbringing System
IIE	Institute for Improvement of Education
UN	United Nations
VET	Vocational education and training

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INTRODUCTION

This document was prepared as a contribution to the process of collecting inputs that will form the basis for decision-makers and other stakeholders in considering and selecting alternative solutions for improving the Law on Youth. The process has been supported by the International Organisation for Migration through this engagement.

The ambition of this research venture was to look at the normative frameworks of countries in Europe¹, as well as legislation in the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: Serbia), and draw conclusions about alternative solutions that could be applied in the national Law on Youth.

The report consists of **five main parts**. The summary of **the report** shows comparative experiences of European countries in norming different issues of care for young people, with an outlook of the solutions in Serbian Law. This is followed by **an analytical review of the relevant domestic normative framework**, which directly or indirectly regulates issues of importance to young people that should be considered in view of solutions to improve the Law on Youth. The **subsequent comparative analysis** outlines solutions in the laws of the observed countries, according to the selected criteria. The key issues for **the youth sector and decision-makers** list areas and topics for which there is a great interest in the youth sector to be regulated and improved. Finally, in the part of **recommendations**, proposals were made for certain solutions in the Law on Youth.

All terms used in this report in one grammatical gender apply equally to the same terms in another grammatical gender.

The views and opinions expressed in this report are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organisation for Migration.

APPROACH

Objective and subject of research

The subject of the research is a normative framework that regulates systemic care for young people. On the one hand, this research analyzes the domestic normative framework relevant to youth issues, while on the other hand, it reveals how different European countries have approached the same issues. In this regard, the subject of analysis of the domestic normative framework are all general and special laws (except for the Law on Ratification of Contracts, Conventions and Other Acts) enacted in Serbia since 2011. The subject of comparative analysis is the consideration of different conceptual approaches in normative regulation of youth care issues in Europe, and analysis of special legal solutions in the selected countries that regulate important aspects of youth care.

In considering different conceptual approaches, it has been explored whether the observed country has a specific law governing issues in the field of youth care, or whether these issues are governed by other general and special laws.

As part of the analysis of special legal solutions governing important aspects of youth care in the selected countries, Serbian Law on Youth has been analysed, seeking answers to the following key questions:

- What is the normative scope under a special law (and how different is it from the Serbian Law on Youth)?
- How are individual questions relevant to the care of young people considered, and especially those questions that are regulated in the appropriate way by the Serbian Law on Youth?

Key questions are analysed through the following criteria:

Criteria	Meaning/Description of criteria
Subject	What is the subject of the law, i.e. which issue/s in the field of youth care is/are treated by the law?
Objective	What is the law trying to achieve?
Principles	General rules in the spirit of which all provisions of the law and the youth care should be observed/implemented.
Youth	How is a young person defined?

Youth work and occupations	How youth work and youth occupations are regulated in the law, the issue of professionalization of youth work and places of youth work within the system of youth care?
Youth rights and responsibilities	How the legislative framework defines the rights and responsibilities of youth, especially those related to the migration movement of youth?
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	What mechanisms of youth participation in decision-making are prescribed by the law?
Forms of youth organizing	What forms of youth organizing are prescribed by the law? Does it distinguish between youth organizations, alliances and rooftop alliances, does it recognize informal groups and other forms of youth organizing, and what is the purpose of this categorization?
Obligations and responsibilities of LSGs for youth care	How does the law regulate youth care at the local level, and how does it regulate the competencies of local governments in youth care provision?
Institutions and services for young people	How does the law regulate the position of institutions and services for youth, how it regulates the competencies of different levels of governance in the establishment, management and financing of institutions and services?
Practical policies for youth	How does the law regulate practical policies for young people? What are these policies, who makes them, what is their position and importance in the care system for young people?
Youth policy financing	How is the issue of funding for youth care regulated?
Registries	Does the law foresee records and data registries, and what they are intended for?
Reporting	Does the law regulate the way data is collected and reporting on systemic care for young people? Who's reporting to whom?
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	Which instances and institutions have been assigned supervision over the law enforcement, and how is the issue of corrective treatment of subjects who do not implement legal provisions properly regulated? Are there prescribed violations and punitive provisions?

On the one hand, the aim of this research is to identify all acts and areas where certain solutions concerning youth and youth care are normative, and on the other hand to look at comparative

solutions and draw conclusions about solutions that could be applied in Serbian normative regulation of youth policy, and recommend these solutions to decision-makers for consideration.

Sample

The analysis of the domestic normative framework covers a total of 36 laws, 2 strategies and 1 action plan passed by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia from 2011 to 2021, as well as an international document of practical policy with which Serbia harmonises its policy frameworks. The records of the analyzed laws were provided as an Annex 1 to this report. The comparative analysis covers a total of 15 countries and 18 legal acts.

Country	Law
Albania	Law for Youth ²
Azerbaijan	Law on Youth Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan ³
Bosnia and Herzegovina Federation entity	Law on Youth of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bosnia and Herzegovina Republika Srpska entity	Law on Youth Organizing
Bulgaria	Law on Youth ⁴
Montenegro	Law on Youth
Croatia	Law on Youth Councils
Finland	Law on Youth ⁵ Law on Youth Work and Youth Policy ⁶
Estonia	Law on Youth Work ⁷
Iceland	Law on Youth ⁸
Latvia	Law on Youth ⁹
Lithuania	Law on Youth Policy ¹⁰
Romania	Law no. 350 ¹¹

² Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Estonia, Finland, Croatia, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Northern Macedonia, Slovenia, Slovakia

³ Original English language title: Law on Youth Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

⁴ Original title: ЗАКОН за младежта

⁵ Non-official English translation title: Youth Act

⁶ Non-official English translation title: Government Decree on youth work and policy

⁷ Non-official English translation title: Youth Work Act

⁸ Title in English: Youth Act

⁹ Title in English: Youth Law

¹⁰ Original title: JAUNIMO POLITIKOS PAGRINDŲ ĮSTATYMAS

¹¹ Original title: LEGE no. 350

North Macedonia	Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policy ¹²
Slovakia	Law on Youth Work Support ¹³
Slovenia	Law on Public Interest in Youth Sector ¹⁴ Law on Youth Councils ¹⁵

Limitations

The research task associated with comparative analysis of the legal frameworks of youth care on the European continent is limited to the legal acts of which aim and purpose are primarily the care for the young or some important aspect of youth care. The subject of the research task related to comparative analysis were not other acts that regulate issues that may or may not be of interest to the youth. In this regard, issues regulated by special laws outside the law dealing with youth care were not discussed in this research.

Most of the analyzed legal acts in comparative analysis were done using an English version in an unofficial translation. In this regard, there is a possibility that some terms have been considered and used in inaccurate translation.

¹² Original title: ЗАКОНОТ ЗА МЛАДИНСКО УЧЕСТВО И МЛАДИНСКИ ПОЛИТИКИ

¹³ Original title: Zakon o o podpore práce s mládežou

¹⁴ Original title in English: ACT ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN YOUTH SECTOR

¹⁵ Original title: Zakona o mladinskih svetih

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Performing youth activities is one of a number of areas regulated by the relevant laws. It is a matter of determining whether the issue of youth care will be regulated within the general systemic laws governing certain areas or regulated by a single "youth" *lex specialis* law¹⁶. Expressed specificity of the youth sector and experience that specificities by rule remain outside the general law¹⁷, influenced the decision-makers in Serbia to regulate all those issues of particular importance to effective and efficient youth care with a separate Law on Youth adopted in 2011¹⁸.

The conceptualization of legal solutions was driven by the following objectives¹⁹:

1. defining the framework and conditions for supporting youth in organizing, social action, development and achieving potential for personal and social well-being;
2. defining the pyramid structure of the youth sector, both at the state and NON-governmental level, with a clear definition of competencies, rights, obligations and responsibilities depending on the appropriate level;
3. affirmation of autonomy of youth associations, associations for youth and alliances whose goals and field of action are aimed at youth in regulating internal relations;
4. defining the conditions for performing youth activities, delimiting them depending on the type of activity and whether it is a major activity of youth or mostly adult activity in the interest of youth;
5. establishing of the system for monitoring conditions in the field of youth sector and information system of youth sector in the Republic of Serbia;
6. formation of the Youth Council of the Government;
7. improvement of professional work in the field of youth sector for the quality of realization of youth policies;
8. defining a consistent and transparent funding system in the area of the youth sector in public revenues (budget of the Republic, autonomous province and local self-government units) and establishing control over the spending of these funds;
9. creating the basis for the adoption and implementation of the long-term National Youth Strategy.

¹⁶ Explanation from the draft Law on Youth, 2011

¹⁷ Ibidem

¹⁸ Official Gazette of RS, no. 50/2011

¹⁹ Explanation from the draft Law on Youth, 2011

In addition to Serbia, 10 other European countries (Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria Montenegro, Finland, the Netherlands, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Switzerland) and FBiH have regulated the sector through the adoption of a single law on youth. Slovakia, Estonia and Finland have regulated the sector through the adoption of the laws on youth care. Croatia, Slovenia and Northern Macedonia have regulated the area of youth participation in decision-making at the local level through the Law on Youth Councils in Croatia and Slovenia and the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policy in Northern Macedonia. Slovenia has also regulated youth care field with the Law on Public Interest in the Youth Sector. Republika Srpska, as an entity in BiH, has adopted the Law on Youth Organizing in its jurisdiction. Lithuania has regulated the sector relevant issue with the adoption of the Law on Youth Policy, and Romania has law no. 350 regulating the field.

Some European countries (Germany, Austria, UK, Ireland, France, Czech Republic, Norway, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Malta, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Hungary) approach the issue of youth care as a horizontal and inter-sectoral issue, and regulate it within a set of general systemic laws for certain areas of social life.

In this outlook of the domestic Law on Youth, some solutions in relation to comparative solutions from other countries are showcased.

Scope, subject and objective

The domestic Law on Youth is comprised of 29 articles and measures and activities undertaken by the Republic of Serbia (RS), an autonomous province and local self-government unit (LSG), aimed at improving the social position of youth and creating conditions for achieving the needs and interests of youth in all areas of interest to the youth. The aim of the Law is to create conditions for youth support in organizing, social action, development and achieving potential for personal and social well-being. Although this is not seen in the presentation of norming subjects, the Law also regulates youth policy principles, forms of youth organizing, record-keeping, National Youth Strategy, Youth Council, Youth Office, Youth Agency, funding and co-financing of youth programmes. The law regulates areas that are directly under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and does not enter into areas that are under the jurisdiction of other ministerial departments. The law does not regulate the area of volunteering because it is governed by a special law.

In most of the countries observed, the solutions are comparable. Some countries have opted for very brief solutions. For example, Lithuanian law contains in total only 9 articles, Latvian 13, and Icelandic and Azerbaijani contain 14 articles each. Although concise, Lithuanian law has

succeeded in introducing a framework for effective work with young people who are not in the process of **education, are not employed or in training** (NEET) and other vulnerable groups of youth, and Azerbaijani support for **young families** and young **single parents**. **Latvian law promotes the inter-sectoral co-operation of state bodies** in the implementation of youth policies, and stipulates an obligation to ensure the development of a single national policy, its coordinated implementation, and methodological framework for planning, implementing and evaluating the youth work of local self-governments. Iceland Law is short and general, many of the issues are more detailed in lower acts. However, although brief, general and declarative, Icelandic law **stipulates prohibitions** on hosts, instructors, volunteers and other staff from consuming alcohol and other toxic substances for the duration of organized youth activities or during travel with children and youth, and working in youth clubs, schools and other institutions working with youth up to 18 years of age.

On the other hand, the Law on Youth Organizing in Republika Srpska is detailed and contains 90 articles. However, many of the issues that are being addressed in this law are already similarly addressed by other laws, so it does not appear that the proportion and purpose of normation was appropriately considered.

Some countries (Slovenia, Montenegro) and the BH entity Republika Srpska have defined youth care in an indirect or immediate way as **a public interest**.

The Law no. 350, by which Romania regulates youth care, is probably the most comprehensive, and together with The Azeri law is 'the most inter-sectoral'. Although it does not have a name that contains the thematic area, this Law has achieved **the widest coverage** because it contains provisions governing wider scope of issues including youth economic empowerment and reduction of taxes and duties, education, scientific research and return to the country of young professionals, youth volunteering, prevention of youth transition to NEET state, social care of youth, housing policy and public health. Romanian Law instructs all levels of governance, units, institutions and public services that are subordinate to them, an obligation to support youth activity and ensure an appropriate framework for its development at the national and local levels. The Law on Youth of the Republic of Azerbaijan also regulates issues related to education, health care in the school system, employment, entrepreneurship and care for the unemployed, and support for youth in economically underdeveloped, rural and hard-to-reach areas. Latvia's The Law declared the issue of youth economic empowerment, and sets out its obligation to promote economic active youth and employment.

Croatia has limited its law to the **issue of youth participation** in decision-making at the local level. In this area of regulation, Croatian law is vastly detailed (30 articles) and precise.

Slovenia has opted to regulate **the youth council issue** with a special law (18 articles), and all other issues of importance for youth care have been regulated by the Law on Public Interest in the Youth Sector.

In some countries, e.g. in Slovakia and Bulgaria, the law has also regulated the issue of **youth volunteering** in a subtle and proportionate way, without the need for a special law on volunteering. In the 'youth' laws, the two countries regulated the rights of volunteers and volunteer organisers, volunteering of underage volunteers, the issue of contracts and the issuance of volunteer certificates, cost financing, occupational protection, the status of foreign volunteers and other issues of importance for youth volunteering.

In addition to the Law on the Framework for Youth Policy of Lithuania, no other analyzed law contains provisions on the body for administrative management of European youth programmes. Macedonian law mentions "Agency for Youth and Sports" but no provision in the law is committed to this institution.

Principles

National law in Serbia defines 6 principles as general rules in the spirit of which all legal norms should be interpreted. These principles are: support for youth; equality and prohibition of discrimination; equal chances; raising awareness of the importance of youth and their social role; active participation of youth; youth responsibility and solidarity.

The comparative review of the legal frameworks of other countries, singles out **the principle of information of youth** in Montenegrin law, which determines that *'the entities that implement youth policies in accordance with this law provide youth with complete, timely access to and usable information on planning and implementation of youth policies from their jurisdiction'*. Also, Macedonian law cites an important **theme of inter-institutional co-operation in the creation and implementation of youth policies**. Slovak and Slovenian laws emphasise the **integrity principle** in dealing with youth. In Slovak law, this principle is operating through a ban on working with young people who have been convicted. Albanian law singles out **the principle** of equal opportunities and guarantees for youth participation in the **processes of creating and making decisions** in numerous and taxatively listed areas of social life. Finland lists a range of principles such as **sustainable development**, healthy **lifestyles**, respect for life and **the environment**, and **inter-sectoral cooperation**. Icelandic law does not establish principles other than the general rule that those who work for youth or young people must have the proper training, education, knowledge and experience necessary to do such work.

Bulgarian law singles out several specific and important principles of state policy towards youth, such as **principles of legality and transparency, equality and purpose, systematic and consistent policies** of the state and municipalities; the principle of **co-ordination of policies for youth** in the fields of education, social policy, health, culture, sports, justice, interior and defence; the principle **of guaranteeing dialogue and youth participation** in the formation of youth policy; the principle of **decentralisation of youth politics**.

The two principles emphasized in the Latvian law are the **principle of information availability** - promoting the provision of information to young people that suits their development needs; and the **principle of mobility and international co-operation** - to ensure that young people have the opportunity to be mobile, to gain knowledge and skills outside of their residence, and to promote the exchange of recommendations, as well as the best practices of other countries and their introduction into youth politics.

The law in Republika Srpska states that youth organizing is based on respect for basic human rights and freedoms, as well as the original principles of democracy as stipulated in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Constitution of Republika Srpska and the relevant international conventions. Croatian law cites principles declaratively, without clarifying their meanings, i.e. as these principles should be interpreted. The Federation of BiH law lists principles in the form of a vision statement, not as general rules with which policies and practices should be harmonised in dealing with youth. The law in Romania lists 10 principles, which would rather be defined as long-term goals or the desired impact of the law, than as general rules. Slovak law does not prescribe principles, but stipulates a ban on youth discrimination. Estonian and Lithuanian laws have prescribed principles that apply in youth work and direct work with youth, and which, according to the way they are formulated, are more reminiscent of standards in youth work. The Azeri Law prescribes the principles of youth policy.

Who is youth?

As shown in the Annex 2, in most of the observed countries, the term youth refers to young people aged 15 to 28, 29 or 30. The exceptions to this rule are: Romania (where youth are 14-35 years of age), Estonia (where youth are 7-26 years of age), and Latvia (where youth are 13-25 years old). In Finland, youth are those under the age of 29 and in Slovakia youth are persons up to 30 years of age. Icelandic law does not specify youth definition, but notes that the law specifically applies to young people aged 6-25. In FBiH, the Law prescribes the possibility that the N.B.A. authorities, cantons and LSGs will expand the definition of youth age until the age of 35, in youth employment, housing, education in the field of information and communication technologies,

foreign language learning, qualifications and retraining of these and other issues where the authorities determine the age group considered by a single normative act.

Most of the observed laws have regulated the meaning of the term '*youth*', using the wording '*in terms of this law*', so it cannot be concluded to what extent this definition of youth, in terms of the criteria that define it, is integrated into the entire legislative systems of the observed countries, broader than this law, i.e. whether other legal solutions governing certain issues of interest for youth are aligned with the term provided in the laws on youth.

Youth work and youth occupations

The domestic Law on Youth does not regulate issues in the field of youth work, except to clarify the meaning of the concept. Given the strong interest in better regulating the issue in domestic legislation, comparative experiences from observed European countries are significant. The most detailed and complete issue was edited by Slovakia, which defined **youth occupations** (as well as: "*youth worker*", "*youth leader*", "*coordinator of youth work*" and "*lecturer in the field of youth work*"), and the way of **obtaining a license to perform occupations**, as well as special conditions and **prohibitions** related to performing youth occupations.

The FBiH Youth Law stipulates that a civil servant for working with youth must be **professionally trained** for the job and must possess knowledge of youth policies and work with youth. This is a concrete measure that professionalises working with young people. On the other hand, no data is available on whether this occupation is included in the nomenclature of occupation, and which institution issues the certificate, except that the competent federal ministry will determine the procedure for training and certification of these employees. Republika Srpska regulates "**professional work in youth organizations**". It is stated that the work of members of youth organizations includes: training, research in co-development and engineering, professional training and development, planning and programming development of youth policy, information allocation, international professional cooperation, advertising and marketing, public information, publishing, professional management and other forms of professional work in the youth sector. Professional work in youth organizations is done by experts from the country and abroad, who have experience in youth work and activities. The Secretariat, together with competent institutions and organizations, prepares and implements **an annual programme of professional development in the field of youth work**, and activities of interest to the Republic, while local self-government is responsible for the implementation at the local level.

Although it does not regulate the field in greater detail, Finnish law mentions **a trained and qualified youth worker** as a profile of a LSG representative who should maintain contacts with

youth on the ground. Similarly, Icelandic law does not regulate the area of youth work and youth occupations, except for the general rule that everyone who works with youth must have appropriate **qualifications** (education, training, knowledge and experience). In Northern Macedonia, youth **workers are responsible for working with youth in the youth centre**. In Bulgaria, the law also stipulates the obligation of the national and local level of governance to include activities in its youth programmes to support development and special training of youth workers, ensuring the continued professional development in the field of youth work.

Estonian law does not also regulate this issue but stipulates that the youth or project camp can only be run by **qualified managers of a youth camp** with qualifications acquired in Estonia or abroad with the accompanying qualification procedure. Also, it is interesting to mention the case of Lithuanian law that distinguishes among **several forms of youth work** devoted to:

- 1) open youth work;
- 2) working with young people on the street;
- 3) mobile youth work;
- 4) development of practical skills of youth;

Based on a comparative analysis of this criterion, it can be concluded that, even though only one country has detailed on the issue of the professionalisation of youth work, there is awareness of the speciality of youth work as an activity and its central place in working with youth. It can also be concluded that 6 out of the 15 countries observed in their legal solutions have embedded assumptions for the professionalisation of youth work.

Rights and responsibilities of youth

The observed legal solutions generally do not regulate the rights and responsibilities of youth, with the exception of both BiH entities that have prescribed the rights and obligations of youth and youth organisations in their legal frameworks. In legal frameworks, several countries implicitly stipulate certain rights of youth, such as Croatia (the right of youth to be elected to the youth council) or Finland (gives young people the right to enjoy the opportunity to take part in decision-making processes concerning them). Romanian law gives young people the right to free access to a book fund and sources of information managed by public libraries, while young people coming from housing centres or families with reduced material opportunities are eligible for free tuition to attend a higher education programme. In Albania, the law guarantees the protection of young Albanian citizens, as well as foreign young citizens and youth without citizenship who have applied for asylum, as well as foreign young citizens with regulated residency in Albania. Azerbaijani law guarantees the right to incentives during schooling for talented youth, the right to favourable loans for young families, and the right to land and favourable loans to young people

in economically underdeveloped areas. In Latvia, the law implicitly gives young people the right to participate in the creation and implementation of youth policies by engaging in the acquisition and provision of informal education and performing voluntary work, performing activities in local self-governments and educational institutions, developing and implementing projects, as well as other initiatives, participating in the activities of youth organizations, as well as other associations and foundations, by engaging in the decision-making process of state and local youth policy, and through engaging in other activities aimed at promoting youth participation in the development and implementation of youth policies.

Youth participation mechanism in decision-making

The most commonly defined solutions in the examined legal frameworks and Serbian law are in the field of determining the mechanisms of youth participation in decision-making. Most legal solutions, including Serbian law, envisages the formation of youth (made up only of youth) or mixed (young + decision-makers) **councils for youth** at the national and local level with the task of reviewing, proposing, analyzing, commenting on and launching of initiatives related to regulations, measures and issues of importance to youth. Slovenia and Croatia have regulated this matter with a single **law**, and Croatian law can offer examples of how youth participation in decision-making at the local and regional levels can be arranged. Interestingly, Croatian law, while very detailed, does not contain mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making at the national level.

The Youth Council in Montenegro is mixed with a total of 9 members, and in addition to the representatives of ministries, the Council includes 2 representatives of NGOs conducting youth activities, at least 1 of which is a young person. With this deployment of forces in the Council, young people cannot crucially influence the decisions of the Council, but they can have their own voice heard. At the local level, at least 1 member of the Council is a representative of NGOs implementing youth policies. The Youth Council in Croatia consists only of representatives of youth. The Council has numerous powers, including to participate in the development, implementation and monitoring of local youth programmes, and in programming the priorities of the competition and determining the criteria for financing youth and youth organisations. Interestingly, the relationship of the LSG representative body with the local Youth Council is arranged with obligations of the representative body to provide the Youth Council with all calls and materials for its sessions, and records from the sessions, the obligation for the president of the representative body to hold a joint meeting with the Youth Council at least once every 3 months, the obligation for the representative body to discuss the issue of interest to youth, at the latest at the first next session, and the obligation to hold a joint meeting of the leading staff,

mayors or practitioners with the Youth Council at least every three months. The FBiH Youth Council counts at least 50% of youth members. In FBiH there are also Youth Commissions. In Republika Srpska, key participation mechanism is the Governing Committee, which is a mixed body consisting of representatives of state institutions and the Youth Council. In the assemblies of local self-governments and in the National Assembly, youth commissions can also be formed as permanent mixed working bodies. In North Macedonia, participation mechanisms are most elaborated and these include the following mechanisms - National Youth Assembly, National Youth Advisory Body, Local Youth Councils. The National Youth Advisory Body is the most important participation mechanism with 17 members, 9 of whom are youth elected by the National Youth Assembly. Therefore, the majority of members in this body are young people. It has an advisory and supervisory role and proposes establishing mechanisms for evaluating youth participation and achieving the interests of youth in social life. Local youth councils are being formed at the local level. They have broadly established competencies, including to propose to the local assembly items on the agenda concerning youth policy and to initiate the process of drafting a local strategy for youth. In Slovenia, there is a government advisory body for youth with broad powers, in which representatives of youth organisations make up 50% of members (Article 8). In addition to this body, a significant participation mechanism is contained in the provision obliging the Government of Slovenia and local self-government to consult the Youth Council of Slovenia and local youth councils when enacting regulations. In Albania, within the minister's national advisory body, 50% of members are young people. A similar solution was implemented in Latvia. All members are elected by the minister. The same solution was applied to local youth councils. In Finland, there is a National Youth Council as an advisory body. In Iceland, youth make up the majority of the national youth council (5 out of 9 members). At the local level, youth commissions are formed. In Romania, it is regulated that the National Council of Youth, which is formed by the NGOs, acts the main partner for the government on youth care issues. The government is obliged to consult this body when enacting youth regulations. The National Youth Council has its delegates with the Romania's Economic and Social Council. In Bulgaria, the National Youth Council is a mixed body in which national youth organisations and student parliaments have representatives. In Slovakia, local self-governments can form the Parliament of Youth as an advisory body. It is similar in Estonia where local governments can form local youth councils. In Lithuania, youth participation is secured through the National and Local Youth Affairs Councils, which include representatives of youth organisations. In Azerbaijan, the issue has only been dealt with in principle, leaving the possibility for young people to participate in the processes of creating legislative acts, but it has not been explained how or which youth can qualify for exercising this right.

From the analysis of comparative solutions, it can be concluded that in most countries a solution has been implemented in which the line minister or ministry forms a mixed advisory body,

consisting of representatives of different state institutions and youth, and which discusses all issues of importance to the youth. Youth representation ranges from 1 representative to the majority of membership in representative bodies.

Forms of youth organizing

Most legal solutions recognize youth organizations as associations in which youth make up 2/3 or 70% of members and which in statutes have defined youth as the goal of activities or target groups. This solution is present in FBiH, Northern Macedonia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania, and partly in Estonia. Estonia also recognizes associations for youth work.

Montenegro and Republika Srpska do not distinguish between youth organisations and youth organisations for youth. Youth policy can be dealt with by any organization that has this in the statute as its statutory goal.

In Slovenia, any organization that has 300+ members and conducts activities in several regions can become a national youth organization. Youth organizations of national minorities are automatically considered the national youth organizations. National youth organisations form the Youth Council of Slovenia.

In FBiH, the law prohibits political parties from establishing youth organisations and youth organisations, while legal solutions in both entities prohibit youth organisations and organisations for youth from participating in political activities. In Northern Macedonia, on the other hand, political parties can register their youth members as youth organisations.

Croatia and Slovakia have not regulated the issue of youth organizing whatsoever.

When it comes to **representative alliances**, in Montenegro, the representative alliance must have at least 30 NGOs implementing youth policies, from at least 6 LSGs, 2 of which are from the coastal, 2 from the central and 2 from the northern regions. Representation of the association determines the instability for a period of one year by issuing a certificate of representation. The Representative Alliance has the right to delegate a representative to the Youth Council. In FBiH, youth councils as representative alliances can be formed at the level of FBiH, cantons and LSGs if they are formed by at least 50% of organisations from the Federation, ensuring their representation. In Republika Srpska, 10 youth organizations, or 1 youth organization that conduct activities in 10 municipalities, can form a republic youth organization, which then delegates its representative to the Youth Council of Republika Srpska. The Council delegates its representatives to the professional advisory and working bodies formed by the National

Assembly of Republika Srpska, the Government and the Secretariat in order to develop and implement youth policies. Youth organizations can establish a local youth council for the territory of LSG. Finland distinguishes between national youth organizations and national organizations for youth work. In Bulgaria, the National Representative Youth Organisation is a youth organisation that has at least 900 individual members and conducts activities in at least 30 per cent of the country's municipalities. This status is granted for 3 years and can be renewed. In Lithuania, the law recognizes several forms of national organizations: The Council of Lithuanian Youth Organizations as an umbrella youth organization, the World Lithuanian Youth Union is a foreign Lithuanian youth organization, the Council of Municipal Youth Organizations is a youth organization whose main purpose is to unite and represent youth organizations operating on the territory of LSG and Lithuanian youth abroad – gathering Lithuanians living in foreign countries. Azerbaijani law does not recognise this category of youth organizing.

Romanian law also recognises regional **youth foundations** comprised of youth organisations and youth organisations in a particular region, as well as the National **Youth Foundation**, which is a legal entity that establishes regional youth foundations. The National Foundation is the heir to the real estate left behind the Communist Youth League.

When it comes to informal groups, only Latvian law recognizes informal groups that can participate in decision-making processes.

It can be concluded from the above that in the observed countries a solution that distinguishes youth organizations from organisations for youth prevails. In some countries, these organisations are registered in the registry and on that basis, they can apply for budget funds intended for youth. Almost all legal solutions seek to define a representative national organisation, with granted right to delegate its representative to different organs and bodies in which decisions of interest to youth are made. Territorial criteria (number of municipalities/regions) and membership criteria (number of members/organisations) prevail in defining criteria for establishment of national alliances in the field.

Obligations and responsibilities of LSGs in youth care

In Montenegro, the law prescribes imperative norms with clear, precise and taxatively stated LSG obligations and deadlines, whose failure to comply is considered an offence for which a fine is prescribed. Some of the imperative norms reflect LSGs obligations to enact a local youth action plan (by a certain deadline), and to report to the ministry on the implementation of the plan within defined deadline.

In Croatia, the law fully regulates the matter at the local and regional levels, and all provisions relate to the treatment of LSGs and regional governing bodies. Imperative norms are prescribed, among other obligations of local parliaments and mayors to the Youth Councils. However, there are no clearly stated violations and penalties defined without which efficiency of their implementation is questionable. In FBIH, the law also accurately and taxatively prescribes obligations of lower levels of government, for example to appoint an officer for youth issues, lead the list of all associations, institutions, international and other organizations that work with youth or support youth activities, ensure minimum of measures are there when planning and/or working with youth and on youth activities. Penalties for lower levels of government are prescribed for failing to meet these norms. In Northern Macedonia, LSGs appoint the Youth Office (LYOs) and youth coordinators as LYOs employees. LSGs are responsible for financing youth policies on their territory. In Slovenia, local self-governments are mandated with the implementation of public interest in the youth sector at the local level in accordance with local possibilities. In Albania, on the other hand, managing of a systemic care for youth is a legal obligation of LSGs. A number of LSG jurisdictions are prescribed by legal norms, yet not the acts of violations nor the associated penalties.

In Bulgaria, the pyramid-like structure of competencies between the national, regional and local levels of governance is precisely regulated, with clearly prescribed responsibilities and deadlines for each of the level actors in terms of planning practical policies for youth and reporting. However, no inaction related norms are prescribed, so it is unclear how efficiency is ensured in their implementation.

In Finland, LSGs have an obligation to create conditions for youth work and activities, especially by providing services and space for youth, considering local possibilities. The obligation of LSG is to organize **the care of young people who are potential NEET youth**. In this regard, the field work of a municipal youth worker is defined, and the exchange of personal data between the LSG and the school, the training center, and the military institution, i.e. institutions dealing with NEET at risk, is regulated. The law also envisions the right of local self-government transfer from the republic budget for the implementation of these competencies. In Slovakia, LSGs are obliged to have a coordinator of youth work and to bring to fruition the concept of youth work development. In Latvia, LSGs are obliged to ensure 'institutional *system for youth work*', and to draft planning documents for youth policy development (Article 5). After establishing an institutional system for youth work, LSGs have the right: 1) to appoint an authority in charge of youth work; 2) to hire an expert in youth affairs - the person who plans, performs and coordinates work with youth; 3) to establish an advisory commission on youth affairs that promotes the planning and implementation of youth work of local government, as well as youth participation in decision-making; 4) to establish a youth center; 5) to establish a local youth council. In Lithuania, LSGs must have a municipal coordinator for youth affairs.

Comparative analysis shows that all observed countries have established the jurisdiction of lower (regional and local) levels of youth care management in their area. In countries where youth care is established as a public interest, lower levels of government have an obligation to act in the implementation of this public interest. Some countries have made the responsibilities of lower levels of government more detailed, for example, Croatia, Slovenia and Montenegro, as well as the FBiH entity in BH. Predominantly in the Nordic and Baltic countries (IS, EE, LT), with the exception of Finland and Latvia, the issue is regulated in a more general and concise manner. Legal solutions prescribing violations and fines for LSGs are found in the legislation of BH-FBiH and ME.

In North Macedonia, LSG establishes the LYOs and appoints their coordinators as employees. The way of establishment is left to local governments. Youth work officers in LSGs are also envisioned in FBiH, SK, FI, LT and LV.

Institutions and services for young people

In Montenegro, institutions for youth are referred to as '*youth services*', and are established as a **youth club** and-or **youth centre**. Youth services are physical spaces intended for youth, which can be established by the state, LSGs, as well as other subjects implementing youth policies (e.g. associations). In Northern Macedonia, LSGs can establish youth centres. The law in FBiH stipulates the obligation of lower levels of government to provide appropriate **space for youth**, youth work and youth activities, as well as to ensure the **cost of** maintaining it. Similarly, in Republika Srpska, there is an obligation of LSG to provide **facilities and conditions** in which youth can perform youth activities. In Slovenia there are youth **centres** as organized functional centres where youth sector programmes are implemented. The law in Albania recognises 'safe youth spaces' and 'youth **infrastructure**'. There are standards for safe youth spaces. The cost of developing youth infrastructure is also financed from the republic's budget. It must be built, reconstructed, adapted and maintained in accordance with the applicable safety standard prescribed for youth spaces. Finland has a '**National Centre of Expertise in Youth Work**' as a legal entity that develops and promotes professional work and competences in youth work, and '**national youth centres**'.

Iceland and Latvia have **youth clubs** and Estonia have **youth and project camps**. Estonia also has youth **agencies**. Romania has national centres for informing and advising youth that are similar to our youth offices. Slovakia recognizes the Modern Youth Center as a quality mark that the ministry assigns to deserving organizations and individuals who practice youth work. Lithuania has open youth centre in which youth work is carried out. Azerbaijan recognizes "Youth Home" for youth sector activities implementation.

Practical policies for young people

In Latvia, the ministry adopts a **National Youth Policy Programme**, which sets out the annual priorities of youth policy. In Estonia, the ministry adopts the **National Youth Work Programme** as a framework for the state's youth care policy. In Slovakia, LSGs with the status of the city are obliged to adopt the **concepts of youth work development** on their territory. At the core of youth policy in Bulgaria lies the **National Strategy for Youth with an Annual Plan** as an operational document. In addition, there is a **National Youth Programme**, while at the regional level there are regional and local plans for youth. **The National Strategy with an Action Plan** as an operational document is also there in North Macedonia, while at the LSGs level there is a local strategy for youth. Slovenia bases its youth policy on the **National Youth Programme**, which is enacted for a period of 9 years. In Republika Srpska, youth politics is adopted for short and medium-term period. Special programmes are also being developed, at the national and local level, for different areas envisioned in youth policy framework. In Azerbaijan, the government runs youth policy. In FBiH, there is a Youth Strategy as an umbrella strategic document, and youth action programmes that operate in different areas of intervention covered by the Strategy. In Montenegro, the central document of youth policy is the **Youth Strategy with an Action Plan**. In addition to the strategy, the Government also provides a **Programme for achieving public interest in the field of youth policy** every two years. At the local level, LSGs may adopt **local youth action plans**.

Youth policy financing

In all observed countries, the law determines the responsibility of both the national and local government levels to provide funds for measures related to the care for youth from their jurisdiction. These are normally general provisions. However, there are also cases where funding obligations are **listed accurately and taxatively**. This is the case for instance with North Macedonia, where the percentage **of budgets** that must be allocated for youth policy are precisely indicated amounting to 0.3% of the national budget, and 0.1% of the local budget. The FBiH has prescribed a commitment of lower levels of government to provide a budget line in the budget concerning youth issues, *'as part of the overall budget of the region, city or canton'*, as well as to secure annual grants for youth projects by awarding them through a public call with stipulated selection criteria. The federal government is required to establish federal grants and transfers with the purpose of supporting the work around the youth issues.

In Montenegro, the law establishes the right to finance **infrastructure facilities** for youth. In Finland, the law stipulates transfers from the state to the local level of governance, which **come from state revenues from betting and gaming**. In Iceland, the government provides funds for

the work of the **Youth Fund** and the **National Union of Youth Organisations**. **The Youth Fund** also exists in Romania as a framework for financing youth care. In Azerbaijan, youth politics is funded from the state budget.

In Slovakia, grants can be given for a number of tax-listed purposes (projects, trainings, organizing volunteer activities, international co-operation, information, etc.) but up to a maximum of **90% of the total cost of envisaged actions**.

Some laws detail on the conditions, criteria and procedures of applying for public income funds.

Logs and Reporting

In Croatia, the Ministry runs the youth database, which is updated through regular annual contact with local/regional self-government units. In FBiH, cantons and LSGs have an obligation to keep records (*'list'*) of all associations, institutions, international and other organizations that work with youth or provide sustainable youth activities. In Estonia, youth organizations logs are kept. In North Macedonia, there is a **register of youth organisations** that has been made public. In Republika Srpska, youth organisations are also registered at the local level as well as at the entity level. In Slovenia, the **Registry of Organizations of Public Interest in the Youth Sector** is managed. The Slovenian policy makers also explained the purpose of the registry, which is being conducted to merge and publicly publish data relevant to legal trade of public interest organisations, with the aim of increasing legal security and transparency in the work of these organisations. A comprehensive **youth database** is being run in Albania. In Bulgaria, Ministry runs the **National Information System for Youth Work** and provides up-to-date information on the needs of the country's youth, as well as on planning, monitoring, management and evaluation of youth policies at the national, regional and municipal levels.

Estonia has fully digitized its database and combined all records and data in **the Educational Information System of Estonia**, which is open for public.

In FBiH and North Macedonia, there is an obligation of the government to produce an annual report on youth care (FBiH) and on implementing the Youth Strategy (RNM), and submit it for consideration to the representative body. In Albania, the ministry prepares and publishes evaluation reports on the *state of youth* annually. In Bulgaria, the Council of Ministers submits its annual report on youth to parliament.

Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions

Most of the observed legal solutions determine the authority of the line ministry to monitor and supervise the implementation of regulations. Few laws, however, prescribe violations and penalties, i.e. laws in Slovenia, Republika Srpska, the Federation of BiH, and Montenegro. Interestingly, some legal solutions, such as Slovak, Estonian and Latvian, prescribe some prohibitions, but not penalties or other corrective measures for violating the stipulated bans. In Slovenia, the Audit Court oversees the legality, purpose, economic and efficient use of public funds allocated to the Youth Council in Slovenia and youth councils of local communities.

Montenegrin law prescribes as a violation if LSG does not issue a local action plan for youth within the prescribed timeframe; if it fails to submit to the Ministry a draft local action plan for youth within the prescribed timeframe, for getting opinion on its compliance with the Strategy; if LSG fails to submit to the ministry an annual report on the realization of the local action plan for youth within the prescribed timeframe. For these violations, an authorized person in LSG is fined from EUR 500 to EUR 2,000.

The FBIH the following is considered as a violation of norms: 1. If working with youth and activities with youth violates the Constitution, law and/or international charters and conventions concerning youth rights and human rights; 2. If the youth association in any way incites hate speech, spreads intolerance, xenophobia, racism or discriminates against anyone on any grounds; 3. If the authority and authorities do not ensure a minimum of measures within the plan of working with youth and youth activities, as well as mechanisms and capacities adequate to proper law implementation; 4. If the municipal and city level governments do not designate an independent officer for youth issues performing tasks in terms of the law, i.e. the cantonal level of government does not determine the independent officer or department of youth in the ministry performing tasks in connection to this law.

In Republika Srpska, fines are only imposed for youth organisations for violating the provisions of the law.

In Slovenia, punitive provisions are prescribed in the amount of EUR 1,000-2,000 for the Youth Council and EUR 200-400 for an authorized person for tax-specified violations.

ANALYSIS OF THE DOMESTIC NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

The normative framework relevant to making changes and amendments to the LoY was presented on the basis of a desk analysis of the existing legislative framework mentioning youth in different sectors in Serbia. Analysis of laws and bylaws was conducted to identify normative solutions affecting the position of youth in the Republic of Serbia. This part of the analysis report provides answers to the following research questions:

1. To what extent and how does legislative framework affect the position of youth in the Republic of Serbia?
2. To what extent legislative framework affects the positive or negative movements of youth and how such influence manifest itself?
3. How the legislative framework defines the rights and responsibilities of youth, especially those related to youth migration?
4. How the legislative framework defines restrictions and which ones in particular related to young people, and especially those connected to youth migration?

The focus/subject of the analysis report in this segment refers to the identified legislative framework for the implementation of the LoY since 2011 up until 2021 which consists of 40 legal acts. The list of the individual legislative acts subject to the analysis is presented in Annex 1. The analysis of the normative framework is given in relation to sectoral policies relevant to the position of youth in Serbia.

1. HORIZONTAL LEGISLATION

1.1. Law on Associations (Official Gazette of RS", no. 51/2009, 99/2011 – other laws and 44/2018 - other law²⁰) in **Article 10** defines that the founder of the association may be a minor at the age of 14 with a written statement of consent obtained from his legal representative in accordance with the law, which must contain a signature certificate in accordance with the law. Also in **Article 19** of the association membership, the Law prescribes the possibility that a natural person may be a member of the association independently of age, in accordance with this Law and statute of association, and that the statement of accession, i.e. association membership for a minor up to the age of 14, is made by his legal representative in accordance with the law, and if it is a minor with 14 years of age, the legal representative in accordance with the law whereby both statements must contain confirmation of signature verification in accordance with the law.

²⁰ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_udruzenjima.html

In **Article 38** (Funds for realization of programs of public interest) the Law does not define the programmes of associations in the field of youth under programmes of public interest for which funds are provided in the budget of the Republic of Serbia and awarded on the basis of public competition.²¹

1.2. Law on Public Property ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 72/2011, 88/2013, 105/2014, 104/2016 - Dr. Law, 108/2016, 113/2017, 95/2018 and 153/2020)²² regulates the right of public property and certain other property rights of the Republic of Serbia, autonomous provinces and local self-government units (**Article1**). The law defines 3 forms of public property: state property, provincial property and municipal property, i.e. city property (**Article2**) and republic authorities, the autonomous region and its organs and organizations and the local self-government unit and its bodies and organizations as beneficiaries of publicly owned property.

2. EDUCATION AND CULTURE

2.1. Law on the Basics of Education and Educational System ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 88/2017, 27/2018 - other Law, 10/2019, 27/2018 - other Law and 6/2020),²³ defines in **Article 4** (right to free education) that a regular student is a person who is in the first grade of secondary education and vocational education, younger than 17 years, and as an extraordinary student - a person over 17 years of age. A person over the age of 17 who completed elementary school for eight years in the previous school year can enroll in a secondary school in the next school year as a regular student. A person who has acquired secondary education, and wants to reclassify or qualify, acquire a specialist or master's education, pays tuition with the possibility that some extraordinary students - persons over 17, due to a difficult material and social situation, can be exempt from paying tuition, in order to achieve full equality in the acquisition of education and training. **Article 29** of the Law stipulates that the time a student spends at school is governed by a special law (Article 28 of the Law on Secondary Education), whose regulations may be relevant for understanding the relationship between the time a student spends in school and private life and the general well-being of children and youth. The law further determines the rights of the child and the students (**Article79**), the obligations (**Article 80**) and the responsibilities of students (**Article83**). The rights of the child and the students are exercised in accordance with confirmed international treaties, this and other applicable laws.

²¹ Under the public interest programme from paragraph 1 of this Article, these articles are especially considered programs in the field of social protection, combat-disability protection, protection of persons with disabilities, social care of children, protection of internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija and refugees, encouraging birth rights, assistance to the elderly, health care, protection and promotion of human and minority rights, education, science, culture, information, environmental protection, sustainable development, anti-corruption programmes, as well as humanitarian programmes and other programmes in which the association exclusively and directly follows public needs.

²² https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_javnoj_svojini.html

²³ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_osnovama_sistema_obrazovanja_i_vaspitanja.html

Institution, i.e. employees of the institution are obliged to ensure the realization of the rights of the child and students, especially with regards to their right to:

- 1) quality of education that ensures the realization of the principles and objectives of articles 12, 7 and 8 of this Law;
- 2) appreciation of personality;
- 3) support for versatile personality development, support for specially expressed talents and their affirmation;
- 4) protection against discrimination, violence, abuse and neglect;
- 5) timely and complete information on issues relevant to education;
- 6) information on rights and obligations;
- 7) participation in the work of school authorities, in accordance with this and other relevant laws;
- 8) freedom of association in different groups, clubs and organizing of the student parliament;
- 9) the public information and the rationale for evaluating and submitting objections to the grades and exams issued;
- 10) initiate review of the responsibility of participants in the educational process if the rights from paragraph 1-9 of this Article have not been fulfilled;
- 11) protection and fair treatment of the institution towards the child and the student;
- 12) scholarship, loan, accommodation and nutrition in the home of students, in accordance with a special law;
- 13) other rights in the field of education and training, in accordance with the law.

In exercising their rights, the student must not endanger others in exercising their own entitled rights.

The student has an obligation to:

- 1) attend classes regularly and perform schoolwork;
- 2) respects the school's rules of conduct, the decisions of the school's principals and organs;
- 3) works to adopt the knowledge, skills and attitudes established by the school curriculum, monitor its own progress and report on it to teachers and parents, or other legal advocates;
- 4) does not impede the performance of classes and does not leave class without prior teacher's approval;
- 5) respects the personality of other students, teachers and other employees of the school;
- 6) preserves the property of the school and the cleanliness and aesthetic appearance of school premises;
- 7) take care of the preservation of the environment and behave in accordance with the rules of ecological ethics.

Towards a student who infringes the rules of conduct at the school or fails to respect the decisions of the principal and the school body, unjustifiably misses the teaching of five classes, i.e. which by his behavior endangers others in exercising their rights, the school will, with the

participation of parents, i.e. other legal representatives, strengthen educators' activities: within the departmental community, the professional work of the departmental elder, educators, psychologists, special teams, and when necessary to cooperate with the appropriate social and health care institutions with the aim of defining and supporting the student in relation to changing his behaviour. The student may be liable for minor infringement of the obligation stipulated in the general act of the school, for the serious violation of the obligation stipulated by this Law at the time of execution. Serious violations of students' obligations are:

- 1) destruction, damage, concealment, presentation, alteration or correspondence of data in records kept by a school or other organisation or organ;
- 2) rewriting or correspondence of data in a public document issued by a school or organ, i.e. a document issued by another organisation;
- 3) destruction or theft of property of a school, business company, entrepreneur, student or employee;
- 4) possession, incitement, aiding, giving to another student and the use of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics or psychoactive substances;
- 5) entering a school or other organization of weapons, pyrotechnics or another subject that may endanger or injure another person;
- 6) student behaviour that jeopardizes their own and/or the safety of other students, teachers and employees of the school, in school and other activities that are achieved outside the school, which are organized by the school and which may lead to physical and psychological harm;
- 7) use of a mobile phone, electronic device and other means for purposes that endanger the rights of others or for the purposes of fraud in the (academic) evaluation process;
- 8) unjustified absence from teaching and other forms of educational engagement for more than 25 hours during the school year, of which more than 15 hours after written notification of parents or other legal representative by the school;
- 9) frequent violations of obligations during the school year, provided that necessary measures have been taken from paragraph 1 of this Article in order to correct the behavior of the student. For injuries from paragraph 3 of this Article, for points 8) and 9) of this article a step by step approach is mandatory in the pronouncement of measures.

The student, parent or other legal representative is liable for the material damage sustained by the student to the school, intentionally or out of extreme negligence, in accordance with the law.

The law in **Article 88** defines the organization of the student parliament in the last 2 grades of primary school and secondary school as a form of student participation, with the aim to encourage:

- 1) giving opinions and proposals to professional bodies, school board, parent council and principal on: rules of conduct in school, student safety measures, annual work plan, school development plan, school curriculum, school curriculum, textbook selection, free activities,

- participation in sports and other competitions and organization of all student manifestations in and out of school and other issues of importance to their education;
- 2) considerations of the relationship and cooperation between students and teachers, educators or professional associates and the overall atmosphere in the school;
 - 3) informing students of issues of particular importance for their education and the activities of the student parliament;
 - 4) active participation in the school development planning process and in the self-worth of the school;
 - 5) proposals for students' members of the professional development planning activist and peer violence prevention team.

Parliament consists of two representatives of each seventh and eighth grade departments in elementary school, i.e. each class in high school, and in the art school - three from each class, at the bottom of the year. Parliament elects two representatives of students participating in the school board's work, in accordance with Article 119. of this Law. The student parliament has a work rulebook. Parliament's programme of work is an integral part of the school's annual work plan. Student parliaments of schools can join the community of student parliaments, as well as co-operate with associations and organisations dealing with the protection and improvement of students' rights.

The importance of developing entrepreneurial competences in students is given by the Law through **Article 103**, which provides for the possibility of the school establishing a student cooperative in order to develop extracurricular activities and entrepreneurial spirit of students. The law states in this article that student cooperatives are regulated by a special law. Such a regulation does not exist, while the work of student cooperatives is more closely determined by the bylaw – The Rulebook on Student Cooperatives. According to **Article 108**, the Law stipulates that the institution shall enact an act prescribing measures, manner and procedures for the protection and safety of children and pupils during their stay in the institution and all activities organized by the institution, in cooperation with the competent authority of the local self-government unit, which it is obliged to implement. The law also stipulates a prohibition on violence, abuse and neglect (**Article 111**), a ban on behaviour that insults reputation, honour and dignity in institutions (**Article 112**) and a ban on party organisation and action in educational institutions (**Article 113**) for which punitive provisions are prescribed. When it comes to additional support for pupils under **Article 136**, the pedagogical assistant provides assistance and additional support to a group of children and students in the institution, according to their needs. Exceptionally, education at schools can be attended by the personal companion of the child, i.e. the person who assists the child with developmental disabilities in accordance with the law. A personal companion is available to a child with disabilities or developmental disabilities, who needs support to meet basic needs in everyday life in the field of movement, personal hygiene

maintenance, feeding, dressing and communication with others, provided that it is included in the institution, until the end of regular schooling, including the completion of high school. In **Article 175** the Law prescribes provisions that make data on children and students an integral part of the single information system of education. **Article 176** defines provisions related to obtaining a single educational number under which a child and student information are managed, while **Article 177** lists the basic, educational and socio-economic data collected about them. Additionally, the Law envisages the possibility of enrolling a foreign national person without citizenship and seeking citizenship in **Article 23** in an educational institution and exercising the right to education under the same conditions and as required by law for Serbian citizens. For children and students, for exiled and displaced persons, refugees and migrants and children who have been returned to the country under the readmission agreement, who do not know the language in which educational work is performed, or certain program content relevant to the continuation of education, the institution organizes learning Serbian as a foreign language. The child of a foreign national, persons without citizenship apply for studying Serbian as a foreign language free of charge, either on the condition of reciprocity or at the expense of the parent or other legal representative, in the organization or premises of the institution designated by the minister. The child of a foreign national, while in the Republic of Serbia, has the right to attend the teaching of his native language and culture, free of charge, provided of reciprocity or at the expense of his parents, in the premises of an institution designated by the local self-government unit.

2.1.1. The Rulebook on Student Cooperatives (Official Gazette of RS, No. 31/2018-105) ²⁴in **Article 3** provides an opportunity for school students to be part of cooperatives and thus participate in the assembly of cooperatives with the right to vote, while **Article 8** stipulates that each cooperative pays mandatory membership fees for the establishment and operation of the cooperative. **Article 5** of the Rulebook defines the meaning of the student cooperative through a description of its activities that aims to enable students in: mastering the basic elements of the process of production and service; professional guidance and development of entrepreneurial spirit; creating and developing a positive relationship to work and creativity; creating work habits; developing awareness of collective work, cooperation and mutual assistance and solidarity; local communities and the environment.

2.2. Law on Secondary Education and Upbringing ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 55/2013, 101/2017, 27/2018 - Dr. Law, 6/2020 and 52/2021) ²⁵ in Articles 18, 19, 20 and 22 define programs that, inter alia, achieve school cooperation with other institutions. **Article 18** of the Law defines that each school within the school program, in addition to teaching, implements the

²⁴ <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/ministarstva/pravilnik/2018/31/9/reg>

²⁵ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_srednjem_obrazovanju_i_vaspitanju.html

program of school sports, in addition to the development and practice of healthy lifestyles, awareness of the importance of health and safety, the need for nurturing and development of physical abilities and cooperation with local sports organizations. During the school year, the school can organize school's sports week. **Article 19** zakon enables the cooperation of schools with local self-government, which includes cooperation with youth offices in local self-government units, which is achieved on the basis of a programme that forms part of the school curriculum and part of the school's development plan. **Article 20** states that the school encourages and nurtures partnerships with parents and other legal representatives of students, based on the principles of mutual understanding, respect and trust through the Family Co-operation Programme. The program contains areas, content and forms of cooperation with parents, i.e. other legal representatives of students, which include: detailed information and counseling of parents, inclusion of parents in school activities, consultation in decision-making on security, teaching, extracurricular, organizational and financial issues, improvements in the quality of education, as well as ensuring comprehensiveness and durability of educational impacts. The programme also includes ways of co-operation with the municipal council of parents. To monitor the success of the program, the school may organize a survey of parents at the end of each semester regarding their satisfaction with the program and their suggestions for the next semester. Polling is conducted anonymously to be more objective. The opinion of the parents, i.e. legal representative, obtained as a result of the survey, is taken into account in the process of evaluating the quality of the school's work.

The Occupational Safety and Health Programme (**Article 22**) includes joint activities of the school, parents and local self-government, aimed at developing awareness for the implementation and improvement of safety and health at work. The Law also defines 2 relatively new forms of educational delivery – dual education and distance learning. Dual education is defined as a model of realization in the system of secondary vocational education and training in which through theoretical teaching and training in school and learning through work with the employer, students acquire, improve and build knowledge, skills and attitudes in accordance with the standard of qualification and curriculum of teaching and learning (**Article 26a**). Distance learning is achieved at the request of the parents, i.e. legal representative, for each school year. The school decides on distance learning based on the personnel, spatial and material and technical conditions required for this type of education. To organize distance learning classes, the school is applying to the Ministry for approval. The minister is issuing a Declaration that gives consent for the organizing of distance learning. The school keeps records of the education of students who attend distance learning classes. Closer personnel and material-technical conditions for distance learning, way of ensuring the quality and evaluation of achievements, manner of recording distance teaching, criteria on which a student is granted consent to attend distance classes, as well as other issues related to achieving distance learning, is issues by the line minister (**Article 27**). The Rulebook on the implementation of distance learning in secondary education

was not enacted by the time this document emerged, while the **Rulebook on closer conditions for realization and manner of quality assurance and evaluation of distance learning in primary school ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 109/2020)** has been in force.²⁶

2.3. Dual Education Act ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 101/2017 and 6/2020) and bylaws,²⁷ implemented from the school year 2019/2020, in the part dealing with protection of the rights of students, refers to the regulations of other relevant laws, noting that learning through work with the employer prohibits discrimination against students physical, psychological, social, sexual, digital and any other violence, abuse and neglect of pupils, in accordance with the law governing the basics of the education system and other. In **Article 6**, the Law defines that the volume of learning through work is at least 20% and up to 80% of the hours spent on professional subjects, in accordance with the appropriate curriculum of teaching and learning. Learning through work is realized in accordance with the school calendar during the school year, up to six hours a day, or 30 hours a week, in accordance with the curriculum of teaching and learning. Learning through work cannot be realized from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. the following day. Learning through work is fully implemented by one or more employers in accordance with the plan and curriculum of teaching and learning. Part of the learning through work can be realized in the school in accordance with the plan and curriculum of teaching and learning, i.e. if it is not possible to achieve it in its entirety with the employer. At school, up to 25% of learning classes are realized through work envisioned in the curriculum. According to the **Article 25** of the Law, termination of the contract on learning through work by the student, i.e. the parent or other legal representative of the student, is possible under the following conditions:

- 1) A student loses the status of a pupil at the school or decides to change the educational profile for which he is educated;
- 2) A student permanently loses his or her health capacity to work in the profession for which he is being educated;
- 3) the employer does not fulfil the obligations under the employer's learning-through-work contract;
- 4) a decision has been issued on the termination of fulfillment of the conditions for learning through work under the Article 12. paragraph 8. of this Law;
- 5) the employer infringes the prohibition under Article 10. of the Law;

²⁶ <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/pravilnik-uslovi-kvalitet-nastave-na-daljину-za-osnovne-skole.html>

²⁷ <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-dualnom-obrazovanju.html>

Rulebook on closer conditions, m.O., activities and composition of the Career Guidance and Counseling Team in high school that implements educational profiles in dual education: 2/2019-67

Rulebook on how to deploy students for work-based learning: 102/2018-126

Rulebook on training program, closer conditions and other issues relevant to passing the exam for the instructor: 70/2018-33

Regulation on organization, composition and manner of operation of the Commission for determining the fulfilment of the conditions for performing learning through employer: 102/2020-106

6) the employer infringes on the rights of students prescribed by the Law.

The law also prescribes pupils who perform learning through material (**Article 33**) and financial security (**Article 34**). In terms of the substances of the student's security, the Law grants the students who perform learning through work with the employer:

- 1) Personal protection equipment at work;
- 2) Compensation of actual transportation costs from school to place of learning through work and back, mostly at the level of the price of a public transport ticket, if the employer has not provided its own transportation, i.e. if it is not otherwise provided;
- 3) compensation of food costs in accordance with the general employer act;
- 4) insurance in case of injury while studying through work with the employer, unless this is otherwise provided.

The employer can provide the student with coverage of the cost of accommodation and nutrition in the student dormitory. When it comes to financial disclosure, the Law stipulates that the student who performs the learning through work is entitled to financial compensation borne by the employer.

2.4. Law on Higher Education ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 88/2017, 73/2018, 27/2018 - other law, 67/2019, 6/2020 - other laws, 11/2021 - authentic interpretation, 67/2021 and 67/2021 - other law)²⁸ defines the right of students (not necessarily 15-30 years of age because exact age range is not defined) to engage within the Student Parliament (**Article 66**), Student Conference (**Article 30**), and participation in the Council of higher education institutions (**Article 62**). Student Conference of Universities and Student Conference of Academies of Vocational Studies and High Schools (hereinafter: Student Conference of Academies and High Schools) are established to achieve the common interests of students as partners in the higher education process.

The Student University Conference consists of representatives of the Student University Parliaments. The Student Conference of Academies and High Schools consists of representatives of student parliaments of academies of vocational studies, high schools and schools of vocational studies. Organization and work of conferences are governed by the statute of the conference, in accordance with this Law. Student Conferences are consultative bodies. Funds for the work of student conferences are provided in the Budget of the Republic of Serbia. Student conferences have the property of a legal entity that is acquired by registration in accordance with the law.

The Council of a higher education institutions consists of representatives of institutions, students and founders. Out of the total number of members of the Council of universities, representatives of the higher education institution comprise 55%, representatives of the founders 30% and representatives of students 15%. Out of the total number of members of the Council of high

²⁸ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_visokom_obrazovanju.html

schools and VET, representatives of the higher education institution comprise 45%, representatives of the founders 40% and representatives of students 15%. According to **Article 75**, when evaluating the results of pedagogical work related to acquiring the title of teacher and establishing a working relationship at a higher education institution, the opinion of students is taken into account, in accordance with the general act of an independent higher education institution. **Article 97** leaves the possibility that a foreign citizen can enroll in study programs on the same conditions as a native citizen in terms of prior education (acquired and recognized diploma of secondary education). A person can enroll in study programs if they know the language in which classes are performed. According to **Article 101**, a student of a higher education institution has the rights and obligations established by this law and the general act of a higher education institution. The student is entitled to:

- 1) enrollment, quality education and objective evaluation;
- 2) timely and accurate information on issues related to studies;
- 3) active participation in decision-making, in accordance with the law;
- 4) self-organizing and expressing one's own opinion;
- 5) privileges arising from student status;
- 6) equal quality of study conditions for all students;
- 7) education in the language of a national minority, in accordance with the law and the accredited study programme;
- 8) diversity and protection from discrimination;
- 9) respect of personality, dignity, honor and reputation;
- 10) elect and be elected to the student parliament and other organs of the higher education institution.

The student is obliged to:

- 1) fulfil teaching and pre-examination obligations;
- 2) respect the general acts of the institution;
- 3) respects the rights of employees and other students in a higher education institution;
- 4) participate in decision-making in accordance with the law.

The student is entitled to an appeal in accordance with the statute of the higher education institution if the higher education institution violates any of the obligations under paragraph 2 of this Law under points 1-3 of this Article.

The law further stipulates (**Article 107**) the right of the student to be granted at his/her request the cease of rights and obligations, in case of serious illness, student practice for at least six months, military service, child care up to one year of life and special care lasting longer than the child's first year of life, pregnancy maintenance and in other cases defined by the Law. A student who is in the process of biomedically assisted insemination at her request is granted the cease rights and obligations in accordance with the general act of the higher education institution. A student

who has been prevented from following classes, performing pre-exam duties and taking the exam due to illness or absence due to professional training for at least three months, can take the exam in accordance with the general act of the higher education institution.

The disciplinary responsibility of the student is determined by **Article 108** of the Law under which the student is liable for violation of the obligation stipulated by the general act of the higher education institution at the time of execution. A measure of exclusion from studies at a higher education institution can also be imposed for a serious violation of the obligation. Disciplinary proceedings cannot be initiated after the expiration of three months from the date of familiarity with the violation of the obligation and the perpetrator, and not later than one year from the day the injury was committed. The general act of the higher education institution determines minor and serious violations of students' obligations, disciplinary bodies and disciplinary procedures for determining student liability.

2.5. Law on Student Organizing ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 67 as of 2 July 2021) regulates the position, field of action, authority, organization and way of financing student representative bodies and student organizations, as well as the framework for achieving the common interests of students at the national level through the work of student conferences and national student organizations. (**Article 1**). The Law recognizes 2 forms of student organizing (**Article 2**) through student conferences and parliaments that are student representative bodies, and student organizations. The Law prescribes the obligation of all students (**Article 3**) to pay membership fees to the student parliament or the student conference when submitting documentation for enrollment.

The right to be elected as a member of the student parliament is granted to all students of a higher education institution enrolled in the school/academic year in which the student parliament is elected, nominated by a student organization registered under this law, or nominated by an informal group of students who have the written support of at least 10% of the total number of students of the higher education institution, in accordance with the general act of the student parliament (**Article 7**). Representatives of students with disabilities and students enrolled in affirmative measures are represented in the student parliament's membership in proportion to the percentage of students enrolled in the academic/school year in which the student parliament is elected.

Students participation in the governance body of a higher education institution is determined in accordance with the Law. In the professional bodies of the higher education institutions, students make up 20% of the members, in accordance with the Law and statute of the higher education institution, with proportional representation of the less represented gender and students

enrolled in affirmative measures in accordance with **Article 7** of this Law. Student representatives from paragraph 2 of this Article participate in discussion and decision-making on issues of importance for students, especially those related to the quality of teaching quality, study rules, work plan, work calendar, enrollment policy of higher education institutions, reform of study programs, analysis of the efficiency of study and determination of the number of ESPB points, amendments to the statute, nominating candidates for the employer body and proposing a financial plan for higher education institution (**Article 8**).

Students are allowed to form an association that can acquire student organization status if its members are students from higher education institution and the intervention areas are related to the achieving of the goals referring to students (**Article 10**). People with disabilities can set up student organizations for PwDs.

2.6. Law on Adult Education ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 55/2013, 88/2017 - other Law, 27/2018 - other Law and 6/2020 - other Law)²⁹ is a relevant public policy that affects youth as adults (**Article 8**) are considered to include the following categories of persons:

1. Adults who acquire primary education in accordance with the law governing primary education, and according to the adult education programme are persons over 15 years of age.
2. Adults acquiring secondary education, in accordance with the law governing secondary education, are persons over 17 years of age.
3. Adults, pursuant to this law, are persons covered by adult education activities under Article 7 of this Law under points 2-5, and they are over 18 years old.

The Law in **Article 2** defines that adult education is achieved as formal education, informal education and informal learning. Formal adult education includes primary and secondary education.

Formal adult education, in terms of this Law, are organized learning processes that are achieved based on curriculums and primary and secondary educational programmes, and programs of other forms of vocational education tailored to the needs and possibilities of adults and labour market requirements, in accordance with the Law.

Non-formal adult education, in terms of this Law, are organized processes of adult learning based on special programs, in order to gain knowledge, values, attitudes, skills aimed at adult personal development, work and employment and social activities.

Adult informal learning, in terms of this Law, is the process of independent acquisition of knowledge, values, attitudes, abilities and skills, in everyday life, work and social environment.

²⁹<https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-obrazovanju-odraslih-republike-srbije.html>

According to **Article 14** of the Law, the competencies of the Institute for Improvement of Education (hereinafter: IIE) which, in cooperation with the organization in charge of employment affairs, performs the following tasks:

1. determines the list of qualifications by levels and types that can be gained by recognition;
2. keeps records of legal entities and entrepreneurs who are not organizers of adult education activities, where practical work is done;
3. prepares instruments and standards for the recognition of prior learning;
4. participates in the preparation of the proposal of the annual adult education plan at the request of the Ministry in charge of education

Article 15 defines the role of the Adult Education Council, which can be established by the LSG for more efficient monitoring and achieving adult education, for which it provides funding, or can form them as part of existing local socio-economic councils, i.e. local employment councils. Multiple local self-government units can establish a joint council for adult education (regional council) to monitor and achieve goals and activities relevant to adult education. The Council consists of representatives of the local self-government unit, the organisation responsible for local self-government employment, employers, trade unions and associations. Youth representatives do not participate in the work of the Council, which has the following functions:

- 1) analyses and monitors the situation in the field of human resource development, employment and training of adults in its field;
- 2) identifies the needs of the labour market and priorities in adult education in its field in cooperation with the school administration;
- 3) submit proposals for development of adult education programmes to the competent ministry;
- 4) propose to the competent ministry and competent LSG body priority adult education programmes financed from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia, i.e. from the LSG budget.

The organizer of adult education activities in addition to primary and secondary schools may be another institution, public agency, public enterprise, organization in charge of employment affairs, employment agency, business company, professional rehabilitation jobs, entrepreneur, trade union organization, association, professional society, adult education organizations (people, workers, open university, third-age university, etc.), centers and organizations, language schools, organizations for training and development of human resources, for drivers' training, chamber of commerce, career guidance and counseling centre, employers' association, cultural and educational centre, as well as other entities registered for educational activities in accordance with regulations governing the classification of activities (**Article 16**).

Achieving adult education according to **Article 20** is done through lectures, training, courses, seminars, workshops, bleachers, counseling and other forms of learning and education. Adult education can be done through: regular teaching, consultative and instructional work, consultation classes, practical work, distance teaching and other appropriate ways.

Adult education is achieved by:

- 1) adult educators (teacher, lecturer, coach, manager, instructor, etc.);
- 2) professional associates;
- 3) associates;
- 4) teaching and andragogic assistant.

Adult formal education programs include:

- 1) programs for acquiring primary and secondary education of adults;
- 2) programs for acquiring qualifications;
- 3) specialist and master education programs;
- 4) training programmes, for occupation or work.

Informal education programmes include:

- 1) programs for work in the profession;
- 2) entrepreneurship and management programs;
- 3) programs in knowledge of science and technology;
- 4) computer training programs;
- 5) foreign language programmes;
- 6) environmental and ecology protection programmes;
- 7) programmes for the development and preservation of safe and healthy working conditions;
- 8) programs of creative and artistic expression;
- 9) programs for acquiring or supplementing other knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes;
- 10) programs that arise in accordance with the requirements and needs of the labour market.

The curriculum for adults is closer determined by: the objective, tasks and content of education, the weekly and annual number of classes and other forms of educational work, the manner and forms of achieving this work (**Article 44**).

The status of an adult student is obtained by enrolling in an adult education activity with a publicly recognized organizer of the activity, and the status of a candidate - by engaging in the process of recognizing prior learning. Adults can obtain a qualification if they have an acquired primary education or have a public document on key competences at the level of primary education.

Special conditions and age limits for acquiring the status of participants and candidates are determined by the standard of qualification. The status of the participants, i.e. candidates, ceases by:

- 1) gaining competence or qualification;
- 2) signing off from the program;
- 3) exclusion from adult education activities due to the violation stipulated in the Law;
- 4) abandonment of educational activity and due to unjustified non-fulfillment of obligations established for certain activities of adult education.

The agreement between the publicly recognized organizer of activities and participants, i.e. candidates, establishes mutual rights, obligations and responsibilities framework (**Article 47**).

2.7. The Law on the National Framework of Qualifications of the Republic of Serbia ('Official Gazette of RS' No. 27/18) in Article 3 defines the objectives of the National Qualification Framework of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: NQF) of high importance in the field of labour, employment and education of youth as follows:

- 1) ensuring understanding, visibility and transparency of qualifications, as well as their interconnectedness;
- 2) Development of qualification standards based on the needs of the labour market and society as a whole;
- 3) Ensuring the orientation of all education to learning outcomes that build competences defined by the standard of given qualification;
- 4) improving access, flexibility of pathways and walkability in the system of formal and non-formal education;
- 5) ensuring recognition and recognition of informal and informal learning;
- 6) affirming the importance of key, general and inter-subject learning competences throughout life;
- 7) improving co-operation among relevant stakeholders and social partners;
- 8) ensuring quality system in the process of development and acquisition of qualifications;
- 9) ensuring the comparison and recognition of qualifications acquired in the Republic of Serbia with qualifications acquired in other countries.

According to NOKS, there are eight (8) levels and four (4) subsections in the Republic of Serbia:

- 1) first level (level 1), which is acquired by completing primary education, primary adult education, basic music, i.e. basic ballet education;
- 2) second level (level 2), which is acquired through vocational training, for up to one year, education for up to two years, i.e. informal adult education of 120-360 hours of training. The condition for acquiring this level is the previously acquired level 1 of NQF;
- 3) third level (level 3), which is acquired by completing secondary vocational education over a three-year duration, i.e. informal adult education of at least 960 hours of training. The condition for acquiring this level is the previously acquired level 1 of NQF;
- 4) level four (level 4), which is acquired by completing secondary education over a four-year duration (professional, artistic, or high school). The condition for acquiring this level is the previously acquired level 1 of NQF;
- 5) level 5 (level 5), which is acquired by completing a master's or specialist education for two and one year, respectively, and nonformal adult education for at least six months. The condition for acquiring this level is the previously acquired level 3, i.e. level 4 of NOKS, and for acquisition through informal adult education previously acquired level 4 of NQF;
- 6) level six, sub-level one (level 6.1), which is acquired by completing basic academic studies (hereinafter: BAS) of a circumference of at least 180 ECTS points, i.e. basic vocational studies

(hereinafter: BVS) of 180 ECTS points. The condition for acquiring this level is the previously acquired level 4 of NQF and the general, vocational and artistic graduation, in accordance with the laws governing secondary education and education and higher education;

7) level six, sub-level two (level 6.2), which is acquired by completing BAS of at least 240 ECTS points, i.e. specialist professional/vocational studies of at least 60 ECTS points. The condition for acquiring this level is the previously acquired level 4 of NQF and the general, professional and artistic graduation, in accordance with the laws governing secondary education and education and higher education, i.e. level 6.1 (BVS volume 180 ECTS points);

8) level seven, sub-level one (level 7.1), which is acquired by completing integrated academic studies of 300 to 360 ECTS points, master academic studies (hereinafter: MAS) volume of at least 60 ECTS points, with previously achieved BAS of 240 ECTS, MAS of at least 120 ECTS (with previously achieved BAS volume 180 ECTS), i.e. master of professional/vocational studies of at least 120 ECTS points (with previously achieved BVS of 180 ECTS);

9) level seven, sub-level two (level 7.2), which is acquired by completing specialist academic studies of a circumference of at least 60 ECTS points (with previously achieved master academic studies);

10) level eight (level 8), which is acquired by completing doctoral studies of the volume of 180 ECTS points (with previously completed integrated academic, that is master academic studies).

NQF levels for individual level qualifications from paragraph 1 of this Article points 6-8, in the Registry and public documents are marked as follows:

1) the sublevel 6.1 acquired by completing the BAS of at least 180 ECTS points shall be marked with 6.1 A;

2) the sublevel 6.1 acquired by completing the BVS of 180 ECTS points shall be marked with 6.1 S;

3) the sublevel 6.2 acquired by completing the BAS of at least 240 ECTS points shall be marked with 6.2 A;

4) the sublevel 6.2 acquired by completing specialist vocational studies of 60 ECTS is marked with 6.2 S;

5) sublevel 7.1 acquired by completing integrated academic studies of 300 to 360 ECTS and MAS, is marked with 7.1 A;

6) Sub-level 7.1 acquired by completion of master's studies is indicated with 7.1 S (**Article 5**).

According to the type of qualifications acquired, NQF in **Article 7** defines 4 categories: general (primary education and gymnasium education and training covering all types and directions of gymnasiums as well as specialized gymnasiums, in accordance with laws governing the basics of the education and upbringing system, primary and secondary education), vocational (secondary vocational education, secondary art education and training, in accordance with the law governing the basics of the education and upbringing system, vocational education, dual

education and adult education), academic (higher education acquired by completion of basic academic, master academic, specialist academic and doctoral studies, in accordance with the law governing higher education) and professional/vocational (higher education acquired in basic vocational, specialist and master vocational education).

Methods of acquiring qualifications can be through formal and nonformal education and through the process of recognition of previous learning (**Article 9**).

The Law in **Article 10** also recognizes the importance of career guidance and counselling (hereinafter: KViS) as a service that provides support to the individual for achieving transparency through NQF levels, enabling the application of the concept of lifelong learning and easier mobility of the workforce. The program of professional orientation, i.e. career guidance and counseling of students is implemented by primary and secondary school, respectively, in accordance with the laws governing primary and secondary education and standards prescribed by the Minister of Education.

Although the Law prescribes the establishment of the Council for NQF (**Article 11**) (as an advisory body that makes recommendations on the process of planning and development of human potential in accordance with public policies in the field of lifelong learning, employment, career guidance and counselling) youth are not defined within its composition (**Article 12**).

The Law defines the right on, i.e. the procedure for, applying for recognition of foreign school documents (**Articles 34-37**), i.e. professional recognition of foreign higher education documents (**Article 38**).

Since January 2019, the new occupational code has introduced several new professions, one of which is a youth worker (ISCED 08-3412.03, ISCED 88-3460: Worker, youth services).³⁰

2.8 The Law on Culture ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 72/2009, 13/2016, 30/2016 - first, 6/2020 and 47/2021)³¹ under general interest in culture in **Article 6** enlists, inter-alia, is encouraging children and youth creativity in culture, as well as encouraging young talent in the field of cultural and artistic creativity.

3. INFORMATION AND MEDIA

3.1. Law on Public Information and Media (Official Gazette of RS", No. 83/2014, 58/2015 and 12/2016 - authentic interpretation)³² section II on the public interest in public information

³⁰ http://noks.mpn.gov.rs/sr_lat/nacionalna-baza-kvalifikacija/

³¹ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_kulturi.html

³² https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_javnom_informisanju_i_medijima.html

defines in **Article 15**, paragraph 7, that the public interest, among other things, is support for the production of media content in order to freely develop personalities and protect children and youth. Next, In **Articles 77 and 78** in Section XI concerning special rights and obligations in public information, the Law deals with the protection of minors, defining that in order to protect the free development of the personality of minors, it must be ensured that the content of the media and the manner of media distribution does not harm the moral, intellectual, emotional or social development of minors, and that it must not be made available to minors in any way. pornographic content on the front and back pages must not contain pornography, and must have a visible warning that it contains pornography, as well as a warning that it is not intended for minors. In section XII dealing with personal information, **Article 80** states that a minor must not be made recognizable in information that may be breaching his/her right or interest.

3.2. Law on Public Media Services ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 83/2014, 103/2015, 108/2016 and 161/2020)³³ in section II on the public interest pursued by public broadcasters in **Article 7** paragraph 5 states as one of the public interests satisfying needs in informing all parts of society without discrimination, taking care especially of socially sensitive groups such as children, youth and the elderly, minority groups, persons with disabilities, socially vulnerable, etc.

3.3. Law on Broadcasting ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 42/02, 97/04, 76/05, 79/05 - other Law, 62/06, 85/06 and 41/09)³⁴ in defining the jurisdiction of the Republic Broadcasting Agency in **Article 8** lists as one of the measures of its action in the field of broadcasting the protection of minors. The Agency's more detailed jurisdiction in this field is further stated in **Article 19** - the Agency takes care of the protection of minors and respect for the dignity of persons in programmes shown through radio and television, on which they issue a generally binding instruction. In particular, the Agency ensures that programs that may harm the physical, mental or moral development of minors will not be available on radio or television, except when the time of broadcast or technical procedure is ensured that minors are not, as a rule, able to see or listen to them. Programs that severely jeopardize the physical, mental or moral development of minors is prohibited. Additionally, part of the general programming standards in **Article 68** of the Law states that broadcasters do not broadcast programmes whose content may harm the physical, mental or moral development of children and youth, and that such programmes are clearly marked, and if they broadcast them that they only do so between 24:00 and 06:00. Section VII on advertising and sponsorship in **Article 104** defines a prohibition that purchases presented as part of marketion activities on tv put pressure on minors to arrange the purchase of goods and services and prescribe a punitive provision for it. The same article also states that advertisements

³³ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_javnim_medijskim_servisima.html

³⁴ <http://static.rtv.rs/files/20091024/Zakon-o-radiodifuziji.pdf>

and TV purchases intended for children or in which children participate as performers must avoid anything that may harm their interests and must mind their particular sensitivity when produced.

3.4. Law on Personal Data Protection ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 87/2018³⁵)³⁶ The consent of a minor in connection with the use of information society services is defined **by Article 16** of the Law under which a minor who has turned 15 can independently consent to processing data about his personality for the purpose of information society services. If it is a minor who has not turned 15, for processing the data from paragraph 1 of this Article, consent must be given by a parent exercising parental rights, i.e. another legal representative of a minor. The handler must take reasonable measures to determine whether consent is given by a parent exercising parental rights, or another legal representative of a minor, taking into account the available technologies.

4. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

4.1. Law on Science and Research ("Official Gazette of RS", 49/2019-3)³⁷ in **Article 12** Part II *Programs of general interest for the Republic* points 2 and 5 respectfully mention young scientists through co-financing programs for housing construction and providing scholarships for young scientists. It is notable that the Law does not establish a clear age limit for young researchers, while in practice (reviewing grant calls and schemes conditions) young researchers can be considered persons of 40 and older ages.

5. MIGRATION

5.1. Law on Migration Management ("Official Gazette of RS", No 107/2012)³⁸ as a basic principle in the process of implementing migration policy states the respect for family unity, under which measures in the area of migration management are proposed and implemented in order to preserve it, in accordance with confirmed international treaties and laws (**Article 3**). The law lists the category of minors in **Article 15** on housing of persons who have been granted the right to shelter or granted subsidiary protection by providing a minor without parental care, whereby the Commissariat, under the Law on Social Work Center, provides accommodation in a social care facility with another accommodation provider or another family.

³⁵ any data relating to a natural person whose identity is determined or determined, directly or indirectly, especially on the basis of an identity tag, such as name and identification number, location data, identifiers in electronic communication networks, or one or more characteristics of his physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural and social identity.

³⁶ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_zastiti_podataka_o_licnosti.html

³⁷ <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2019/49/1>

³⁸ <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-upravljanju-migracijama.html>

5.2. The Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection ('Official Gazette of RS', No 24/2018)³⁹ defines in **Article 2** a minor as a foreigner who has not reached the age of 18. The same article states that the family member is considered the spouse with whom the marriage was concluded prior to arrival in the Republic of Serbia, an illegitimate partner in accordance with the regulations of the Republic of Serbia, their underage children born in marriage or out of wedlock, underage adopted children or underage stepchildren. An unaccompanied minor is a foreigner who has not turned 18 years of age and who does not have an escort of a parent or guardian when entering the Republic of Serbia, nor an adult responsible for him/her or who has lost the escort of the parent or guardian or escort of the adult responsible for him/her after entering the Republic of Serbia. A minor separated from his parents is a foreigner who has not turned 18 years of age and who does not have the escort of a parent or guardian when entering the Republic of Serbia, or an adult responsible for him/her or who, upon entering the Republic of Serbia, has been left unaccompanied by a parent or guardian or an adult escort who is responsible for him/her, but not necessarily unaccompanied by other relatives. The law defines the principles of protection of the best interest of a minor in the following way:

- When implementing the provisions of this Law, it is acted in accordance with the principle of the best interest of a minor. When assessing the best interests of a minor, the welfare, social development and origin of a minor is taken into account, the opinion of a minor depending on his age and maturity, the tenancy of family unity, as well as the protection and safety of a minor, especially if there is a suspicion that a minor is a victim of human trafficking or a victim of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence **(Article 10)**.
- The intention to seek asylum on behalf of a minor is expressed by a parent or a guardian. An asylum application on behalf of a minor is submitted by a parent or guardian. A minor over the age of 16 who is married can participate independently in the asylum procedure **(Article 11)**.
- An unaccompanied minor is appointed by the custody body, in accordance with the law, as soon as the fact that they are an unaccompanied minor is established, and at the latest before applying for asylum. On determining the temporary guardian of a minor from paragraph 1 of this Article, a minor is notified without delay. The interim guardian is obliged to inform an unaccompanied minor without delay about the asylum procedure and its rights and obligations. Unaccompanied minors over the age of 16 who are married are not given a temporary guardian.

An unaccompanied minor expresses his intention to seek asylum with the mandatory presence of a temporary guardian. An unaccompanied minor is applying for asylum in person with the mandatory presence of a temporary guardian. An application for asylum on behalf of an

³⁹ <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-azilu-i-privremenoj-zastiti.html>

unaccompanied minor can be submitted by a temporary guardian, when it is in the best interest of a minor. An unaccompanied minor is being questioned in the presence of a temporary guardian. Procedures on the application for unaccompanied minor asylum, as well as other procedures relating to the rights of unaccompanied minors, take priority over other procedures **(Article 12)**. In the process of deciding on an asylum application, and according to the provisions of **Article 35** of the Law, a minor who can be reliably or unequivocally found to be under 14 years old does not take fingerprints. Asylum procedures at the request of an unaccompanied minor cannot be conducted at the border or in transit **(Article 41)**. **Article 55** states that the claimant is entitled to free primary and secondary education, in accordance with special regulations. Access to education to an underage asylum seeker is provided immediately, and not later than three months from the day he/she applied for asylum. A person granted asylum is entitled to preschool, primary, secondary and higher education under the same conditions as citizens of the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with the regulations governing the specific fields/levels of education **(Article 64)**. **Article 70** states that a person granted asylum is entitled to reunite with family members. An underage child born in or out of wedlock, an underage adopted child or an underage stepson who has been granted asylum, and who has not established his own family, follows the legal position of the parent who has been granted the right to asylum, which the Asylum Office decides on. An unaccompanied minor who has been granted asylum is appointed by the custody body as soon as possible. Person from paragraph 1 of this Article this article primarily accommodates its adult relatives or persons with whom it is associated with particular closeness. An unaccompanied minor who has been granted asylum can be placed in a foster home or social care facility. When placing unaccompanied minors, if possible, siblings are placed together, in accordance with their best interests, taking into account their age and maturity. When necessary, the competent authorities begin searching for unaccompanied family members protecting the best interest of a minor, and if the life or integrity of a minor or his next of kin may be endangered, especially if they remain in the state of origin, it must ensure that the collection, processing and exchange of information in accordance with the principle of confidentiality **(Article 73)** is adhered to. At the request of the person granted the right to refuge in the Republic of Serbia, the Asylum Office issues on the prescribed form a travel document for refugees with an expiration date of five years. For a person under 16 years of age, the request is submitted by the parent or guardian **(Article 91)**.

5.3. Law on Diaspora and Serbs in the region ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 88/2009)⁴⁰ does not define youth as a special category to which the law applies even though youth make up a significant number of Serbs in diaspora, and in the region. The Ministry of Youth and Sports does not participate in the Council for Relations with Serbs in the region **(Article 29)**, nor as part of the Diaspora Council **(Article 39)**.

⁴⁰ <http://demo.paragraf.rs/WebParagrafDemo/ZAKON-O-DIJASPORI-I-SRBIMA-U-REGIONU-SI.-glasnik-RS,-br.-88-2009.htm>

5.4 Strategy on Economic Migration of the Republic of Serbia 2021-2027 ("Official Gazette of RS", 21/2020-45)⁴¹ adopted at the proposal of the Ministry of Labour Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, based on an analysis of trends and characteristics related to external migration flows, as well as for internal migration, as well as forced migration (refugees, refugees under the Asylum Law, internally displaced persons, returnees under the Readmission Agreement). The Strategy provides a framework for building and strengthening institutional capacities, improving the living and working conditions of citizens, harmonising the education system with the needs of the economy, creating conditions for monitoring, encouraging and supporting circular and return migrations, and creating conditions for more efficient management of internal migration flows. All of these are central themes of the Strategy of exceptional importance for young people from Serbia and those returning to Serbia. The strategy was created on the basis of intersectoral co-operation within the Co-ordination Body consisting of seven ministers (Labour, employment, veteran and social issues; Finance; Economy; State Administration and Local Self-Government; Youth and Sports; Education; Demographics and Population Policies), representatives of the academic community, employers, and successful businessmen.

5.5 Action Plan for the Implementation of Strategy 2021-2023 ("Official Gazette of RS", 21/20)⁴² was enacted in 2020. The proposed activities and measures have a significant impact on youth, including for instance:

- Support for innovative start-up companies and digital transformation of companies, especially target groups aged 20-40 years;
- Partial exemption from payment of social security contributions of employees under 30 years of age;
- Grants for young farmers registered as landlords;
- Expanding the program of social housing for medical and scientific workers (young researchers);

6. SOCIAL POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT

6.1. The Law on Employment and Insurance in Case of Unemployment ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 36/2009, 88/2010, 38/2015, 113/2017, 113/2017 – other Law and 49/2021)⁴³ defines the terms unemployed and the person seeking employment in Articles 2 and 3. According to **Article 2** the unemployed, in terms of this law, is a person from the age of 15 until the fulfillment of the

⁴¹ <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2020/21/1>

⁴² <https://euprava.gov.rs/usluge/6236>

⁴³ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_zaposljavanju_i_osiguranju_za_slucaj_nezaposlenosti.html

conditions for retirement, i.e. up to 65 years of age, able and immediately ready to work, who has not established a working relationship or otherwise exercised the right to work, which is kept on the unemployment register and seeks active employment. The unemployed actively seek employment if they neatly fulfill the obligations they have under the law and individual employment plan. Unemployed, in accordance with this law, are not considered a regular student, undergraduate student up to the age of 26, a person who has had employment rights in accordance with the law, and a person who has met the requirement for retirement in accordance with the regulations on pension and disability insurance. **Article 3** of the Law defines the notion of a person seeking employment as an unemployed or employed person seeking employment change and another person seeking employment. An employee who is seeking a change of employment is a person who is in a working relationship or otherwise eligible for employment, who actively seeks a change of employment and is kept on the records of persons seeking employment change. Another person seeking employment is a person over the age of 15 who seeks employment, who cannot be considered unemployed or a person seeking a change in employment, in terms of this law. **Article 20** prohibits employment agencies to employ minors, and employment in high-risk jobs, in accordance with regulations governing the appropriate area. This segment of employment is entirely within the jurisdiction of the NES. The law stipulates in **Article 28** the establishment of national and local advisory bodies in the field of employment - employment councils. The Republic Council envisions, inter-alia, the participation of representatives of associations relevant to the field of employment, i.e. those supporting the protection of the interests of the unemployed - persons with disabilities, national minorities, participants in armed conflicts, women, youth, etc. (**Article 30**). Documents detailing the position of youth in the labour market are the Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2021-2026 and the accompanying Action Plan (as stipulate in Articles 36-39 of the Law).⁴⁴

6.2. Law on Occupational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities ("Official Gazette RS", No. 36/2009 and 32/2013)⁴⁵ in **Article 3 defines an unemployed person with disabilities as a person aged 15-65 with lasting consequences of bodily, sensory, mental impairment or illnesses that cannot be eliminated by treatment or medical rehabilitation, which faces social and other restrictions that impacts on their work ability and employment or employment under equal conditions, inclusion in the labour market and applying for the employment with other persons. According to **Article 39** of the Law, a company for professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities as a legal entity that employs and performs professional rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, in accordance with this Law, within its activities, implements programs of measures and activities of professional**

⁴⁴ http://www.nsz.gov.rs/live/dokumenti/strategija_zapo_ljavanja_u_rs_za_period_2021._do_2026._godine.cid74576

⁴⁵ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_profesionalnoj_rehabilitaciji_i_zaposljavanju_osoba_sa_invaliditetom.html

rehabilitation among other persons and for high school students who gain education in programs for students with developmental disabilities.

6.3. Labour Law ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 24/2005, 61/2005, 54/2009, 32/2013, 75/2014, 13/2017 - DECISION US, 113/2017 and 95/2018 - authentic interpretation)⁴⁶ stipulates in **Article 12** that employees under the age of 18 and employed person with disabilities are entitled to special protection, in accordance with the law. In the part on the conditions on establishing a working relationship, the Law stipulates that a working relationship can be established with a person who has at least 15 years of life and meets other conditions for working in certain jobs, as determined by the Law, i.e. the rulebook on organization and systematization of jobs (**Article 24**), while **Article 25** more precisely determines how to establish a relationship with a minor - a working relationship with a person under 18 years of age can be established with the consent of the parent, adoptive parent or guardian, if such work does not jeopardise his health, morality and education, i.e. if such work is not prohibited by law. A person under the age of 18 can establish a working relationship only on the basis of the findings of the competent health authority, which determines that he/she is capable of performing the tasks for which a working relationship is being established and that such jobs are not harmful to his/her health. Furthermore, in Section VII on Employee Protection, the Law stipulates special provisions relating to the protection of youth in **Articles 84-88**. According to the provisions of the law contained in these articles, employees under the age of 18 cannot work in jobs:

- 1) where particularly hard physical work is performed, underground, underwater or at high altitude;
- 2) which include exposure to harmful radiation or substances that are toxic, carcinogenic or that cause hereditary diseases, as well as health risks due to cold, heat, noise or vibration;
- 3) which, based on the findings of the competent health authority, could be harmful and at increased risk of affecting person/s health and life given his/her psychophysical abilities. (**Article 84**)

Employees between the ages of 18 and 21 can work in the jobs under Article 84 points 1) and 2) of this Law only on the basis of the findings of the competent health authority determining that such work is not harmful to their health (**Article 85**).

Full-time employees under the age of 18 cannot be determined for longer than 35 hours a week, or longer than eight hours a day (**Article 87**).

Overtime and redistribution of working hours of an employee under the age of 18 are prohibited. Employees under the age of 18 cannot work at night, except:

- 1) if he/she performs activities in the fields of culture, sports, art and advertising activities;

⁴⁶ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_radu.html

2) when it is necessary to resume work interrupted by a higher power, provided that such work lasts for a period of time and must be completed without delay, and the employer does not have sufficient number of other, adult employees.

The employer is obliged, in the case of paragraph 2 of this Article, to provide supervision over the work of an employee under the age of 18 by an adult employee (**Article 88**).

Article 201, which regulates the contract on vocational education and training, as well as the issue of regulating work practices, is important for young people. According to this article of the Law on Professional Training, the contract on professional training can be concluded, for the purpose of performing internships, i.e. taking an expert exam, when the law or regulation stipulates this as a special condition for independent work in the profession. The contract on professional development can be concluded for the professional development and acquisition of special knowledge and ability to work in the profession, i.e. to perform specialization, during the time determined by the training and specialization program, in accordance with special regulations. An employer can provide a person with professional education and training and monetary compensation and other rights, in accordance with the law, general act or contract on vocational education and training. Monetary compensation from paragraph 3 of this Article is not considered a profit in terms of this Law. Contract from points 1 and 2 of this Article is concluded in writing.

A fine from 600,000 RSD to 1,500,000 RSD is stipulated for violating the provisions of the Law on Youth Protection. The Law recognizes the term youth (especially regulates the protection of youth) as the age of 15 to 21.

6.4 Law on Social Protection ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 24/2011)⁴⁷ defines young persons as welfare beneficiaries under **Article 41**, under which the beneficiary of rights or social welfare services is an individual, i.e. a family that faces obstacles in meeting needs, which cannot reach or maintain quality of life or does not have sufficient funds to meet basic life needs, and cannot achieve them with its work, income from property or other sources. A minor (hereinafter: child) and adult until the age of 26 (hereinafter: young person, youth, i.e. youth) is a beneficiary in terms of paragraph 1. of this Article, when his health, safety and development is at risk due to family and other life circumstances, i.e. if it is certain that without the support of the social welfare system he/she cannot reach the optimal level of development, especially:

- 1) if a person is without parental care or at risk of loss of parental care;
- 2) if his/her parent, guardian or other person who cares for him/her directly is unable to care for him/her without the support of the social welfare system, due to health reasons, mental illness, intellectual difficulties or adverse socio-economic circumstances;

⁴⁷ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_socijalnoj_zastiti.html

- 3) if he/she has developmental disabilities (physical, intellectual, mental, sensory, speech-language, socio-emotional, multiple), and his/her needs for care and material certainty exceed the possibilities of family;
- 4) if he/she conflicts with parents, guardians and the community and endangers him/herself and the environment through their behaviour;
- 5) if he/she faces difficulties due to alcohol, drug or another narcotics abuse;
- 6) if there is a risk that he/she will become a victim or if he/she is a victim of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation, i.e. if his/her physical, psychological or emotional well-being and development are compromised by the actions or omissions of a parent, guardian or other person who cares for him/her directly;
- 7) if he/she is a victim of human trafficking;
- 8) if he/she is a foreign national or person without citizenship, unaccompanied;
- 9) if his/her parents are at odds over how to exercise parental rights;
- 10) if there are other needs for the use of social welfare.

An adult aged 26 to 65 (hereinafter: adults) and an adult over the age of 65 (hereinafter: older user) is the beneficiary in terms of paragraph 1. of this Article, when his/her welfare, safety and productive life in society is threatened by risks due to age, disability, illness, family and other life circumstances, and in particular:

- 1) if he/she has bodily, intellectual, sensory or mental difficulties or difficulties in communication, and when, due to social or other obstacles, he/she encounters functional constraints in one or more areas of life;
- 2) if there is a risk that he/she will become a victim or if he/she is a victim of self-neglect, neglect, abuse, exploitation and domestic violence;
- 3) if he/she faces difficulties due to disrupted family relations, alcohol dependency, drugs or other intoxicating substances or other forms of socially unacceptable behaviour and other causes;
- 4) if he/she is a victim of human trafficking;
- 5) where a foreign national and a stateless person need social protection;
- 6) if there is a need for housing and other needs for the use of social welfare.

According to **Article 42**, social welfare services are organized as services for children, youth and family and services for adults and older users, while respecting the integrity, stability of connections and the environment of users and family. According to **Article 43** of the assessment service, they include assessing the condition, needs, strengths and risks of users and other persons relevant to the user, assessment of guardians, foster carers and adoptive parents. Planning services include individual planning of services for their use or determination of safeguards, including:

- 1) service plans and measures for a family with a child's permanence plan;

2) a plan for the independent life of a young person who was deprived of parental care, i.e. did not live with parents or adoptive parents before 14 years of age;

According to **Article 54** = of the Housing Services may be provided by a social welfare institution, i.e. a social care provider who has obtained a license to provide these services. A home for adults and the elderly cannot have a capacity greater than 100 beneficiaries, i.e. a home for children and youth cannot have a capacity greater than 50 beneficiaries. According to **Article 81**, in terms of exercising the right to monetary welfare, the right is given to family members: spouses and illegitimate partners; children and relatives are considered in a straight line regardless of the degree of kinship; relatives in the support line to the second degree of kinship provided they live in a common household. A child is living in the family household and is in education - by the end of the deadline prescribed for that education, and by the end of 26 year of age at the latest. Furthermore, the Law in **Article 83** stipulates that the right to monetary welfare may be exercised by a working person or a family member:

- 1) if he/she is in education or training in terms of this Law or is kept on the records of unemployed persons;
- 2) if he/she has not refused an offer of employment, temporary employment, part-time or seasonal jobs, vocational training, retraining, upskilling or primary education;
- 3) if his/her employment has not ceased by his will, his/her consent or his/her guilt, due to disciplinary or criminal responsibility, unless a year has passed since the termination of his employment, or if an inability to work has occurred upon termination of employment;
- 4) if he/she takes care of his own child with developmental disabilities due to which there can be no work engagement made.

Additionally, an individual who is incapable of working, i.e. a family whose members are incapable of working and a single parent's family are entitled to increased monetary welfare (**Article 85**). Unable to work under this Law include, inter alia, a child who was sentenced to prison before 15 years of life and a child at school, by the end of the deadline prescribed for the particular education, and by the end of 26 year of life at the latest. The right to help with work training includes support in education and training for work and is recognized for children and young people with developmental disabilities who, according to psycho-physical abilities and years of life, can be empowered for certain work and that right cannot be exercised on a different legal basis (**Article 108**). The right to help with work training is exercised in the form of work training costs, the cost of accommodation in the home of students or boarding school, as well as in the form of transportation costs. The cost of training for work is paid to the company for professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities, i.e. another organization in which the person is trained, and the payment is made on the basis of the contract concluded by the centre for social work with the company, i.e. the organization according to the ministry in charge of social welfare. Accommodation costs in the home of students or boarding school are

covered on the basis of the contract concluded by the Centre for Social Work with the appropriate institution, according to the ministry in charge of social welfare as per **Article 109**.

6.5 Family Law ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 18/2005, 72/2011 - Dr. Law and 6/2015)⁴⁸ in **Article 6** does not provide for the definition of a child, but states that everyone is obliged to manage the best interests of the child in all activities concerning the child. The state has an obligation to take all necessary measures to protect the child from neglect, from physical, sexual and emotional abuse and from any kind of exploitation. The state has an obligation to respect, protect and improve the rights of the child. A child born out of wedlock has equal rights as a child born into a marriage. An adopted child has equal rights to adoptive parents as a child. The state is obliged to provide protection to a child without parental care in a family environment whenever possible. **Article 11** of the Law defines that adulthood is acquired at the age of 18, while marriage is prohibited between a guardian and a protégé (**Article 22**), while marriage cannot be made by a person who is underage, except when the Court, for reasonable reasons, allows marriage to a minor who has reached the age of 16, and has reached bodily and mental maturity (**Article 23**). The law allows a 16-year-old male capable of judgment the recognition of paternity of a child according to **Article 46**. This confession must be agreed by the mother if she is 16 years old and is capable of judgment. This confession must be agreed by the child if he/she has turned 16 and is capable of judgement (**Article 49**). In terms of exercising the right of the child according to the Law, 15 years of life is significant for a number of reasons:

1. A child who turned 15 and is capable of judgment can inspect the birth registry and other documentation relating to its origin (**Article 59**);
2. A child who has reached the age of 15 and is capable of judgement can decide which parent to live with (**Article 60**);
3. A child who turned 15 and is capable of judgment may decide on maintaining personal relationships with a parent with whom he/she does not live (**Article 61**);
4. A child who turned 15 and is capable of judgment can give consent to undertaking a medical procedure (**Article 62**);
5. A child who has reached the age of 15 and is capable of reasoning can decide which high school to attend (**Article 63**);
6. A child who turned 15 may undertake legal activities governed and disposed of by his earnings or property acquired by his own work (**Article 64**).
7. A child who earns or has income from property is obliged to partially meet the needs of his support, i.e. supporting the parents and underage brother or sister, under the conditions set by this Law (**Article 67**).

The law stipulates in **Article 90** that only an underage child can be adopted, but not that minor child who acquires full business ability before adulthood. Additionally, according to **Article 98**, a

⁴⁸ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/porodicni_zakon.html

child who has reached the age of 10 and is eligible for judgment must agree with the adoption. **Article 112** defines that foster care can only be established if the child is underage. Established foster care can be extended beyond the end of 18 years of foster care, if the child has a disability in psycho-physical development and is incapable of taking care of him/herself and protecting his/her rights. The foundation of foster care must be agreed by a child who is 10 years of age and is capable of judgment (**Article 116**). **Article 127** states that a protégé who has reached the age of 10 and is fit for judgment has the right to nominate a person who will be his/her appointed guardian. An underage child is entitled to support from a parent under **Article 154** as well as an adult *child* unable to work, and who does not have sufficient means of support, as long as the condition persists under **Article 155**. An adult *child* who is regularly educated is entitled to support from parents in proportion to their abilities, and by the end of 26 years of age at the latest. The Law also regulates the property relations of the child and the parent. According to **Article 192**, the child independently manages the property he/she acquires, while **Article 193** referring to the available property of the child instructs that:

- (1) The child independently disposes of the property he acquires through work.
- (2) Parents have the right to dispose of the property of a child that has not been acquired by work.
- (3) The disposal of immovable property and movable property of great value can only be undertaken by parents with prior or subsequent consent of the custody body.
- (4) The principal property of the child may be used by parents only to support him/her or when it is connected with another important interest of the child.
- (5) Income from the child's property can be used by parents for their own support or to support their second joint minor child.

Article 194 stipulates that a child and a parent exercising parental rights have the right to live in an apartment owned by the child's other parent if the child and the parent exercising parental rights do not have the right to ownership of an apartment. The law regulates the issue of family protection, family relations proceedings, proceedings before management authorities and personal name. In all of these proceedings, the protection of the rights and interests of the child towards the primary goal is provided, and a child over the age of 10 who is capable of judgment is also given direct participation and expression of attitude in all of these proceedings.

6.6 Law on Financial Support for Families with Children ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 113/2017, 50/2018, 46/2021 - DECISION US, 51/2021 - Decision US, 53/2021 - DECISION US and 66/2021)⁴⁹ defines in **Article 2** that a family member is also considered a child who does not live in the family and is in school – by the end of the deadline prescribed for the particular education period, and not later than the age of 26. The law precisely defines the conditions for the realization of the

⁴⁹ <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-finansijskoj-podrsци-porodici-sa-decom.html>

right to child supplement, parental allowance, as well as other social contributions to improve the socio-economic position of the most vulnerable families with children.

6.7 Law on Volunteering ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 36/2010-6) in Article 3 članu 3 defines volunteering as:

- 1) time spent on professional education and training or practical work without establishing a working relationship, in accordance with the law;
- 2) work outside of employment, in accordance with the law;
- 3) performing the services or activities that one person is obliged to provide to another person, in accordance with the law and other regulations;
- 4) enforcement of judicial, misdemeanour and other decisions of the competent authorities;
- 5) perform services or activities that are common in family, friendly or neighbourly relationships;
- 6) performing Serbian Red Cross activities related to achieving goals and tasks in accordance with the law and other regulations;
- 7) carrying out activities in political parties, trade unions and other associations, which are related to the achievement of the objectives and tasks of those organisations, i.e. associations by their members, in accordance with the statute;
- 8) performing "*ad hoc*" activities of general interest, for the common good or for the good of a third party, which do not last longer than 10 hours a week, for up to 30 days without interruption or interruption, during the calendar year.

According to the provisions **of Article 4**, a volunteer may be a domestic or foreign natural person, in accordance with this Law.

The organizer of volunteering may be a legal entity whose main goal, in accordance with the founding act, is not to gain. Exceptionally, the volunteer organizer may be a company and a public company, under the conditions set out in this Law.

The state organ, the organ of the autonomous province, the organ of the local self-government unit and the organ of the meat community can be the organizers of volunteering in accordance with this law, other regulations and confirmed international treaties.

The beneficiary of volunteering may be a natural person, a legal entity whose primary goal is not to gain gain, or a volunteer organizer whose primary goal is *not* to gain profit.

Among others, the Law prescribes in **Article 9** the Youth Protection Principle in the volunteering process concerning underage volunteers and persons between the ages of 18 and 21, to whom regulations relating to the protection at work apply when volunteering. Furthermore, under the provisions of the Law in **Article 10**, volunteering can be performed by a person who has at least 15 years of life. A person under the age of 18 can volunteer with the written consent of a parent or a guardian. A person under the age of 15 can be involved in performing educational and training volunteer activities, in accordance with education and training regulations and ratified

international conventions. Additionally, volunteers cannot work on jobs that are life-threatening and health-threatening or performed in life-threatening and health-threatening conditions. **Article 15** of the Law prescribes the obligation to sign volunteer contracts between organisers and volunteers when it comes to, among other categories, an underage volunteer. The Law defines the obligations of volunteers in **Articles 22-24**, while **Article 25-30** defines the obligations of volunteer organisers.

7. HEALTH CARE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

7.1. Law on Health Care ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 25/2019)⁵⁰ in **Article 11** defines the way of implementing social health care achieved by providing health care to groups of populations at increased risk of illness, health care of persons related to prevention, suppression, early detection and treatment of diseases and conditions of greater public health importance, as well as health care of the socially vulnerable population, under equal conditions on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Within stated categories, these include:

- 1) children up to the age of 18, and students until the end of prescribed education, and no later than the age of 26, in accordance with the law;
- 2) young unemployed persons who are not in school, and up to the age of 26;
- 3) persons related to family planning, as well as during pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood up to 12 months after giving birth.

The principle of respect for human rights and values and the rights of the child in health care prescribed by **Article 20** apply to children up to the age of 18 who, in addition to pregnant women, maternity and single parents with children up to the age of seven and old, are entitled to the highest possible standard of health and health care. In terms of youth health care, the **Regulation on the National Programme for Protection of Women, Children and Youth (adolescents, children from 10 to 18 years of age) - Official Gazette of RS, No. 28/2009**, as well as the **Regulation on the National Programme of Preventive Dental Protection - Official Gazette of RS, No. 28/2009**, as well as the **Regulation on the National Programme of Preventive Dental Protection - Official Gazette of RS, No. 22-2009-3**.

7.2. Law on Consumer Protection ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 62/2014, 6/2016 - Dr. Law and 44/2018 - Dr. Law)⁵¹ specifically protects juveniles (**Article 24**), by prohibiting the sale, service and giving of alcoholic beverages, including beer, i.e. tobacco products and pyrotechnic supplements, to persons under the age of 18. In case of suspicion that the consumer is a person under the age of 18, the merchant is not obliged to sell or serve alcoholic beverages, beer, or

⁵⁰ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_zdravstvenoj_zastiti.html

⁵¹ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_zastiti_potrosaca.html

tobacco products or pyrotechnics until the consumer provides the merchant with access to a valid ID, passport or driver's license. Special rights of students or students residing abroad are defined by **Article 101** of the Law under which if the organizer organizes the stay of students or students for education purposes, i.e. studies abroad, he is obliged to provide accommodation and care for the students in the appropriate family or other appropriate accommodation, in cooperation with the student, his parent or guardian, and in accordance with the appropriate standards. The organizer is obliged to provide the student with the opportunity to regularly attend classes or training during their stay abroad. The organizer, i.e. the mediator is obliged to inform the consumer of the name, address and phone number of the host family and the name, address and phone number of the responsible person who can contact the student or student for assistance at the time of their stay abroad. The organizer, i.e. the mediator, is obliged to provide the student, i.e. the student, with the necessary information about the culture, customs and way of life in the host country. If the organizer or mediator fails to meet the obligations of points 3. and 4 of this Article, the consumer has the right to terminate the contract before starting the trip without charge. The burden of proving the fulfillment of the obligations under points 3 and 4 of this Article is up to the organizer or mediator. The consumer has the right to terminate the contract at any time before departure. In case the consumer terminates the contract after the start of the trip, the organizer is obliged to organize the return of the student or student to the place of departure. In case the consumer terminates the contract after the start of the trip for reasons for which the organizer or mediator is not responsible, the organizer is entitled to compensation for the cost of returning the student or student.

7.3. Law on Tobacco ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 101/2005, 90/2007, 95/2010, 36/2011, 6/2012 - Harmonized Ex., 69/2012 - Harmonised Ex., 93/2012, 8/2013 - Harmonized Ex., 64/2013 - Harmonized Ex., 108/2013, 4/2014 - Harmonized Ex., 79/2014 - Harmonised Ex., 5/2015 - Harmonised Ex., 67/2015 - Harmonised Ex., 5/2016 - Harmonised Ex., 65/2016 - Harmonised 8/2017 - Harmonised Ex., 76/2017 - Harmonised Ex., 18/2018 - Harmonised Ex., 62/2018 - Harmonised Ex., 95/2018, 4/2019 - Harmonised Ex. 91/2019, 91/2020 - Harmonised Ex. and 11/2021 - harmonised.)⁵² defines the prohibition on the sale of tobacco products in **Article 71 including:**

- 1) sale of tobacco products to minors;
- 2) Production and sale of sweets, snacks and toys in the form of tobacco products

For violating the provision, the penalty is from RSD 100,000 to RSD 2,000,000 under **Article 90**.

7.4. Law on Advertising ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 6/2016 and 52/2019 - Dr. Law)⁵³ as one of the prohibitions on endangering health and safety under **Article 10 paragraph 4 the Law talks**

⁵² https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_duvanu.html

⁵³ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_oglasavanju.html

about minors in relation to sexuality, as well as men and women as boys or girls with adult sexual characteristics. Furthermore, the Law under **Article 15** stipulates that if the advertising message contains a personal good on which the person's identity can be determined or recognized, the advertising message cannot be published without the prior consent of the person to whom it personally refers to. Personal data, personal records, character record (photographic, cartoon, graphic, film, video and digital record), voice audio and spoken words of a particular physical person are considered under personal goods use. Consent in children without parental care is granted by the guardian (the *Law does not define the consent of parents in relation to minor children*). The Law prescribes special rules and restrictions regarding the protection of children and minors from inappropriate advertising in **Article 21**, under which the advertising message must not:

- 1) contain the depiction of a child or minor in a dangerous situation;
- 2) directly invite children or minors to purchase goods or services or invite them to request it from their parents;
- 3) encourage children or minors to behave that may harm them;
- 4) directly encourage children or minors to purchase or lease goods or services, by abusing their inexperience and gullibility;
- 5) abuses the special trust that children and minors have in parents, teachers or other persons.

Dangerous situations from paragraph 1 of this Article point 1) of this article is especially considered climbing onto unsecured objects, entering unfamiliar rooms, talking to unknown people and so on, or a child who is unattended by a parent in possession or near hazardous materials or equipment, such as matches, lighters, gasoline, medicines, electrical appliances in the household, etc., unless the advertisement directly promotes children's safety and protects their integrity. During a children's show, i.e. a show intended for minors, only advertisements and messages of TV sales that are suitable for children's age and age of minors can be broadcast. In terms of paragraph 3 of this Article, during and at least ten minutes before or after the broadcast of a children's show, i.e. a show intended for minors, it is especially not allowed to broadcast advertising messages and messages of TV sales recommending:

- 1) alcoholic beverages;
- 2) games of chance;
- 3) means of ignition, combustible substances and other hazardous materials that may put a child or minor at risk;
- 4) weight loss products, treatment procedures, facilities that provide such services, medicines, medical supplies and dietary supplements.

The provisions of this article apply accordingly to television and radio programmes and on-demand media services that specialize in programming content intended for children and minors.

A child, in terms of this law, is a person who has not turned 12. A minor, in terms of this law, is a person who has turned 12 and is has not yet turned 18.

The law also defines abuse of inexperience, ignorance and gullibility in terms of advertising messages intended for children and minors under provision of **Article 23**:

1. An advertising message intended for minors must not abuse the lack of their experience or knowledge, or their gullibility.
2. Advertising message intended for children, in addition to the conditions of paragraph 1 of this Article, article, must not disable or make it difficult to distinguish between reality and imagination.
3. Advertising message intended for children or minors must not contain false data about advertised goods or services, especially in terms of actual size, value, nature, durability, properties, speed, color, etc.
4. If an ad message displays the result of drawing, making, assembling, modeling, etc., the ability to achieve this result must correspond to the average ability of the child or minor to whom the advertising message is intended.
5. In the case of paragraph 4 of this Article, of this Article must specify the age of the children and/or minors for whom the advertising message is intended.
6. An advertisement message intended for children or minors must not, with price data, contain a value court on the price, especially the words "only", "small", "affordable" etc.
7. An advertisement message intended for children or minors must not, together with the goods or service intended for them, recommend goods or service that is not intended for them.

The law prohibits advertising that incites or cites behaviour that endangers the health, physical and psychological development of children or minors (**Article 24**). Through the provisions of **Article 25**, the Law protects the integrity of children and minors by stipulating that:

1. An advertisement intended for minors must not contain a depiction of violence, including scenes of violence between animated characters, dolls, etc.
2. An advertisement message intended for minors must not abuse their trust in certain persons, especially parents, teachers, doctors, etc., by violating their authority and attitude.
3. An advertising message intended for minors must not suggest that using goods or services will gain physical, intellectual or other social advantages over other minors, i.e. that not using goods or services will have the opposite effect.

The provisions of this Article apply accordingly to advertising intended for children. The law also prohibits advertising in a school, preschool or other institution intended for children or minors,

unless it serves to protect the general interest and interests of children or minors, as well as educational, educational and sports activities (**Article 26**). In the section on advertising in electronic media - broadcasting TV advertising and TV sales without interruption of the show, the Law prohibits the broadcast of TV advertising, i.e. TV sales if this does not violate the integrity of the show, given the natural pauses, its duration and nature and the rights of the copyright and related rights in news shows, shows exclusively intended for children or minors, religious shows and programmes on current socio-political events (**Article 34**). **Article 46** of the Law defines restrictions on the advertising of alcoholic beverages relating to minors (youth up to 18 years old).

Advertising of alcoholic beverages, including any trademark or other label of alcoholic beverage, is not permitted. It is permitted to highlight alcoholic beverages, i.e. trademarks or other labels of alcoholic beverages at the point of sale, publication, as well as its delivery to a particular adult who has previously given consent, quality notices and other properties of alcoholic beverages at the point of sale, fair stand, in professional books, magazines and other professional publications intended exclusively for producers or sellers of such products, as well as the use of the trademark or other label of alcoholic beverage and alcoholic beverage manufacturer on the means of business communication and business representation. Advertising ban from paragraph 1 of this Article for alcoholic beverages with alcohol content less than 20% refers to:

- 1) in public space, in a place that is at least 100 meters by air away from the nearest preschool, school, health or juvenile facilities;
- 2) on transportation, except on means of public transport (bus, tram, taxi, etc.);
- 3) via electronic media, in cinemas, theatres or other spaces where performances are taking place from 18:00 to 06:00, unless they are thematically related to or are targeting children or minors;
- 4) in connection and at sporting events;
- 5) via online advertising.

Exemption from the advertising ban from paragraph 1 of this Article, alcoholic beverages are allowed to be advertised in print media, unless they are targeted or thematically intended for children or minors; and alcoholic beverages with alcohol content greater than 20% in electronic media from 23:00 to 06:00.

Also, the Law prescribes as one of the prohibitions on the advertising of alcoholic beverages and in **Article 47** paragraph 3 that advertising must not be directed indirectly or directly to children or minors, nor to show children or minors in the text of the use of alcoholic beverages. According to **Article 49**, an advertisement advertising alcoholic beverage must also contain a warning message directing a ban on the sale and serving of alcoholic beverages to children or minors. An advertisement advertising an alcoholic beverage must contain a warning about responsible use of alcoholic beverages. The ad message will be considered to contain a warning message from paragraph 1 of this Article. and warning of responsible use of alcoholic beverages from paragraph

2 of this Article. article, if it contains a prescribed sign prohibiting the sale and serving of alcoholic beverages to children or minors and a prescribed sign of the harmfulness of excessive use of alcoholic beverages. According to **Article 50** of tobacco exposure equipment at the point of sale and notifications on the quality and other properties of tobacco, i.e. tobacco products, it must not contain characters, sound or moving, light (blinking) effects or any other attractive content that would be particularly receptive to children or minors. The law further prohibits some places of advertising related to gaming (**Article 54**):

1. It is prohibited to advertise classical and special games of chance on open surfaces, except in a place that is at least 100 meters by air away from the nearest point of the preschool, school, health or institution dedicated to children or minors.
2. It is prohibited from advertising classic and special games of chance on websites that are thematically or targeting children or minors.
3. It is prohibited to advertise classic and special games of chance (games played in toy casinos, on vending machines, betting on sports results) in radio and television shows intended for children or minors, as well as in print media intended for those persons.

Restrictions on the timing of advertising of games of chance also apply to the protection of children and youth by prescribing in **Article 56** that:

1. Advertising of classical and special games of chance through electronic media, as well as in cinemas, theatres or other spaces where plays are shown or performed, is permitted, unless they are thematically or targeted for children or minors.
2. Advertising of classical and special games of chance must contain a warning about the prohibition of participation of children or minors.

Advertising of classic and special games of chance must not:

- 1) exploit inexperience or lack of knowledge of children or minors;
- 2) use children or minors in advertising, or direct advertising to children or minors;
- 3) link participation in games of chance to activities intended for children or minors;
- 4) link participation in games of chance to gaining maturity.

Article 60 prohibits advertising which refers to pornography in specialized television and radio programmes intended for children or minors, as well as in television and radio programmes in which, in the period from paragraph 2 of this article, shows are broadcast for children or minors, or whose audience is made up of such persons in a significant part.

Article 67 prohibits sponsorship of alcoholic beverage producers in terms of sponsoring print media and events organized by the media, if targeted and thematically intended for children or minors, while **Article 69** prohibits tobacco advertisers from sponsoring children or minors, their activities, or persons or activities whose audience is predominantly children or minors.

8. JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

8.1. Criminal Code ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 85/2005, 88/2005 - First, 107/2005 - First, 72/2009, 111/2009, 121/2012, 104/2013, 108/2014, 94/2016 and 35/2019)⁵⁴ determines the terms child, minor and minor person in **Article 112**, which considers the child a person who has not turned 14; the minor is considered a person who has turned 14 and has not turned 18; a minor person is considered a person who has not turned 18. The law prescribes crimes in which a minor is the primary object of protection, on one hand, and offences in which if a crime is committed against a minor, the law stipulates a more serious form of the crime and stricter sanctions, on the other hand. These are the following crimes: Allegation of suicide and assisted suicide (**Article 119**), abduction (**Article 134**), rape (**Article 178**), adultery against a powerless person (**Article 179**), abuse of office (**Article 181**), solicitation and enabling of sexual intercourse (**Article 183**), mediation in prostitution (**Article 184**), (Article 190), forfeiture of a minor (**Article 191**), neglect and abuse of a minor (**Article 193**), domestic violence (**Article 194**), birth of a minor (**Article 197**), replying to the procedure of modernity (**Article 337**), trafficking of persons (**Article 388**) and the establishment of slavery and transport of persons in slavery (Article **390**).

8.2. Law on Juvenile Criminal Offences and Criminal Protection of Minors (Official Gazette of RS", No. 85/2005)⁵⁵ in **Article 3** defined a minor as follows: The minor is a person who was 14 at the time of the crime and did not turn 18. The young minor is a person who was 14 at the time of the offence and did not turn 16. The elderly minor is a person who was 16 at the time of the offence and did not turn 18. A young adult is a person who turned 18 at the time of the offence, and did not turn 20 years at the time of the trial. This Law takes good care of minors, preserving their psychological, physical and intellectual values. When a minor is the perpetrator of a crime, the Law seeks to implement punitive provisions that have both an educational and social component.

8.3. Law on Violations ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 65/2013, 13/2016, 98/2016 - Decision US, 91/2019 and 91/2019 - Dr. Law)⁵⁶ In Part VI contains provisions on minors, i.e. responsibilities of minors (**Article 71**) and their parents and guardians for misdemeanors (Article **72**), misdemeanor sanctions against minors (Article **73**), as well as the pronouncement of educational measures (Article **74**), measure of increased supervision (Article **77**), the punishment of older minors (Article **81**), the effect of adulthood (Article **83**). The law distinguishes categories of younger and older minors:

⁵⁴ <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/krivicni-zakonik-2019.html>

⁵⁵ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_maloletnim_ucinicima_krivicnih_dela_ikrivicnopravnoj_zastiti_maloletnih_lica.html

⁵⁶ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_preksajima.html

1. A minor who turned 14 at the time of the offence and did not turn 16 years (a younger minor) can only be sentenced.
2. A minor who was 16 at the time of the offence and did not turn 18 (an older minor) can be issued with educational measures, penalty points or a fine.

8.4. Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Serbia ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018)⁵⁷ defines the conditions for acquiring citizenship of a child and other persons by origin; birth; admission; and under international treaties (**Articles 6-26**). The law also defines the termination of citizenship by discharge (**Articles 28-32**) and waiver (**Article 33**), re-acquisition of citizenship (**Article 34**) and the termination of citizenship under international treaties (**Article 36**). A member of the Serbian people who does not have residence on the territory of the Republic of Serbia has the right to be admitted to citizenship of the Republic of Serbia without discharge from foreign citizenship, if he has reached 18 years of age and has not been deprived of his business ability and if he submits a written statement that he considers the Republic of Serbia his state. If a child is older than 14 years of age, admission to citizenship in terms of their consent is required.

8.5. Law on Identification Card ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 10. 62/2006, 36/2011 and 53/2021)⁵⁸ stipulates in **Article 2** that the right to an ID card is granted to every citizen of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: citizen), older than 16 years of life, but that the right to an ID card is also granted by a citizen older than ten years of life (hereinafter: child). A citizen over the age of 16 is obliged to have an ID card (**Article 3**). For minors or business incompetents, the request for issuance of an ID card is submitted by one of the parents with the written consent of the other parent, i.e. another legal representative or guardian. A minor over the age of 16 will have an ID card issued without the consent of another parent (**Article 10**). A minor over the age of 16 is obliged to apply for an ID card 15 days after he/she turns 16 (**Article 11**).

8.6 Law on Army⁵⁹ in Article 39 stipulates that a professional military person may be a citizen of the Republic of Serbia who meets among other general conditions:

1. that he/she is an adult;
2. that he/she is medically and psychophysically capable of serving in the Serbian Army;
3. to have a prescribed education;
4. that he/she is not more than 30 years old if he or she is admitted as a professional soldier;

⁵⁷ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html

⁵⁸ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_licnoj_karti.html

⁵⁹ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_vojsci_srbije.html

According to **Article 40** those with Military High School, which do not continue education and a student of a secondary vocational and mixed military school in which appropriate general and vocational education and training are obtained for the performance of military officers and framers, and who meet the requirements of Article 39, can be produced into the rank of sergeant and from that day on become petty officers, if they complete military training after the completion of the secondary military school; a citizen of the Republic of Serbia who, under a contract concluded with the Ministry of Defence, was educated to perform military duties, and upon completion of his education, i.e. training, he will enter into service in the Serbian Army and remain in the service for at least twice the duration of his education, training and scholarship; a professional member of the Serbian Army who is sent to education, training or specialization is obliged to remain in service in the Serbian Army at least twice the duration of education, training or specialization in the country (**Article 80**).

9. TRANSPORTATION

9.1 Law on Road Traffic Safety ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 41/2009, 53/2010, 101/2011, 32/2013 - DECISION US, 55/2014, 96/2015 - Dr. Law, 9/2016 - Decision US, 24/2018, 41/2018, 41/2018 - Dr. Law, 87/2018, 23/2019 and 128/2020 - Dr. Law, 87/2018, 23/2019 and 128/2020 - Dr. Law)⁶⁰ within **Article 6** defines the stakeholders involved in the implementation of measures of transport education and training, which are largely related to children and youth. According to this Article on the commitment to implement measures of traffic education and training in order to acquire the knowledge, skills and habits necessary for safe participation in traffic, improving and consolidating positive attitudes and behaviours important for safe traffic the following must be ensured:

1. family for traffic education and child education,
1. bodies and organizations in charge of education for the adoption of traffic education and training programs in preschools, primary and secondary schools and for monitoring the implementation of this program,
2. competent internal affairs for the realization of part of traffic education and education programs in preschools, primary and secondary schools at the request of these institutions, especially for the work of school traffic patrols and traffic patrols of citizens,
3. authorities in charge of traffic operations for improving the traffic environment in school zones and other zones with an increased presence of vulnerable traffic participants and for improving the behaviour of traffic participants in these zones,
4. preschool institutions, primary and secondary schools for the realization of traffic education and education programs within its jurisdictions,

⁶⁰ https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_bezbednosti_saobracaja_na_putevima.html

5. professional and scientific institutions dealing with traffic safety for monitoring effects and improving the scientific foundations of the system of traffic education and education,
6. associations and groups of citizens dealing with traffic safety, caring for children and youth to participate in traffic education and training in accordance with their scope of work;
7. secondary vocation schools educating motor vehicle drivers, i.e. driving instructors, for the realization of education programmes for these personnel within their respective competences;

Curriculums in preschools and primary and secondary schools must contain chapters concerning the safety of children and students in traffic. If a vehicle for organized transport of children stops for the entry or exit of children, on the road with one traffic lane per direction, the drivers of the other vehicles are obliged to stop while the children enter or exit the vehicle. At the time of entering and exiting the vehicle, the driver of that vehicle must turn on all directions. The vehicle carrying out organized transport of children must be marked with a special sign, prescribed by the minister in charge of traffic affairs (**Article 26**). Exceptionally in the pedestrian zone and slow-moving zone, the bike can be operated by a child under nine years of age if supervised by a person over 16 years (**Article 88**). **Article 118** stipulates that a bicycle rider over the age of 18 can carry a child up to eight years of age on a bicycle, if a special seat is installed on the it, tailored to the size of the child and firmly connected to the bike. **Article 180** determines the age limit for youth who may have a driver's license, i.e., in the prescribed cases, test driver's license: 1) 15 years for category M, 2) 16 years for category F, 3) 16 years for categories AM and A1, 3a) 17 years for category B, 4) 18 years for category A2, 5) 18 years for category B1, 6) 18 years for categories C1 and C1E, 7) 21 years for categories BE, C, CE, D1, D1E, 8) 24 years for category D and DE, 9) 24 years for Category A, except for persons who have a driver's license for category A2 for at least two years. Exceptionally of the provisions in paragraph 1 of this Article, this article, a high school student who is educated on the educational profile of a motor vehicle driver must have 18 years of life to obtain a Category C and CE driver's license. Exceptionally from the point 1 of this Article, a category C driving licence may be given to a person who reaches the age of 18, and for category D a person who reaches the age of 21 if he or she is driving a vehicle used by fire service vehicles and vehicles for the preservation of public order, i.e. defence. A test driving licence is issued to a person who passes the driving test for the first time to drive motor vehicles of categories A1, A2, A, B1 and B with a validity period of: 1) two years - persons who have passed the driving test at the age of 19, 2) until the age of 21 - persons who have passed the driving test before the age of 19. A driver who has a test driver's license to operate a Category B vehicle until he/she is 18 years of age must not operate the vehicle without the supervision of the person in that vehicle and who has a valid driver's license to operate a Category B vehicle for at least five years (**Article 182**). According to **Article 205**, a tram management license can be obtained by a person who has

turned 21 years of age, passed the tram management exam, has a medium professional degree at least in the third degree, and has not been given a measure of prohibition by the competent authority.

10. EU STRATEGY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS⁶¹

The new EU Strategy for the Western Balkan and the accompanying Action Plan supporting the transformation of the Western Balkan countries in 2018-2020 highlight 6 key fields (en. *flagships*) interventions:

1. Strengthening support for the rule of law
2. Strengthening support in the area of security and migration
3. Support for socio-economic development
4. Increasing the connectivity of countries
5. Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans
6. Support for reconciliation and good Neighbourly relations

Within these initiatives, it is important to note the possibility of inclusion of youth in the economic reform programme in the part of socio-economic development, as well as the envisioned greater focus on employment and social reform, health and education (especially in the part of VET, but also through the duplication of available funds of the Erasmus+ programme, which applies to young people to a large extent). Through the development of a strong private sector led by entrepreneurs from the region and the EU, the Commission plans to better capitalise on the dynamic potential of youth in the region, and to foster mutually beneficial economic integration. To encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, the Commission will introduce a grant scheme that supports the transfer of technology and start-ups throughout the region and will support efforts aimed at smart specialisation, as well as the circular economy.

As part of the 6 key field of intervention *Support for reconciliation and good neighbourly relations* underscores further support is given for reconciliation initiatives, including increasing work of the Regional Youth Co-operation Office (RYCO) through the introduction of an intra-regional mobility scheme.

⁶¹ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans, Strasbourg, 6.2.2018, COM (2018) 65 final

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

ALBANIA

Albania has regulated youth care relatively recently and through the passing of the Youth Law (2019). The Law is relatively short consisting of 20 articles whereby many issues are regulated in a general way, i.e. leaving the executive branch to arrange the details with bylaws. The law applies to both young albanians in Albania and young Albanians in the diaspora. The law guarantees the protection of Albanian citizens living or residing on the territory of Abania, as well as young citizens of other countries and persons without citizenship who have applied for international protection (with Albanian authorities), in accordance with asylum regulations, as well as foreign nationals residing in Albania (Article 4) in accordance with the law. The Law also regulates institutional organization in the field of youth care, and prescribes the competencies of the ministry in charge of youth (Article 5), as well as the competencies of other state bodies and ministries in the field of youth care (Article 6), by instructing them to prepare sectoral policies, laws and bylaws dealing with youth rights within their scope of work; contribute to the development of inter-sectoral policies and programmes; and to provide the annual or multi-year budget plans necessary for the realization of youth rights; to co-operate with other relevant institutions to protect the rights of youth. Certain provisions of the Law refer to the inter-sectoral character of youth care, but the general impression is that there are very few norms through which this intersectoral character is operationalized. Certain norms, such as those in Article 15, which stipulate inter-alia, that 'state funds for youth are *shown in the budget of the ministry in charge of youth*', may in fact hinder the impression of the sectoral character of the Law, because the assumption that funds for youth are allocated in the budgets of other ministries, for example, funds intended for the areas of education and sports, but this Law does not recognize these funds as 'means for youth', because they are in the departments of other ministries.

Subject	The Law on Youth in Albania regulates the protection of youth rights, creating conditions for youth activism, participation and support, defining the scope of work and competencies of institutions at the national and local level, and co-operation with youth organisations (Article 1).
Objective	The purpose of the law is to determine the activities, mechanisms and governing bodies responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of youth in Albania and Albanian youth in diaspora, as well as for financing youth activities within the right of youth to special protection of the state (Article 2).

Principles	<p>The Law establishes the principles on which support for youth action is based (Article 4): a) the principle of equality and nondiscrimination; b) principle of equal opportunities and guarantees for youth participation in the processes of creation and decision-making in the areas of education, research, financial policies, employment, volunteering, protection and inclusion, health care, culture, sports, environment, tourism, justice, internal and external affairs, integration and defence, ICT, entrepreneurship, and other areas that encourage youth development; initiative and independent management of the organization;d) principle of subsidies;</p>
Definition of a young person	<p>A young person is a person from 15 to 29 years of age.</p>
Youth work and youth professions	<p>The Law on Youth defines youth work, but does not regulate other issues related to youth work, for example the issue of youth occupations, professionalization of youth work, etc., nor does it regulate the position of youth work in the youth care system. Youth work is defined as any social, cultural, educational, or ecological, individual or group activity with youth or youth, which aims to motivate and empower a young person, contribute to its personal and social development, and the development of society as a whole. Youth work is achieved by engaging youth in activities that respond to their needs, interests, ideas and experiences. Youth work is a process of informal learning through which young people acquire knowledge, skills, values and attitudes necessary for personal development, social integration and active citizenship (Article 14).</p>
Youth rights and responsibilities	<p>The law does not regulate this issue except to guarantee the protection of young Albanian citizens, as well as foreign young citizens and youth without citizenship who have expressed asylum applications, as well as foreign young citizens with regulated residence in Albania.</p>
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	<p>Young people in Albania participate in decision-making through youth advice – national and local. The National Youth Council is an advisory body of the minister for youth who participates in defining the priorities and objectives of youth policy, gives opinions and proposals, advises the minister on youth issues, monitors implementation and adopts annual reports on implementation of</p>

	<p>the National Youth Strategy and youth status reports, etc. (Article 9). The Council has 14-16 members with the minister as chairman. At least 50% of the members are young NGO representatives. All members are elected by the minister, who also prescribes the procedure for the Council's membership and work. At the LSG level, local youth councils are established. They are founded by LSG bodies as advisory bodies of mayors/mayors of the municipality (Article 10). Local councils advise local governing bodies on issues important to youth, make suggestions and opinions, launch initiatives to meet the needs of young people in the local community, etc. The Council has at least 4-6 members, with the mayor/president of the municipality at the helm, and at least 50% of the members must be youth from local NGOs. The issue was closely resolved by a decision by the local authority LSG.</p>
<p>Forms of youth organizing</p>	<p>The Law on Youth in Albania recognizes 3 forms of youth organisation: youth organisation, organisation for youth and national representative youth organisation. The law does not recognize informal groups.</p> <p>Youth organizations are non-profit legal entities dealing with advocacy, protection, and development of youth interests in a comprehensive manner (Article-3). Youth organization must have at least 70% of members in the youth category, and in the statute have youth in the areas relevant for achieving goals (Article 11). Youth organization is registered in the youth database. The second definition of a youth organization describes it as legal entities that, among other things, deals with the protection and development of youth interests and have experience in the realization of influential youth programs.</p> <p>From this description, it would appear that this definition refers to organizations for youth, and that in the English version of the Law, an inaccurate translation of <i>Youth organization</i> took place. It must implement youth programs and projects for at least 3 years (Article 12). The organization for youth is registered in the youth database.</p> <p>The National Representative Youth Organization is an association of youth organizations whose status as a national representative is confirmed by the Institution in charge of youth. This institution prescribes both procedures and criteria for obtaining the status of a national representative organization, checks the criteria and</p>

	<p>assigns this status to organizations that have successfully satisfied the criteria, while the Council of Ministers upholds that decision (Article 13). Youth organizations and organizations for youth have the right to take part in open invitations for projects and programs. The competencies and rights of the National Representative Organization are not regulated.</p>
<p>Obligations and responsibilities of LSGs for youth care</p>	<p>The Law stipulates LSG obligations in the management of systemic care for young people. In this regard, LSG is competent to prepare and implement local policies for youth, as well as to set youth policy goals and priorities, establish a local youth council, encourage youth participation, volunteer and informal education, finance the development of youth infrastructure and safe spaces for youth, establish administrative structures for youth issues, provide budget funds for youth activities, program and projects, collect and process data and prepare reports on the care of youth on their territory (Article 7). However, other than the above mentioned, the Law does not regulate in more detail these obligations, nor does it foresee violations and penalties for LSG that do not adhere to these provisions of the Law.</p>
<p>Institutions and services for young people</p>	<p>The law recognizes "<i>Institution in charge of youth</i>" as a national governing body founded by the Council of Ministers and which is responsible to the minister in charge of youth (Article 8). According to the description of the jurisdiction, the institution has jurisdictions that in other countries have a ministry in charge of youth. The law recognizes '<i>safe youth spaces</i>' and '<i>youth infrastructure</i>' (Article 3).</p> <p>Safe youth spaces are any spaces where young people spend time and which meet the standards set out in territorial planning and development regulations.</p> <p>Youth infrastructure is physical space, land, building or part of the building specially designed and planned for youth and youth activities. The cost of developing youth infrastructure is also financed from the Republic's budget through public invitations (Article 16). Youth infrastructure in accordance with regulations may be owned by the state or LSG (Article 17). It must be built, reconstructed, adapted and maintained in accordance with the standard of safe youth space. The standards and technical</p>

	<p>conditions of the construction of youth infrastructure are approved by the ministry in charge of infrastructure.</p> <p>The Law does not regulate youth services area.</p>
Practical policies for young people	<p>The Law deals very briefly with the issue of practical policies for young people. For example, it defines the notion of youth politics, mentions national and local youth policies in several places, mentions the National Strategy for Youth, but other than that, does not provide any other information about these documents, nor does it indicate that there are other acts that regulate youth policies more closely. The term "Youth Policy" is defined as a sustainable inclusive activity undertaken by the central or local government body, which is aimed at creating incentive conditions for youth's personal development and their participation in public, social, economic and cultural life at the local and national level, through activities that encourage youth development in the country (Article 3). Further, it defines as a "Subject of youth policies" as anyone, institution or structure, at the national and local level, which within its scope of work demonstrates responsibility for young people, and participates in the writing of youth policies.</p>
Youth policy financing	<p>The law stipulates that state funds for youth are shown in the budget of the ministry in charge of youth (Article 15). Financing of youth activities, programs and projects falls within the jurisdiction of the Institution in charge of youth (Article 8), and the criteria and procedures for allocation of funds to organizations and youth are prescribed by the Council of Ministers (Article 15). At the local level, LSG is obliged to allocate funds in their budgets to finance youth policies, programs and projects, as well as for the development of youth infrastructure and safe youth spaces (Article 7). The law does not prescribe the amount of funds that different levels of governance are obliged to plan for different youth care jobs.</p>
Records	<p>The institution in charge of youth has the authority, among other things, to manage a comprehensive youth database (Article 8). The purpose of the database is to keep track of the country's youth data, thus supporting the process of planning, monitoring, managing and evaluating youth policies at the central and local level (Article 18). The database contains primary data on</p>

	organizations, and youth in the country and the diaspora, the National Representative Youth Organization, national and European youth policies; as well as secondary data on financing youth projects and activities, studies and analyses, evaluations, etc. The database is available on a special youth portal run by the institution in charge of youth.
Reporting	The law, listing the authority of the Ministry in charge of youth, states that <i>it 'prepares and publishes evaluation reports on the state of youth'</i> (Article 5). The institution in charge of youth has an obligation to periodically submit reports on the state of youth and law enforcement to the line ministry (Article 8). The institution also has an obligation to regularly publish reports on the allocation and consumption of state funds distributed through a public invitation on its youth portal (Article 16).
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	The institution in charge of youth is responsible for monitoring the condition and collecting data on youth, as well as preparing periodic reports for the ministry. The law does not prescribe misdemeanors or penalties.

Advantages	Shortcomings
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detailed issue of the youth database (purpose, content, etc.), which is available on the youth portal, thus achieving high transparency and publicity of all data of interest to the youth sector; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law defines youth infrastructure and the standard of safe youth space under which all youth spaces must be built and adapted; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The procedure and criteria for selection in the Youth Council are not prescribed by the Law, but are left to be prescribed by the executive branch bodies, which also elect members of the council, leaving room for arbitrary; • The Law does not contain a coercion mechanism that will ensure that all levels of state administration implement the Law in a proper manner;

AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan regulated the issue of youth care back in 1991. The Law on Youth of the Republic of Azerbaijan is in effect. The Law frames the legal basis for youth politics in Azerbaijan and regulates relations in this sphere. The Law is significantly inter-sectoral, as it includes solutions that are achieved in the areas of education, health care, labour and employment, and family care.

The law clarifies the meaning of key terms such as youth policy, youth, youth organization, etc. Unlike other perceived legal solutions, Azerbaijani law introduces the syntagma "young family", and applies it to a family based on the marriage of individuals aged up to 35, as well as single parents who care for at least one child, and who are not older than 35. Another syntagma in clarifying the meaning of concepts is 'talented youth', which refers to youth with special abilities in education, science, culture, sports and other fields.

The law regulates some issues that are not seen in comparative practice, and are not commonly used close to youth policy and the values most often associated with this area. For instance, Article 5 refers to *'Moral and spiritual education of youth and their participation in cultural life'*. This article in the first paragraph stipulates that the state executive authority realizes the sports activities they have with application in the army, military-sports games, and involves youth in cultural activities to ensure their growing up in the spirit of patriotism. Another paragraph states that the government supports the formation of youth prospects in the world, the preparation of TV and radio broadcasts, theatre performances and films, the issuance of literature and media in general, to ensure the moral and spiritual education of youth. The third paragraph states that state authorities are conducting youth moral-spiritual education activities that reduce or prevent occurrences among youth such as crime, drug addiction and other negative influences, as well as social adaptation of youth leaving juvenile institutions. The fourth paragraph states that the state body and LSG authorities can approve discounts for theatre, concerts, and exhibitions, as well as creative workshops, creative studies and laboratories organized by youth and youth organisations. Pont 5 on attitude explains the meaning of "Youth House" as a network of social care institutions that deal with strengthening patriotism among youth, organizing youth leisure time by providing psychosocial rehabilitation, legal assistance and youth information.

The law also regulates the support the state provides to talented youth through grants and other forms of financial support, primarily in the sphere of education and qualifications (Article 6). It is also organized to support talented youth to study and practice vocational practice at home and abroad. The law also regulates youth support in the field of health care (Article 7). Health services are provided to youth within the educational system, and it is prescribed to implement a complete systematic examination of students and pupils once a year at the expense of the educational institution. The government is taking measures to ensure youth employment, through job creation, and organizing of employment and training fairs (Article 8). The government can support young farmers and entrepreneurs through special programmes and projects.

Subject	The law regulates the purpose, in, principles, directions, the legal organizational basis of youth politics in the AZ and relations in this sphere.
Objective	<p>The Law defines the government's objectives in youth policy management (Article 4) through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) preparation and implementation of legal acts and state programs in the sphere of youth policy 2) Coordination of activities of natural and legal persons in the sphere of youth policy 3) realization of activities in the field of education, training, physical, psychological and moral development of young people, and protection of their health 4) achieving activities in the field of improving vocational education, training, employment and entrepreneurship for youth in the market economy 5) data management in the sphere of youth policy 6) preparing young people for military service 7) funding in the sphere of youth policy 8) organizing scientific research on the position of youth and solving their problems 9) creating opportunities for youth participation in international events and promoting opportunities for improving mutual cooperation with youth in the world as well as with Azerbaijani youth in the diaspora 10) strengthening peace, mutual understanding and cooperation with youth in the world, encouraging activities related to youth policies aimed at science, education, culture and other social and humanitarian fields 11) enabling the preparation of professionals in the sphere of youth policy 12) conduct activities aimed at developing talented and creative youth and promoting their abilities 13) informing youth in the field of family planning and reproductive health;
Principles	<p>The Law defines the 4 main principles of youth policy (Article 3), as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Care for youth in the spirit of respect for history, cultural heritage, tradition, language and symbols, national-spiritual and

	<p>universal human values, through the prism of partisanship, nationality and worldview;</p> <p>b) Ensuring active participation of youth in the socio-political, socioeconomic and cultural life of society, focusing their intellectual and creative potential on solving national problems;</p> <p>c) Equality between women and men in youth policy implementation;</p> <p>d) Unacceptable restrictions of youth rights and freedoms due to age, except in cases foreseen by law.</p>
Definition of a young person	Individuals aged 14-29 years.
Youth work and youth professions	The law does not recognize youth work and youth workers.
Youth rights and responsibilities	<p>Youth in border areas, mountainous areas, youth who move their permanent residency to these areas, as well as young people who want to engage in agriculture and rural entrepreneurship, the Government prescribes the right to land and favourable loans provided by the state (Article 8). Young people have the right to keep their jobs for the duration of military service, except in the event of an employer's bankruptcy.</p> <p>Young families are entitled to affordable housing loans and loans for the construction of a house (Art. 9).</p>
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	Article 11 defines the possibility for youth to send proposals directly or through their organizations to the Government and participate in the preparation of normative acts and programs of importance for youth (Article 11). The law provides no further details on youth participation mechanisms in decision-making processes.
Forms of youth organizing	The law recognizes youth organizations as NGOs (public unions and funds) established in accordance with the law <i>"to address youth problems, protect their rights, meet their spiritual needs and more"</i> (Article 1). The government creates opportunities for the establishment and development of youth organizations (Article 10).
Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care	LSG should enable temporary employment of unemployed youth through the inclusion of youth in paid social work (Article 8). LSG also has an obligation to organise vocational training for the retraining of unemployed youth as well as those who have lost

	their jobs in privatised subjects. The law prescribes the possibility for LSG to develop youth support programmes in accordance with its capabilities (Article 12). LSG, which opts for this, will receive organizational and methodological support from state authorities.
Institutions and services for young people	The law recognizes "YouthHouse" as a network of social care institutions that deal with strengthening patriotism among youth, organizing youth leisure time by providing psychosocial rehabilitation, legal aid and youth information (Article 4.).
Practical policies for young people	The practical policy framework for youth in Azerbaijan is based on the Constitution, this law, other legal acts as well as confirmed international agreements (Article 2). The second part of the law is called "The Main Directions of Youth Politics".
Youth policy financing	The law stipulates that the Government finances projects of youth organizations on the basis of the competition (Article 10).
Records	The law stipulates that the competent state body keeps records of young families (Article 9).
Reporting	The law does not regulate this issue.
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	The law does not prescribe violations or penalties.

Advantages	Shortcomings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law provides a framework for supporting young families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law regulates the care of young people in a spirit not close to the values of caring for youth in European societies.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (FEDERATION ENTITY)

The Federation of BiH regulated youth care with the Law on Youth (2010). The law contains 43 articles. The authority to enforce the law and co-ordinate the activities of other state bodies regarding the application of this law has been given to the ministry designated by the Government, with the obligation to also use the words 'and youth' in the name of the ministry. The law affirms inter-sectoral coordination among different departments. It was taken care that the law be compliant with other regulations, in the provision that *'the rights of a young person, specified in other laws, have an advantage over the rights in this law, relating to education, proper care for the well-being of his/her physical and mental health and safety in schools and in all places where she is educated and residing, then on youth social and health care, other rights that benefit the interests of the young person the most'* (Article 41). The same is true in the provision giving

the authority the right to extend the definition of youth to persons up to the age of 35 in youth employment, housing, education in the field of information and communication technologies, learning of foreign languages, qualifications and retraining of other issues where authorities determine it is necessary.

Subject	The law served issues of interest for the life, position and acting of young people in the FBiH (Article 1).
Objective	The objectives of the law are (Article 2): 1. creation and implementation of policies towards youth at all levels of government in FBiH, through a multi-sectoral approach and taking into account the needs, requirements and interests of youth; 2. Establishment of criteria in accordance with European principles in the work of public administrations in the implementation of youth policies; 3. Determination and defining of measures and recommendations regarding youth and youth activities; 4. Strengthening participation and inclusion of youth and informing them at all levels of decision-making in FBiH through regulated participation mechanisms; 5. Strengthening volunteerism among youth and their voluntary engagement in activities related to youth issues; 6. Implementation of the principles of non-discrimination, solidarity and ethics in all activities concerning youth issues; 7. Strengthening the human, technical and administrative capacities of youth associations.
Principles	Article 11 of this Law in a declarative way enlists guiding principles , in the form of a statement of vision, rather than as a general rule to harmonizing policies and practices in working with youth: <i>"Institutionally organized care of youth, youth association and participation of youth at all levels of decision-making is based on the principles of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, on respecting the constitutional order, law and international law and the building of democratic institutions based on political pluralism and establish the rule of law, as well as the practice of international legal standards and best international practice regarding youth with the aim of contributing to fulfilling the conditions for Bosnia and Herzegovina's accession to the EU."</i> Article 4 of the Law enlists 'European principles in the work of public administrations' referred to in the Law, including: a) reliability and predictability (legal security); b) openness and

	transparency; c) responsibility and d) effectiveness. This principle is based on the process of evaluating project proposals for youth in the allocation of funds (Article 28).
Definition of a young person	"Youth" or "young persons" are people between 15 and 30 years of age (Article 15). The law prescribes the possibility for authorities of FBiH, canton and LSG will expand the definition of the age of youth up to the age of 35, with youth education programs related to employment, housing, education in the field of information and communication technologies, learning of foreign languages, as they determine that it is necessary.
Youth work and youth professions	The law <i>defines "working with youth"</i> as planned, purposeful and conscious support for young people through their voluntary participation (Article 4). Work itself presents to youth (Article 8): extracurricular education, which can be complementary to formal education of youth, with general, social, natural and technical education; creative, ethnical, sports and cultural activities with youth; activities and programs concerning the development of their abilities, skills and knowledge, as well as social engagement; activities related to issues such as socialising, the working environment, school, family; activities and programs related to their well-being, social and health care; youth ethics; youth recovery and their stay in the nature of youth tourism activities; programs designed for specific youth groups; international work with youth; intercultural cooperation and diversity; other models of creative and planned youth leisure time. The law does not regulate the issue of youth occupations, but in public administration recognizes the occupation of " <i>youth officer</i> " which means civil servant who is professionally equipped for work with youth and has adequate knowledge of youth policies and youth work (Article 4). It cannot be concluded from the law whether this occupation is included in the nomenclature of occupation, and which institution issues the certificate, except that the competent federal ministry shall determine the procedure of training and the education of youth officers.
Youth rights and responsibilities	The law regulates the rights of youth (Article 5), stating that a young person has the right to be supported and promote their development to become responsible for themselves and socially responsible persons, without discrimination on any grounds. In this

	<p>regard, in order to achieve youth rights, youth support should be especially devoted to: 1. improving the individual and social development of young people and contributing to preventing their possible neglect; 2. Implementing policies that address negative trends for young people; 3. Contributing to the maintenance and creation of positive living conditions for youth, as well as environments that are pleasant for young people; 4. Protecting young people from the dangers characteristic of their age, which they may be exposed to. Young people have a right to be informed in a timely and truthful manner about all issues of interest to them (Article 6). Young people enjoy the freedom to join youth associations (Article 29). The law also establishes the obligations of youth (Article 7), including: 1. to actively act on strengthening their abilities, on their education and on developing the integrity of their own personality; 2. Actively contribute to building and pursuing social virtues and developing their community; 3. respect and advocate for the virtues of peace and tolerance in communicating with all people and not discriminate against them on any grounds; 4. To express solidarity and special care towards younger and elderly persons, persons with disabilities, members of national minorities, marginalized groups and individuals, members of constituent peoples and others who represent a numerical minority in the local community, live and work towards respecting other persons who need solidarity and understanding from their fellow citizens; 5. To improve the environment in which they live.</p>
<p>Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making</p>	<p>Within the Youth Rights part (Article 6), the law affirms the view that <i>'all levels of government in FBiH should, in accordance with their jurisdictions, hold public discussions and consultations with the participation of youth council representatives in the adoption process: ethics policy towards youth; youth programs; strategies for youth; part of the budget concerning youth issues.'</i> This declarative view is operationalized through the prescribed obligation of lower levels of government to form a Commission for youth as a permanent working body within its jurisdiction, which will deal with youth issues within its jurisdiction, and in which representatives of the youth council (Article 14) will participate. The same article also prescribes the obligation to establish a professional working body for the development, updating and</p>

	<p>monitoring of the implementation of local and cantonal strategies towards youth, in which representatives of youth or youth associations will participate. Young people have the opportunity to participate directly in the co-ordination of policies for youth at the FBiH level through the Youth Council. The law stipulates that the FBiH government form an intersectoral working body with the task of co-ordinating and harmonising policies towards youth in FBiH. The council actively participates in the executive functions of FBiH ministries and institutions, and at least 50% of the members are representatives of the FBiH Youth Council (Article 17). In addition to the above-mentioned bodies, the formation of a Commission for Youth in the FBiH is envisaged. The Commission deals with youth issues and at least one member of the commission is from the FBiH Youth Council (Article 19).</p>
<p>Forms of youth organizing</p>	<p>The law recognizes youth associations and youth councils. Youth Association is an association whose membership and governing bodies comprise of two-thirds of youth, whose statutory activities are mostly targeting youth (Article 4). Political parties cannot be the founders of youth associations, nor can they materially and financially support the work of youth associations (Article 32). Youth associations, in addition to engaging in political activities, are prohibited and their members must not engage in activities that in any way incite hate speech, spread intolerance, xenophobia or racism, or discriminate against anyone on any grounds (Article 33). Youth Council is an umbrella association of youth, representing the interests of youth and youth associations (Article 4). Youth Council is founded at the level of LSG, canton and federation (Article 37), as follows: The LSG Youth Council is established from more than 50% of youth associations, but at least three associations from the list of youth organizations from LSG. JLS Youth Councils formed from more than 50% of the canton's LSG, found the Canton Youth Council. Youth canton councils from more than 50% of cantons, establish the Youth Council of the FBiH. The Youth Council shall be established and registered as an association (Art. 37). The Youth Council has the right and obligation to legitimately represent the interests of the associations that established it (Art. 38).</p> <p>The law does not recognize informal youth groups.</p>

<p>Obligations and responsibilities of JLS for youth care</p>	<p>The law accurately prescribes obligations of lower levels of governance (cantonal, city and municipal). Lower levels and administrations are obliged to independently designate an officer for youth issues performing tasks in terms of this law (Article 12). They are also obliged to independently harmonise their support for youth with higher levels of government and all other public administration institutions and authorities that have one of the areas in their jurisdiction. Lower levels of governance are due: 1. to monitor the support of youth coming from the NGO sector, its quality, its independence in determining goals and performing its tasks, as well as in forming an organizational structure; 2. to keep a list of all associations, institutions, international and other organizations that work with youth or support youth activities; 3. to co-ordinate activities related to youth and youth activities; 4. to notice negative impacts on youth of any institution, association or organization, including international organizations, which are contrary to the Constitution and the law, and to propose to take legal measures implemented by the competent authorities; 5. to advise the youth and their representatives, especially on the legal procedures of exercising the rights and execution of obligations based on this and other laws (Article 13). The Law further prescribes (Article 14) the duty of lower levels of governance in FBiH to independently ensure a minimum <i>mera</i> on the plan of working with youth and youth activities, as well as mechanisms and capacities that include: 1. insurance of suitable space for youth, working with youth and in youth activities, as well as ensuring payment of the cost of its maintenance; 2. Insurance of the budget item concerning youth issues, as well as the total budget - general, city or canton level; 3. Determining the competent municipal or city services for youth issues; 4. Insurance of annual grants for youth projects by granting them through a public call with criteria, in accordance with European principles in the work of public administrations; 5. professional development and training of youth employees and strengthening the capacity of all those engaged in youth and youth activities; 6. The founder of the youth commission in the municipal council as a permanent working body, i.e. in the assembly of the canton, which will deal with youth issues within its jurisdiction, and whose work</p>
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	<p>will include representatives of the municipal and cantonal youth;</p> <p>7. Setting up a professional working team for the development, updating and monitoring of the implementation of local and cantonal strategies towards youth whose work will include representatives of youth or youth associations;</p> <p>8. Research or support for research in order to adopt a strategy towards youth;</p> <p>9. Supporting the work of the general in-city and cantonal youth councils. Cantons are obliged to plan and adopt youth programmes in areas where they have legal jurisdiction, as well as the obligation to provide funds in the canton's budget (Article 16). The FBiH government is obliged to ensure that all its development plans and strategies and programmes of action, if concerning youth, have a built-in component relating to youth (Article 17).</p>
<p>Institutions and services for young people</p>	<p>The law prescribes the obligation of lower levels of government to provide appropriate space for youth, youth work and youth activities, as well as to ensure payment of its maintenance costs (Article 14);</p>
<p>Practical policies for young people</p>	<p>The backbone of youth policy consists of "<i>Strategija towards youth</i>" and "<i>Youth Action Program</i>". The strategy towards youth is a document of institutions of government with a programmed approach towards youth. All levels of government in FBiH have obligations to define, adopt and implement strategies towards youth (Article 11). The municipal, city and cantonal levels of government have an obligation to ensure on their own the minimum measures on the agenda for working with youth and youth activities. Youth activities program is created by the institutions of government in the shop with the youth sector based on professional research and youth strategy, to improve the position of youth in a particular area. The program clearly defines the needs, the way the problem is addressed, the objectives, the desired results, activities, time, budget and responsible subjects (Article 4). At the federal and cantonal level, the Strategy towards Youth must include programs of action in the areas of the youth sector (Article 25), relating to the following issues: formal, nonformal and continuous education; employment, measures against unemployment and youth duties; social and health protection of youth and reproductive health of youth; housing care of youth; work with youth, strengthening and</p>

	<p>developing personality of youth; active participation of youth in public life, civil society building and volunteering; mobility and co-operation among youth; informing of youth; professional work and training related to working with youth; training for youth associations and spaces; youth tourism, youth recovery and stay in nature; youth activities in terms of culture, sports, aesthetics, ecology, spirituality, humanities, personal and social responsibilities;</p>
<p>Youth policy financing</p>	<p>The law regulates the instruments of youth policy financing quite precisely. It prescribes the obligation of lower levels of governance to provide a budget line in the budget concerning youth issues, <i>'as part of the overall budget of the municipality, city or canton'</i>, as well as to secure annual grants for youth projects by awarding them through a public call with defined criteria (Article 14). The law does not prescribe a source of funding for these grants (budget funds or donor funds) but it stipulates an obligation to provide funds. The FBiH government is obliged to establish federal grants and transfers to (Article 23): 1. support youth employment and entrepreneurs, especially in young people with no work experience; 2. Support for students, as well as young authors, scientists, inventors and other young people who make significant contributions in an area, and generally support the development of human resources in FBiH; 3. Promotions of certain areas specific to youth issues and youth sector, with emphasis on promotional campaigns and information on youth; 4. Support to socially disadvantaged categories of young people, resocialization of juvenile offenders, addicts, etc.; 5. Support in other issues of interest for youth in FBiH.</p>
<p>Records</p>	<p>The law prescribes the obligation of the canton and LSG to keep records ('list') of all associations, institutions, international and other organizations that work with youth or provide maintenance to youth activities (Article 13). The open question is whether this is how the canton and LSG that form the canton duplicate records of the same subjects. Further, it is prescribed to the competent municipal services to independently manage the list of youth associations as well as the list of informal groups of youth whose activities are supported by the general budget (Article 15). It prescribes a condition for syndicated and informal groups to</p>

	<p>register in this list if they apply for their LSG budget financing projects. It is an obligation for the line ministry to establish and maintain a comprehensive youth database in co-operation with other FBiH institutions (Article 21).</p>
Reporting	<p>The obligation to draft an annual report on the position of youth in FBiH is prescribed. This obligation is prescribed to the FBiH government. The report is submitted to FBiH representative bodies and contains an analysis of the state, efforts and activities of youth support, as well as recommendations for further improvement of youthsupport (Article 20).</p>
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	<p>The FBiH government will ensure that one ministry is responsible for cooperation, coordination of youth tasks, and supervision of the implementation of this law will be carried out by the FBiH Youth Council (Art. 21).</p> <p>The law prescribes violations and fines for natural and legal persons and governmental bodies (Article 40). A fine of 1,500 KM to 15,000 KM would be the punishment for a legal entity if it: 1. in dealing with youth and activities with youth violates the Constitution, law and international charters and conventions concerningyouth rights andhuman rights; 2. Youth Association engages in activities that in any way spread hate speech, intolerance, xenophobia, racism or discrimination against anyone on any grounds; 3. The responsible authorities do not ensure a minimum of measures in the plan of working with youth and youth activities, as well as mechanisms and capacities in terms of this law; 4. The general, municipal and city level of government does not independently designate a youth affairs officer who performs tasks in terms of this law, i.e. the cantonal level of government does not designate an independent official or youth department in the ministry performing tasks in terms of this law for misdemeanors from point 1. The punishment is entailed also by the liable person in the legal person with a fine of 200 KM to 3,000 KM 4. This Law aslo stipulates punishment for a natural person with a fine of 150 KM to 1,500 KM.</p>

Advantages	Shortcomings
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- The law stipulates that in public administration, the care of youth is dealt

with by a professional person trained in the job;

- Detailed and taxatively prescribed obligations of lower levels of governance in the field of engaging a professional person to work with youth, providing prescribed conditions for youth care, and policy making towards youth;
- The government's obligation to, with the support of the Youth Council, prepare an annual report on the position of youth;
- Prescribed violations are well measured, and have a corrective purpose, although the prescribed fines seem high;

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (ENTITY REPUBLIKA SRPSKA)

Republika Srpska has decided to regulate the area of youth care through the Law on Youth Organizing. Composed of 90 articles, this law seemingly very thoroughly regulates the care of young people. However, many of the issues that are presented in detail in this law are already similarly addressed by other laws, e.g. norms governing registration in the registry of youth organizations (Article 46-51) and norms governing the rights and obligations of youth organizations. The Law regulates the establishment and competencies of the Youth Commission and the Youth Management Body, as mechanisms of participation in decision-making, but without any clarity about their place and importance in the system of creating and implementing youth policies. At the same time, according to the description and jurisdiction, their role is identical. Youth policy is identified in the law with a strategic document, while youth work is identified with any activity carried out with youth or by youth. The law also contains certain provisions that may be contentious from the aspect of basic human rights and freedoms (e.g. prescribing certain obligations of youth organizations contrary to freedom of association). Detailed analysis of solutions relevant to comparative analysis is presented in the following matrix.

Subject	The law establishes general interest and programs in the field of youth, establishment, association of youth organization, activities, property and financing, rights and obligations, professional work and training, youth manifestations,
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	international youth cooperation, informing and bodies for youth policy development (Article 1).
Objective	<i>"The goals of youth organizing are encouraging the systematic promotion and development of youth organizing and youth policies with active participation of youth; animated youth; affirmation of youth activities; representing the interests and rights of youth; promotion of youth participation in the decision-making process"</i> (Article 4).
Principles	<i>"Youth organizing in Republika Srpska is based on respect for basic human rights and freedoms, as well as the original principles of democracy based on the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Constitution of Republika Srpska and international conventions in the field of youth activities'.</i>
Definition of a young person	<i>"Youth and young persons" are defined as persons aged 16 to 30 (Article 2)).</i>
Youth work and youth professions	The law does not regulate youth occupations while youth work <i>"i.e. activity"</i> is defined as form of socially-useful work in the field of interest of youth in which they are included and which contributes to improving the position of youth (Article 2). According to the spirit of this law, youth work seems to be seen as a thematic activity (all which is a matter of youth interest), rather than as a specific pedagogical approach in working with youth. The law mentions youth work and youth activity as synonymous. The law therefore regulates 'professional work in youth organizations' . The professional work of members of youth organizations include: training, research, professional training, education and training, planning and programming of youth policy development, international professional cooperation, propaganda, advertising and marketing, public information, publishing, professional management of jobs and other forms of professional work in the youth sector (Article 65). Professional work in youth organizations is performed by experts from the country and abroad, who have experience in youth work activities (Article 66). <i>'Secretariat, together with competent institutions and organizations, prepares and implements the annual programme of professional development in the field of youth work, and activities of interest to the Republic'</i> (Article 67). The competent authorities

	<p>of LSG prepare and implement the annual programme of professional development at the level of LSG (Article 68).</p>
<p>Youth rights and responsibilities</p>	<p>The Law does not prescribe rights and responsibility of youth, but prescribes the rights and responsibilities of the members of youth organizations, who are entitled, among other things, to (Article 63): the freedom of opinion and social dissection in accordance with regulations and statutory objectives; inclusion in institutions and decision-making important for the development of youth policies; public criticism of the work and community; The youth organization and its members are guaranteed with the rights arising from international conventions concerning youth organizing. The obligations of youth organizations relate to specific activities (Article 64): affirmation of youth volunteerism, organization of human actions with the aim of general social benefit, organizing sports events, fighting addiction, socialising activities in the field of youth ethnicity and other activities that are useful for wider social community.</p>
<p>Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making</p>	<p>One of the proclaimed goals of youth organizing is to encourage youth participation in decision-making (Article 4). This goal is operationalized through Commission for Young People (Art. 22) formed by the competent authorities of BiH-RS and LSG. Members of the commission from paragraph 2 of this Article shall be elected from the order of representatives of youth council in BiH-RS and LSG. Commissions are permanent working bodies in assemblies of LSG and BiH-RS. Another participation mechanism, i.e. the youth policy development body is the governmental Management Committee for youth in BiH-RS, established to give an opinion on professional issues in the field of youth policy development and its application. Members comprise of: representatives of line ministries, secretariats, institutions dealing with youth policy development and representatives of youth (Article 77). Its jurisdiction is (Article. 79) to proposes and gives opinions on the objectives, programs and measures proposed in youth policy; programs funded from the budget BiH-RS or LSG; youth activities that are of priority importance for BiH-RS or LSG; criteria for allocation of funds from the budget BiH-RS or LSG; the realisation of the programmes set out on the youth policy. LSG may educate their management committees members (Art. 78).</p>

<p>Forms of youth organizing</p>	<p>The law introduces the notion of youth organizations, which in terms of vogue law is a voluntary organization with the prior status of the association, which responds to the principles of voluntary, democratization and respect for legal regulations, and with its work contributes to improving youth status, inclusion of youth in the community, as well resolving youth problems (Article 5). At least 10 youth organizations can join the alliance and form a republic youth organization (Article 38). This status can also be obtained by a youth organization that independently implements activities in at least 10 municipalities in BiH-RS. Republika Srpska's youth allies are made up of representatives of republic youth organizations (Article 39). The Youth Council of Republika Srpska delegates its representatives to the professional advisory and working areas formed by the National Assembly, government and secretariat in order to develop and implement youth policies (Article 41). Youth organizations can establish a local youth council for the territory of LSG (Article 44). The law does not recognize informal youth groups.</p>
<p>Obligations and responsibilities of JLS for youth care</p>	<p>Local self-governments are obliged to prepare and implement the annual programme of professional development, run a registry of youth organizations and inform the republic registry of changes, plan and provide funds for <i>the 'basic functioning'</i> of the Youth Council of LSG. The Law for LSG also prescribes the possibilities at their disposal, such as the ability to form a governing body as an inter-sectoral body, or a youth commission in the bodies of LSG.</p>
<p>Institutions and services for young people</p>	<p>The law does not regulate the issue of institutions and services for youth, except that it recognizes youth facilities. Article 2 explains the meaning of the concept of youth building as a multi-purpose open or indoor space in which youth activities are performed. Under the term <i>"Facilities for performing youth activities"</i>, the law prescribes the obligation of LSG to, based on established criteria, issued by the youth commission, enable security and facilities and conditions in which youth can perform youth activities (Article 61). The law does not prescribe the mentioned criteria.</p>
<p>Practical policies for young people</p>	<p>The term youth policy is mentioned in this law as synonymous with the strategic document of youth politics. Article 11 states that <i>'the general interest is realized by the adoption and realization of the established document of youth policy at the republic, city and</i></p>

	<p><i>municipal level."</i> Youth policies are addressed by "<i>basic goals, development directions and tasks in the youth sector, such as: youth education, its moral, aesthetic, cultural and sporting values, developing physical and spiritual values of personality, awareness of humanities, personal and social responsibilities, social protection, employment, ecology, etc.</i>" during the short period enacted by the Government of Republika Srpska, while the youth policy for the medium-term period is enacted by the National Assembly of Republika Srpska (Article 14). The Law stipulates that special programs from youth policies arise from different areas of youth life and interests (Article 17), which specifically determine: the taskofweaving and mera for the realization of youth policy byareas; general,material, personnel, spatial and other conditions for their realization; institutions responsible for the realization of youth policy programs; ama; content and scope of youth projects and events that are financed from public funds; Programs are determined at the national and local level for the following areas (Article 19):employment; social and health care; professional work and development; portandculture; The law stipulates that the programmes are prepared by the competent authorities of BiH-RS and JLG, but does not attribute the procedure or the roles of individual institutions, especially those in the observed sector, to legal competencies arising from other laws governing the observed sector. At the local level of the Assembly, LSG are competent to enact with the orderly and short-term plan of these youth policies (which must be in line with the Youth Policy of The Republic of Srpska), on the forefront of the competent youth commission, with the participation of the youth council of LSG (Article 15).</p>
<p>Youth policy financing</p>	<p>The law stipulates thatfunds be provided from the budget to fund youth policy programmes (Article 18.). This provides, among other things, support for the work of youth organizations and institutions dealing with youth policy development, construction, equipping, and maintenance in youth projects and events '<i>of republican interest</i>'; It also stipulates that funds be provided from the BiH-RS budget for the action of the Youth Council of Republika Srpska (Article 41). The law also stipulates the obligation of LSG to plan and provide funds for <i>the 'basic functioning'</i> of the youth councils of LSG (Article 45). The law also stipulates that '<i>the basis of the</i></p>

	<p><i>financing of youth work and activities consists of income, which youth organizations achieve, based on the program, from the budget of the Republic, the city, the municipality, gaming revenues and other sources" (Article 53). By other sources, this law refers to revenues from membership fees, gifts, public donations, advertisements at youth events, the concession of television rights, the income generated by their own activities and income from companies if they are founders. "For funds invested in financing the work of youth organizations, legal and natural persons as donors achieve certain benefits" (Article 55), but the law does not specify what the benefits are. The law also stipulates that 'youth organizations achieve customs, tax and other incentives for procurement of basic funds, in accordance with legal regulations" (Article 56), but there are no further references to which customs, tax and other incentives is being referred to, except for the benefits prescribed by other laws for all beneficiaries, not just youth organizations. The law also prescribes the obligation of the Secretariat to plan funds in the BiH-RS budget for the implementation of the annual vocational training programme (Article 67). The law also stipulates an obligation to the Government to plan special funds for international youth cooperation in the budget (Article 75).</i></p>
<p>Records</p>	<p>The law stipulates that youth organization, republic youth organization, youth JLG are registered in the youth registry "run by the Secretariat or competent authority of the city or municipality" (Article 46). Youth organizations that are in the territory of multiple LSG are obliged to register with the competent authority in LSG where based, and in another city or municipality they are only recorded. LSG is obliged to inform the Secretariat in writing about any registration in the registry of youth organizations (Article 50).</p>
<p>Izveštavanje</p>	<p>The Law does not prescribe mechanisms for reporting on the implementation of youth policies in Republika Srpska, except for the obligation to report on its work of republic youth organizations (Article 38). "The Republic Youth Organization is obliged to regularly provide the Secretariat with evidence of its work and realized activities. The proof, from the previous paragraph of this article, consists of annual employment reports and confirmation of</p>

	<i>the work issued by the competent authorities of the municipality or the city in which the youth organization performs activities and activities.”</i>
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	Supervision of the application of the law, as well as the legality of the work of youth organization is performed by the competent republic body, whose area includes monitoring of the youth sector (Article 82). The Law prescribes punitive provisions in the amount of EUR 25 - EUR 1,500 for youth organizations and their authorized persons for violations of legal provisions (Article 83).

Advantages	Shortcomings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Law regulates a number of issues regulated by other general and special legislative acts.

BULGARIA

The Youth Law was enacted in Bulgaria in 2012 and amended in 2014. Year. It has 47 members. The Council of Ministers is responsible for implementing state youth policies through the line minister for youth (Article 4). The Law regulates a number of issues that have been regulated by the Law on Youth of the Republic of Serbia. Part of the Law on Youth of Bulgaria is the **area of volunteering**. This law regulates most of the issues relevant to the area of volunteering, without the need for a special law (Article 35-42). In this regard, the obligation of the state and JLS to promote volunteering through national and municipal youth programmes (Article 35) is determined. Principles of volunteering (Article 36): free choice, no compensation, personal responsibility, equality and respect for life, health and the adqualityof volunteers are established. Minor persons may volunteer with the written consent of legal representatives (Article 38), and cannot be grantedelite activities that are prohibited or limited to performing for certain categories of persons due to serious, harmful or dangerous impact on their psyche and organism under applicable laws (Article 39). For underage volunteers, the organizer is obliged to ensure a qualified adult team of leaders. Volonteri citizens of EU countries, EEA and Switzerlandare conducting volunteer activities in the same terms as Bulgarian citizens (Article 40). Volunteers from third countries can obtain a residence permit on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria for performing volunteer activities within the European Volunteer Service, with them concluding a contract between volunteers and volunteer organisers from BG. The contract contains: description of activities, duration, place, implementationcontrol, conditions for covering the maintenance and accommodation of volunteers, which volunteer training must undergo. The law also prescribes the obligation of youth organizations to provide information on good volunteer

practices (Article 41) to the Ministry of Youth and Sports from each year until March 1st. Volunteer organizers are required to supply volunteers with instructions on occupational safety, or provide them with specialized training (Article 42). At the request of volunteers, the event organizer will issue a document confirming the participation of volunteers (Article 43).

Subject	The Law regulates the basic principles, management and financing of activities in the realization of state policy towards youth (Article 1).
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Principles	<p>The Law affirms the principles of state policy towards youth (Article 3):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legality, transparency, equality, purpose, systematization and consistency of policies of the state, municipalities and youth development society; 2. Co-ordination of policies for youth in the fields of education, social policy, health, culture, sports, justice, interior and defence; 3. Co-ordination of state policy for youth with international youth policy (the EU, Council of Europe and the UN); 4. Integration of policies for decu and youth; 5. guaranteeing dialogue and youth participation in the formation of youth policy; 6. Freedom of youth association, freedom of youth initiatives, self-government of youth organizations; 7. Decentralisation of youth politics;
Definition of a young person	Young people are defined from 15 to 29 years of age.
Youth work and youth professions	Youth worker is defined as an adult who has undergone special training for working with youth and/or gained professional experience to work with youth and implement youth activities (Article 32). The youth worker supports the activities of youth organizations by analyzing, planning, organizing, monitoring and evaluating youth activities, based on individual approach and assessment of youth needs (Article 33). The law also prescribes the obligation of the national and local level of governance to include activities in their youth programs to support the development and special training of youth workers (Article 34), ensuring the continuous development of youth work. The law does not

	determine whether youth work is part of the national nomenclature of occupations.
Youth rights and responsibilities	The law does not regulate this issue.
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	Youth participation was established as the general principle of state policy for youth (Article 2). The law recognizes the National Youth Council as an advisory body for youth ministers who gives opinions on draft normative acts and strategic documents relating to youth policy, proposes measures to achieve the left of state policy for youth, discusses other issues on youth policy implementation (Article 10). Its composition consists of deputy ministers in charge of youth and sports, economy, tourism and social policy, health, culture, interior, justice, regional development and public works, finance, education and science, then deputy president of the State Agency for Children's Protection, representative of the National association of municipalities, representative of the National Council of Students and one representative from each national representative of the.
Forms of youth organizing	The law recognizes youth organization, alliance of associations, national representative youth organization. Youth organization is an association whose membership consists of 70% of young people aged 15-29 (Article 19). Youth organization can be established in other ways, in accordance with other laws (Article 20). National Representative Youth Organization is a youth organization that has at least 900 members and performs activities in at least 30% of municipalities in the country (Article 22). This status is granted for 3 years and can be renewed, and upon obtaining the status, organization is listed in the list of nationally representative youth organizations (Article 23-28).
Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care	Lower levels of governance (regional and local) participate in the implementation of the state's youth care policy. District governors will ensure the implementation of the state youth policy on the territory of the district in close cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and with the district's youth organizations, and are responsible for the analysis of the state of youth in the district and the formulation of priorities, goals and measures for the development of regional youth policies (Article 13). District governor is preparing an annual regional plan for youth, summing

	<p>up municipal plans for youth (Article 14). LSG heads are responsible for implementing the state youth policy in LSG (Article 15). They work closely with the ministry, the governor of the district and youth organizations.</p>
Institutions and services for young people	<p>The law does not regulate the issue of institutions and services for young people, except for the field of volunteering.</p>
Practical policies for young people	<p>The basic document of youth policy is the National Youth Strategy with an annual plan as an accompanying operadocument. It is adopted by the Bulgarian Parliament at the proposal of the Council of Ministers for a period of 10 years. The strategy sets long-term goals and prioritiesstate policy for youth (Article 4). The strategy includes an analysis of challenges before youth policy- the main and special goals and prioritiesof state policies for youth, activities forachieving strategy goals, actions for monitoring, evaluation and updating strategies. In accordance with the Strategy the Council of Ministers also provides national youth programmes (Article 7).</p> <p>At the regional level, district governors adopt an annual Regional Youth Plan, which determines the goals and priorities of regional youth policy in accordance with the National Youth Strategy, with regional development strategy and youth needs in the region (Article 14). The plan contains an analysis of the needs, priorities and specific goals, description of activities, organization and coordination of activities, monitoring and evaluation, order and manner of providing information to the public. On March 15, governors submit regional plans for youth to the minister of youth and sports.</p> <p>Local youth policies are shaped by the Annual Municipal Youth Plan, which is provided by LSG, and delivered to the district governor by January 31 at the latest. The municipal youth plan determines the goals and priorities of municipal policies for youth, as well as funding for its realization in accordance with the National Youth Strategy. The plan contains an analysis of the needs, priorities and specific objectives, description of activities, organization and coordination of activities, monitoring and evaluation, the order and manner of providing information to the public of work (Article 16).</p>
Youth policy financing	<p>The state provides funding in the budget to fund national youth programmes (Article 8). The conditions and procedures for</p>

	<p>financing projects within the youth curriculum will be determined by the youth and sports minister's rulebook in coordination with the finance minister. Funding for the realisation of the municipal youth plan is planned in the LSG budgets.</p>
Records	<p>The Ministry of Youth and Sports runs the National Information System for Youth providing up-to-date information on the needs of the country's youth, as well as for planning, monitoring, management and evaluation of youth policies at the national, regional and municipal level (Article 44). The National Youth Information System contains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data for youth organisations in the country; 2. List of nationally representative youth organizations; 3. Research on youth condition, analysis and assessment for implementation of youth policies at the national, regional and municipal levels; 4. National and European documents relating to the implementation of youth policy; 5. Up-to-date information on youth funding possibilities. <p>The National Youth Information System is publicly available through the Ministry of Youth and Sports website. Youth organizations, which apply for funding within national and European youth programmes, as well as national representative youth organizations are obliged to be registered in the National Youth Information System (Article 45).</p>
Reporting	<p>Parliament approves a report annually on youth submitted to him by the Council of Ministers (Article 5) by April 30th. The annual report determines changes in the socio-economic position of youth since the beginning of implementation of the National Youth Strategy and the achievement of the strategy's priorities and goals. Annually, until March 1 district governors submit regional plans for youth to the Minister of Youth and Sports (Article 14). By January 31, JLG chiefs are obliged to submit to the governor of the district the municipal plan for youth and a report on the realization of the municipal plan for last year (Article 16).</p>
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	<p>The law does not prescribe violations and does not contain punitive provisions.</p>

Advantages

- The law has agreed in a subtle and proportionate manner on the area of youth volunteering under the Youth Act.
- The law regulates the management of the information system with a clearly stated purpose of data collection, which is made publicly available to all stakeholders in the processes of planning, monitoring, and conducting activities.
- The law established the prerequisites for the continuous development of youth work and as well as the basics for professionalization of the profession of youth worker in the youth care system.

Shortcomings

MONTENEGRO

In Montenegro, a new Law on Youth was enacted in 2019. It contains 35 articles and **regulates the way of determining and implementing youth policies**, as well as the measures and activities undertaken in order to improve the social position of youth and create conditions for achieving youth needs in all areas of interest to youth. According to the content and coverage, it is comparable to the Serbian Law on Youth. The Law defines youth policies as a set of measures and activities that state bodies, state administration bodies, local self-government bodies, NGOs, student and student parliaments and other legal entities undertake to improve the position of youth, their personal and social development and inclusion in social flows.

The law establishes the public interest in the field of youth policy (Article 5) as: 1) the creation and promotion of youth policy; 2) establishment of an institutional framework for implementation of youth policy; 3) creation and improvement of conditions for youth services; 4) encouraging proactive youth participation in the creation and implementation of youth policies at the state and local level; 5) educating youth about the mechanisms of their inclusion in active employment measures; 6) encouraging youth inclusion in creating cultural content; 7) encouraging youth mobility; 8) encouraging youth inclusion in informal education; 9) promoting healthy lifestyles and volunteerism in young people; 10) encouraging other areas of importance for youth development. The public interest in youth policy is being implemented by the Government of Montenegro and the ministry, and state administrations and other governing bodies in charge of different areas of importance for youth, JLGs, and other legal entities.

Subject	The Law regulates the way of determining and implementing youth policies, as well as measures and activities undertaken in order to improve the social position of youth and create conditions for achieving youth needs in all areas of interest to youth (Article 1).
Objective	The law does not regulate this issue.
Principles	<p>The law prescribes 5 principles in the form of general rules, on which youth politics is based, on which youth politics is based: the principles of equality, volunteerism, solidarity, active participation and youth information.</p> <p>The principle of equality states that young people are equal in exercising of rights, regardless of age, physical ability, physical appearance, state of health, disability, national, racial, ethnical or religious affiliation, sex, language, political affiliation, property status, sexual orientation, gender identity and other ground (Article 8).</p> <p>The youth volunteering principle state that youth contribute to the building of social virtues and the development of society through various forms of volunteering activities (Article 9).</p> <p>The youth solidarity principle states that young people express intergenerational solidarity and work to create conditions for equal access to all aspects of youth social life (Article 10).</p> <p>The principle of active participation of youth states that youth actively participates in the process of creating and implementing youth policies through coordination and development of inter-sectoral partnerships, cooperation with youth and subjects who plan and implement youth policies (Article 11).</p> <p>The youth information principle states that youth is to be provided with complete, timely, accessible and usable information about planning and implementing youth policies from different actors based on their jurisdiction and publishing them on their websites (Article 12.).</p>
Definition of young person	Youth, in terms of this law, are persons from 15 to 30 years of age (Article 2).
Youth work and youth professions	Youth work is defined as activities that are carried out in cooperation with youth and youth with the aim of their instability and transition to adulthood, learning, personal and social development, in accordance with their needs and possibilities, and

	are based on methods of informal education (Article 4). The law does not regulate the issue of youth occupations and professionalization of youth work.
Youth rights and responsibilities	The law does not regulate this issue.
Mechanisms for participation in decision making	<p>The basic mechanism for youth participation in decision-making in Montenegro is the institution of the Youth Council, which can be established at the national and local level. The Youth Council (at the national level) is established by the ministry as a professional body for encouraging the development of youth policy (Article 16). The council has 9 members, 6 of which are proposed by ministries, 1 legal entity that manage youth services, 2 representatives of NGOs implementing youth policies, of which at least 1 is a young person. The council's jurisdiction is to make proposals for improving youth policies; it makes suggestions in the preparation process of the Strategy; delegates its member to participate in the process of preparing laws in areas governing issues of importance to youth; monitors the position of youth and proposes measures for their promotion; gives an opinion on other issues of importance to youth.</p> <p>With the aim to encourage and improve the development of youth policy, strengthen cooperation and improve the position of youth at the local level, the Local Youth Council can be established in the LSG, as an advisory body (Article 18). At least one member of the Council is a representative of NGOs implementing youth policies.</p>
Forms of youth organizing	<p>The law does not distinguish between youth organizations and organisations for youth. In this regard, the law stipulates that any NGO may implement youth policies in accordance with this Law, i.e. in accordance with the Strategy and Action Plans, if it has the defined youth policy in its statute as one of the objectives (Article 19).</p> <p>NGOs implementing youth policies can form a representational alliance, which must have at least 30 NGOs implementing youth policies, from at least 6 LSGs, 2 of which are from the Coastal, Central and Northern regions. Representation of the association is issued for a period of one year by the granted certificate of representation. The Representative Alliance has the right to</p>

	<p>delegate a representative to the national Youth Council. The law does not recognize informal youth groups.</p>
<p>Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care</p>	<p>The Law gives LSGs the jurisdiction over the implementation of the public interest in the field of youth policy at the local level: <i>'For the cooperation of the competent authorities of the municipality with other subjects from paragraph 2 of this article, municipalities within their organs or services, determine the implementation of the public interest in the field of youth policy'</i> (Article 5). In this regard, the Law prescribes imperative norms with clear and precise and taxatively stated obligations of LSGs (and the corresponding deadlines) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - obligation of JLS to enact a local action plan for youth (hereinafter: LAP for Youth) no later than December 31 of the current year (Article 14), - obligation of LSGs to submit the draft of the LAP for youth to the ministry, in order to obtain an opinion on its compliance with the Strategy is by October 31 of the current year, - obligation of the LSG to submit to the LINE ministry an annual statement on the realization of the LAP for youth, - obligation of LSG to provide appropriate space for youth service (Article 24), at the request of the ministry. - obligation of LSG to perform administrative and technical tasks necessary for regular functioning of youth services (Article 26). - LSG's obligation in the budget to provide funds for the opening and functioning of youth services created by LSG, as well as for activities conducted in accordance with the local youth action plan by NGOs. <p>The law grants LSG with the possibility that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - within their jurisdictions and possibilities, provide conditions and space for youth services (Article 24); - LSG in organizing administrative and technical tasks necessary for the regular functioning of youth services, transfer these jobs to a third party on the basis of a public call (Article 26).
<p>Institutions and services for young people</p>	<p>The law regulates the framework for the work of youth institutions, which in the law are referred to as <i>'youth services'</i>, and discussed as a youth club and youth center (Article 21-23). Youth Club is a space adapted for youth needs for implementation of youth activities, while Youth center is equipped, multifunctional</p>

	<p>space for youth needs, used for youth activities and youth work. The Ministry, i.e. LSG, within its jurisdictions and possibilities, provide conditions for the work of youth services by the governing body responsible for municipal property, at the request of the Ministry (Article 24). Youth service can be established by the ministry and LSG, as well as other subjects implementing youth policies (e.g. associations).</p>
Practical policies for youth	<p>The framework of youth policy in Montenegro consists of a Youth Strategy with an action plan, and a Programme for achieving public interest in the field of youth policy (national level), as well as youth LAPS (local level).</p> <p>The directions of development and improvement of youth policy are determined by the Youth Strategy enacted by the Government for a period of 4 years. For implementation of the Strategy, the Ministry adopts an Action plan for a period of 2 years. LSG is obliged to adopt youth LAP for a period of 2 years - no later than December 31 of the current year.</p> <p>Local action plan for youth enables youth policy and activities at the local level, in order to achieve the interests and needs of youth. Once in every two years, the ministry also adopts the Programme for achieving public interest in the field of youth policy, preceded by an analysis of the needs of the madih. The Law does not regulate the scope and coverage of the Programme, nor other relevant details about it.</p>
Youth policy financing	<p>The law also stipulates that funds are provided from the Budget of Montenegro for the implementation of the Program under Article 15, for the construction, reconstruction, adaptation and equipping of youth services, for the functioning of youth services created by the Ministry, as well as funds for activities carried out by the ministry and NGOs in accordance with the Strategy and Action Plan. The law stipulates that the ministry, with the government's consent, can finance and co-finance the construction, reconstruction, adaptation or equipping of youth service worth up to or over EUR 30,000. The LSG budget provides funds for the opening and functioning of youth services created by LSG, as well as for activities conducted in accordance with the youth LAP by the NGOs.</p>
Records	<p>The law does not provide information on the records keeping.</p>

Reporting	The Law stipulates the obligation of the line ministry to produce an annual report on the implementation of the Youth Strategy and Action Plan.
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	Supervision of the implementation of laws and other regulations enacted on the basis of this law is carried out by the ministry, while inspection supervision is carried out by the competent inspector (Article 28). The law prescribes violations and fines ranging from EUR 500 to EUR 2,000 for the responsible person in the JLS body if it does not adopt a LAP for youth within the prescribed timeframe; if it fails to submit a draft local action plan for youth within the prescribed timeframe, to give an opinion on its compliance with the Strategy; if it fails to submit to the ministry the annual report on the realization of the LAP for youth within the prescribed timeframe.

Advantages	Shortcomings
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- Youth policy is defined as the public interest and all levels of governance are prescribed a responsibility to implement this public interest;
- The obligations of local authorities are prescribed clearly and accurately, and with corresponding deadlines;
- The position of youth services at the national level and in the local community is regulated through the formation of youth clubs and centres, there are clear provisions on financing and providing physical space founded by the ministry or LSG, services can be established by associations and other stakeholders;
- The law prescribes violations and penalties for local self-government bodies, providing a coercion mechanism;

ESTONIA

The Law on Youth Work (1999, 2014) which contains 19 articles is implemented in Estonia. The law regulates the area of youth work with a focus on youth camps.

Subject	The Law regulates the legal framework for organizing youth work (Article 1).
Objective	/
Principles	The principles of youth work are (Art. 5): 1) youth work is carried out for the benefit and together with young people by engaging in the decision-making process; 2) In creating conditions for acquiring knowledge and skills, it comes from the needs and interests of the youth; 3) youth work is based on the participation and free will of young people; 4) youth work supports youth initiative; 5) Youth work is based on the principle of equal treatment, tolerance and partnership;
Definition of a young person	A young person is the person from 7 to 26 years of age (Article 3).
Youth work and youth professions	Youth work is defined as creating conditions for promoting diverse youth development that enables them to be active outside their families, formal education acquired in the adult education system and to work on the basis of their free will (Article 4). The law does not regulate the occupation of a youth worker or the issue of professionalization but stipulates that the youth or project camp can only be run by qualified managers of a youth camp with qualifications acquired in Estonia or abroad with the accompanying qualification procedure.
Youth rights and responsibilities	The law does not regulate this issue.
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	LSG may establish the Youth Council as a framework for youth participation in decision-making (Article 9). The Youth Council consists of youth from LSG territory. The way of choice is prescribed by LSG. The Council discusses youth issues under the jurisdiction of LSG, provides proposals and opinions in the adoption of local acts.

<p>Forms of youth organizing</p>	<p>The law recognizes the following forms of youth organization: '<i>Association for Youth Work</i>', '<i>Youth Organization</i>', "Association of Youth Organizations" (Article 3).</p> <p>The Association for Youth Work is not for profit but an association or foundation that deals with representing the interests of youth workers, youth work agencies and other providers of youth work.</p> <p>Youth organization is an association consisting of two-thirds of youth and implementing youth work.</p> <p>The Association of Youth Organizations is an umbrella of associations whose members are young (2/3).</p> <p>The law does not recognize youth groups.</p>
<p>Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care</p>	<p>Regional governors are responsible for implementing the National Youth Work Program on the territory of the district, monitoring the state of youth work in the district and supervising the implementation of the Law in the District (Article 7). LSG is responsible (Article 8) to determine the priorities of working with youth in their administrative territories and determining the tasks necessary to achieve them in their development plans; youth and youth projects of youth associations in case of existing budget funds; consult with the Youth Council, if there is one, on planning, implementation and evaluation of working with youth.</p>
<p>Institutions and services for young people</p>	<p>The law recognizes the "<i>Youth Work Agency</i>", "<i>Youth Camp</i>", and a "<i>Project Camp</i>".</p> <p>The Agency for Youth Work deals with organizing youth work. It can be private and public, and can be founded by the state, LSG, association, etc. (Article 3).</p> <p>Youth camp is a licensed activity that is available to youth at least 60 days a year with shifts of at least 6 days. The camp can be established by a legal entity, entrepreneur or LSG organ.</p> <p>Project camp is a licensed activity that is available to youth at least 60 days a year with shifts of at least 6 days and is carried out in cooperation with LSG. The camp can be established by a legal entity, entrepreneur or LSG organ. For the maintenance of youth and project camp, a license must be obtained from the ministry (Article 10), and for the project camp and the approval of LSG.</p>
<p>Practical policies for young people</p>	<p>The Ministry brings '<i>National Youth Work Programme</i>' (Article 6) as a framework of the state's youth care policy .</p>

Youth policy financing	<p>Financing of activities, programmes, projects and organizations is within the jurisdiction of the line ministry and LSG in accordance with the possibilities. Within the budget of the line ministry, funds are planned for grants for the following purposes (Article 14):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) youth programmes and projects; 2) national youth development programmes; 3) youth research; 4) agencies for working with youth; 5) international co-operation in working with youth; 6) training of youth workers; 7) youth work associations; 8) youth association activities (annual grant). <p>The terms and procedures for grants are prescribed by the minister.</p> <p>Annual grants for youth organisations are intended to increase the capacity of associations and achieve national goals of youth policy. For the annual grant can apply: 1) a youth organization whose membership includes at least 500 youth and whose local units are in at least 1/3 of districts; 2) an alliance of youth organizations comprised of at least 30 organizations; 3) an alliance of student parliaments that through their members gather at least 1/3 of primary, secondary or vocational school students; 4) an alliance of student unions whose members include at least 1/2 of all student unions.</p>
Records	<p>By passing of the Law ceased to exist a registry of youth organizations and a registry of youth camps in accordance with the regulation governing public information (Article 19). All records and data are entered and published publicly in Estonia 's Education information System.</p>
Reporting	<p>The law does not regulate this issue.</p>
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	<p>Supervision of the implementation of the Law is carried out by the ministry and the regional governor under their respective jurisdictions.</p>

Advantages	Shortcomings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational information system for entering and displaying data in the field of youth work. 	

FINLAND

Finland has regulated the Youth Care field (2006, 2016) and through the Youth Labour and Policy Act (2017). The first article states that in addition to the Law, international norms apply in the area. The Youth Act has 30 Articles. Inter-sectoral co-operation in achieving the objectives of the Law is defined as a principle, i.e. general and in any circumstance applicable rule. The law establishes the responsibility of the state ministry for the entire administration, coordination and development of the national youth policy, as well as for the creation of favourable conditions for the implementation of youth policies at the national level (Article 4). The law also establishes the responsibility of regional government agencies for administrative duties related to local youth policy (Article 4), while local authorities determine responsibility for the field of youth work and politics, as well as the obligation to create conditions for youth work and activities, especially by providing services and space for youth (Article 8). These duties are closely regulated by other government acts. In achieving these responsibilities, the state cooperates with LSG, youth NGOs, other stakeholders and young people.

The law establishes **the National Youth Council** and the **Assessment and State Aid Commission**, which assists the minister in managing grants for national youth organizations (Article 7). The work of the Commission is more detailed by the act of the Government.

LSGs are obliged to develop the necessary preconditions for local youth work and activities by providing youth services and youth facilities and supporting their engagement. The law regulates how associations and foundations that achieve goals and promote principles from the ifthey can be recognized as national organizations for youth work and apply for state aid. The law also regulates the allocation of state grants to national centres of expertise in youth work, as well as the issue of youth workers.

Subject	The Law regulates the promotion of youth work and activities, youth policy and responsibilities of the central government and LSG, the issue of cooperation and state funding (Article 1).
Objectives	The aim of the Law is to promote youth social inclusion and opportunities to influence, and enable improvement of the skills and abilities of youth to function in a society, to support youth growth, independence and sense of community, and to support the acquisition of knowledge, adoption of skills and activities of free time in civil society, as well as to affirm non-discrimination, and enjoy civil rights while improving individual growth and improving quality of life (Article 2).

Principles	The objectives of the law are achieved through the principles of solidarity, multiculturalism, internationalism, sustainable development, healthy lifestyles, respect for life and environment, and intersectional cooperation.
Definition of a young person	The law sees young people as persons under the age of 29.
Youth work and youth professions	Youth work refers to efforts to ensure support for the growth, independence and social inclusion of youth in the community (Article 3). The law mentions a trained and qualified youth worker as a profile of a LSG representative who should maintain contacts with youth on the ground (Article 10).
Youth rights and responsibilities	The law does not regulate this issue, but implicitly gives young people the right to enjoy the opportunity to participate in the decision-making processes concerning them (Article 8).
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	The government appoints the National Youth Council as an advisory body under the auspices of the line minister. The Council deals with a wide range of issues of importance to youth and assesses the impact of measures the Government has taken on young people and the services and activities intended for them (Article 6). The law does not prescribe the composition of the Spectre or how young people participate in the council's work, but authorises the Government to regulate all issues on the work of the Council by its act. The Law establishes the obligation of lower levels of governance to enable youth to participate in decision-making (Article 24).
Forms of youth organizing	In terms of organizing, the law distinguishes between ' <i>National Youth Organization</i> ' and ' <i>National Organization for Youth Work</i> ' (Article 3). The National Youth Organization is an association that implements the goals and principles of this Law in the whole country. The National Organization for Youth Work is an association or foundation that implements youth activities or provides youth work services, and implements goals and principles from the whole country. Only such organizations can be funded from the state budget, while taking care of national coverage of organising, quality, scope, and social impact on youth, as well as how the organization promotes non-discrimination, equality and social inclusion of youth (Article 17).).

<p>Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care</p>	<p>The law establishes the responsibility of local authorities (LSG) for the field of youth work and politics, as well as the obligation to create conditions for youth work and activities, especially by providing services and space for youth, taking into account local possibilities (Article 8). LSG is directed to encourage inter-sectoral cooperation in the community through the formation of inter-sectoral youth teams (Article 9). Teams or similar forms will consist of local institutions and will co-operate with youth NGOs. Teams will be tasked with supporting the youth local decision-making process with additional information, improving the co-ordination of services and services for youth, and harmonising mutual procedures and protocols in providing services to young people. Articles 10-12 prescribe very precisely the obligation of local self-government to organize the care of young people who are potential NEET youth. In this regard, the field work of the municipal youth worker is directed and the exchange of personal data between the JLS and the school, the training center, and the military institution, i.e. institutions that have left neet risk persons, is regulated. JLS may also leave these duties to another legal entity through a public invitation. The Law stipulates that the central authority through the transfer provides a portion of JLS funds for the implementation of their competencies arising from this Law (Article 16).</p>
<p>Institutions and services for young people</p>	<p>The Law recognizes "National Center of Expertise in Youth Work" as a legal entity that develops and promotes professional work and competences in youth work in the whole country (Article 3). The law also recognizes 'national youth centres', and regulates their use of state aid from the budget (Article 20), but provides no further details on the institution's profile, founders, managers, purposes and other details. When it comes to services, the law recognizes 'youth workshops' as educational activities through which young people develop knowledge and skills and achieve personal growth and development (Article 13). From the description, it seems that the workshops are a kind of affirmative/preventive/career measure prescribed by another public institution to a young person. In addition to referrals, young people can apply to workshops on their own. Workshops can be organized by one or more LSGs and other youth service providers.</p>

Practical policies for young people	Youth policy is a co-ordinated activity that promotes youth growth and living conditions, as well as intergenerational interaction (Article 3).
Youth policy financing	The law provides for transfers from the state to the local level of government in connection with this Law (Article 16), which derives from state revenues from betting and gaming (Article 26). Funding for the national youth organization and national centres of expertise in youth work can be directly foreseen in the budget (Article 18, 19). Funds in the budget can be planned for both national youth centres and youth workshops (Article 20, 21). Funds can also be foreseen for research in the field of youth work and youth policy, international youth work and cooperation, construction, renovation and adaptation of youth spaces, field work with NEET youth, and more. Funding of national organizations for youth work, national centres of expertise in youth work, national youth centres and youth workshops are closely regulated by lower acts.
Records	The law does not regulate the issue of records.
Reporting	The Law does not regulate the issue of reporting.
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	Oversight of the application of the law is handled by the ministry. The law does not determine violations and does not prescribe penalties.

Advantages	Shortcomings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law regulates the obligations of local self-government to organize the care of young people who are potential NEET youth; • The law contributes to the professionalization of youth work through provisions regulating youth work in LSG; 	

CROATIA

In 2014, Croatia passed a new 'Law on Youth Councils' with 30 articles. Looking at the scope of normation, the Law, as the previous solution from 2007, is limited to the topic of youth participation in **decision-making at the local level**. In this regard, the specificity of this law is that it does not deal with the national level, but only tackles the local level, **and prescribes the norms**

for bodies in local and regional self-government units in the field of youth. Furthermore, the legal norms apply less to NGOs and more to the local/regional governing bodies. In this regard, it is positive that the law stipulates obligations and procedures for the local/regional self-governments is detailed and precise. At the same time, the law does not refer to violations and does not contain corrective and punitive mechanisms, and it cannot be concluded how to ensure the application of the law in case the lower authority does not act properly. Also, this law does not regulate many important issues regulated by the Law on Youth in RS, such as principles, youth work, practical policies for youth, funding, etc.

Subject	The law regulates the establishment of the Youth Council , their scope, the process of selecting members and issues relevant to the work of youth council (Article 1).
Objective	The aim of the law is to enable youth participation in deciding on the management of public affairs of interest and importance for youth, active inclusion of youth in public life, and informing and allething of youth in local/regional self-government units (Article 1).
Principles	The Law prescribes principles (Article 5) that LSG must abide by when establishing advice (the principles of non-discrimination, the principles of partnership, the principles of cooperation and active participation of youth), but they do not apply to other public administration bodies working with youth.
Definition of a young person	Persons from the age of 15 to the age of 30.
Youth work and youth profession	The law does not regulate this issue.
Rights and responsibilities of youth	The law does not regulate this issue, but implicitly, young people have the right to be elected to the Youth Council.
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	The law regulates the position of youth councils as a basic form of youth participation in decision-making at the local level. All youth ethics (municipal, city and county) are established as advisory bodies of local/regional self-government units that promote and advocate rights, shake up the interests of youth at the local/regional level. They are founded, and their members are elected by the representative bodies of local/regional self-government units, in accordance with this Law, law and local/regional self-government system, and general acts of local/regional self-government. The Law prescribes mandatory

	<p>elements of the Decision on the Establishment of All Youth Councils issued by the representative body of local/regional self-government, which includes, among other things, provisions on how to finance youth work and programs, ensuring spatial and other working conditions and provisions on the right to compensation of expenses for participation in work. Members of the Youth Council and their deputies in a public competition are elected by the representative body of the local/regional self-government unit. Candidates are nominated by youth associations, students and student parliaments, youth section of political parties and trade unions, informal youth groups, etc. Youth councils have been given a wide range of working activities that ensures youth participation in making all important decisions for youth at the local/regional self-government level, and to discuss issues important to the work of the council, and on issues within the scope of the representative body of the local/regional self-government unit that are of interest to youth, initiate decision-making of importance for youth, participates in the development, implementation and monitoring of local youth programmes, encourages youth information, development of the financial framework for implementing youth policies and supporting the development of youth and youth organizations, and participation in programming the priorities of the competition and setting the criteria for financing of youth and youth organizations;</p> <p>The law details the process of selecting and constituting the Youth Council assembly, mandates, the way of work.</p> <p>Local/regional self-government units are obliged, within the framework of revived funds, to ensure: information support; participation in the work of the representative body of local/regional self-government units; inclusion in activities at the national and international level, exchange of good practices and the development of public policies towards youth and related to the youth;</p> <p>Members are not entitled to compensation for their work other than compensation for certain expenses (transportation and other travel expenses directly related to activities performed).</p>
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	<p>In a separate section, the law prescribes the relationship with the law and the representative and executive bodies of local/local self-government (Articles 24 and 25). Thus, it is stipulated that the representative body is obliged to provide all calls and materials for its sessions, and records from the sessions held within the same time frame, on the members of the representative body, and in other appropriate ways inform all about their activities. It is then stipulated that the president of the house of representatives is obliged to hold a joint meeting with the Youth Council at least every 3 months, to which he invites members of other local bodies as needed. It is also required that the representative body notifies on the issues of interest to youth, at the latest at the first next session (Article 24). The law stipulates an obligation for the municipal superintendent, mayor and county to hold a joint meeting with the Youth Council at least every 3 months, where they discuss all issues of interest to the youth. According to the same provision, the municipal superintendent, mayor and county every 6 months in writing notifies on all their activities of importance or interest to youth (Article-25).</p>
Forms of youth organizing	The law does not regulate this issue but mentions youth organisations and youth organisations in some members.
Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care	This Law fully regulates issues under the jurisdiction of LSG in the establishment and operation of the Youth Council. The Law prescribes imperative norms to local/regional governments regarding the operation of youth council.
Institutions and service for young people	The law does not regulate this issue.
Practical policies for young people	The law does not regulate this issue.
Youth policy financing	The law regulates funding of the Youth Council and their programmes of work, not other areas of interest for youth. The local/regional level of governance is obliged to provide the funds necessary for the realization of the adopted programme of work from the avjeta, but the local representative body has been given the authority to approve the programme of work with the avjeta. In addition to funding, it is prescribed the obligation for local/regional self-government to ensure the space for the sessions (Article 22). The Council encourages the development of a financial framework

	for implementing policies for youth and supporting the development of youth and youth organisations, and participates in programming the priorities of the competition and determining the criteria of the fund financed by youth and youth organisations.
Records	The policy ministry maintains the database of youth councils, which it updates through regular annual contact with local/regional self-government units.
Reporting	The law prescribes an obligation to lower levels of governance to report to the ministry on the work of the youth council.
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	Supervision of the application of the law has been entrusted to the line ministry in charge of youth. Supervision covers regular annual monitoring of the number of established councils, their functioning and co-operation with local/regional self-government units. Supervision is conducted annually by collecting data from local/regional self-government, producing expert analyses and elaborations in other appropriate ways. Every year, the line ministry publishes a report on the assessment of the implementation of the Law and submits it to the boards of the Croatian Parliament and local/regional self-government authorities by April 30. In the interim and final provisions of the local/regional self-government units are instructed to harmonise their statutes and other general acts with the provisions of this article within 90 days from the date of entry into force. The Law does not prescribe violations and punitive provisions for non-compliance under the provisions of the law.

Advantages	Shortcomings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law regulates in a detailed and precise way the mechanism of participation of youth in decision-making at the local and regional level; • The Law in a clear and unequivocal manner prescribes an obligation to lower levels of governance to regularly report on measures taken from its jurisdiction set out in this Law; • The Law prescribes an obligation to lower levels of government to harmonise their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It does not prescribe violations or contain, corrective and criminal norms; • The law does not regulate the issue of funding other aspects of youth related activities, except for funding the work of the Youth Council and their annual programmes of work at the level of local/regional self-governments; • The law does not regulate the issue of youth work;

internal acts with the provisions of the law
within the specified time frame;

ICELAND

Iceland regulated youth care under the Law on Youth (2007/2011). The law is short (14 articles in total) and general, and the minister has the right to regulate certain issues in the law more closely with lower acts. Given the stated restrictions on conducting the research, whereby the subject of this analysis was not a lower act (assuming they were enacted), so the impression of numerous provisions of the law is that they are declarative and underdeveloped. As for the target population, the law applies to both children and youth, especially persons from 6 to 25 years of age, however it does not specify age or other criteria for designating these 2 categories of the population. The law seeks to improve the framework in which youth clubs and organisations, the Government and LSG, schools and other institutions achieve youth activities that are not governed by other regulations (Article 2). The law stipulates that the Government and LSG ensure that youth have access to youth activities (Article 3). It is interesting that the Law does not **regulate** the **issue** of **youth policies**, but it regulates that youth care and planning policies for iceland's youth are based on **facts and the findings of the youth survey** report (Article 12). The panel consists of one youth representative and 1 representative of the Association of Municipalities and Cities, among others.

Unlike our law, the Law on Youth in Iceland prescribes prohibitions to instructors, volunteers and other staff from consuming alcohol and other toxic substances for the duration of organized youth activities or during travel with children and youth (Article 10). It also prohibits work in youth clubs, organisations, schools and other institutions working with youth up to the age of 18, convicted persons and persons convicted under the Law on Drugs in the last 5 years. In this regard, in the process of employment, these institutions have the right to ask the penalty registry for information on persons seeking employment.

Subject	The subject of the law is support for youth activities.
Objective	The purpose of the law is to support the participation of children and youth in youth activities (Article 1).
Principles	The Law establishes a general rule (Article 10) that those who work for youth or with youth must have the appropriate training, education, knowledge and experience necessary to do such work.
Definition of a young person	The law does not determine the ages of children and youth but applies to children and youth from 6 to 25 year of age.

Youth work and youth professions	The law does not regulate the field of youth work or youth occupations, except for the general rule that all who work with youth must have appropriate qualifications (education, training, knowledge and experience).
Youth rights and responsibilities	The law does not regulate this issue.
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	Icelandic law recognizes the National Youth Council, local youth commissions and the Youth Research Panel as mechanisms for youth participation in policy-making and decision-making processes. The National Youth Council is a mechanism for youth participation in decision-making at the national level. Two other members are nominated by the Association of Towns and Municipalities. The council's competencies include: 1. It advises authorities in the field of youth policy; 2. Proposes priorities in public policies for youth; 3. Gives an opinion on youth activities; 4. Encourages multi-sectoral cooperation among stakeholders from different sectors. LSG is obliged to establish a local youth commission or similar and comparable body, with the task of advising LSG on issues of importance for young people living in the LSG (Article 11). The manner of elections and other issues related to the commission's work are regulated by local self-government. In this regard, it is up to LSG whether the youth will be represented on the commission. The Youth Council also nominates 1 representative to the youth research panel .
Forms of youth organizing	The law recognizes youth organs and spaces, youth clubs and "national union of youth organizations" , but provides no more data on the profile of these forms of organizing.
Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care	The law clearly prescribes certain competencies and obligations of LSG in the field of youth care. The local level of governance is responsible for the care of youth at the local level and for providing funds in the budget to finance projects of youth clubs and organisations. In this regard, they are responsible for creating a commission or similar comparable body for youth to deal with current topics for youth in the local community. The local level is involved in decision-making and planning policies for youth and through participation of representatives of the Association of Municipalities and Cities in the Youth Council and in the Youth Research Panel.

Institutions and services for youth	The law mentions youth clubs, but provides no further information about these institutions. Also, the law does not regulate the issue of youth services.
Practical policies for young people	The law only mentions policymaking in certain provisions, but does not regulate specific practical policies for young people.
Youth policy financing	It is stipulated (Article 3) that the Government provides funds for the work of the Youth Fund and national unions of youth organizations, while the LSG budget plan establishes funding for local youth clubs and organisations. The amount of funds is not prescribed. Funds for the Youth Fund are provided in the state budget (Article 7). Youth Fund supports projects of youth clubs and organizations: projects of active participation of children and youth, training, innovative and development projects, joint projects of clubs and organizations (Article 8).
Records	The law does not stipulate that records are being kept.
Reporting	The Law does not regulate the obligation to report on youth position, youth policy or other topics relevant to the care of youth.
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	The institution in charge of law enforcement is the ministry of education and culture. The law does not prescribe violations and does not contain punitive provisions.

Advantages	Shortcomings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law has a rather small scope and does not regulate many issues of importance for the care of young people.

LATVIA

Latvia regulated the area of youth care through the Law on Youth (2009). The law has 13 articles and regulates who is responsible for youth policy implementation, youth policy competencies, youth participation in youth policy development and implementation, as well as basic principles for the funding of initiatives, for participation in decision-making and social life, and for youth work. The law **provides for the inter-sectoral cooperation of state bodies in the implementation of youth policies**, and for the line ministry institution stipulates an obligation to ensure the development of a single national policy, its co-ordinated implementation, and the methodological and framework for the planning, implementation of and evaluation of the youth work of local governments.

The law also establishes the obligation of state administration institutions to evaluate its impact on youth after implementing youth policies. The law does not regulate closer volunteering of youth or the work of volunteer youth organizations, but refers to the Law on Volunteering (Article 9-10).

The law also in declarative terms touches upon the issues of economic empowerment of youth (Article 11), stipulating that the state will promote economic activities and employment of young people, in particular:

- 1) training young people in matters related to the start of business activities;
- 2) support the start of youth economic activity;
- 3) support projects to promote the employment of young people, especially young people at risk of social exclusion.

The law prescribes the possibility that certain administrative tasks in the field of youth policy will be entrusted by the ministry to individuals, associations and foundations for more efficient implementation of youth policy measures (Article 13).

Subject	The law determines who is responsible for youth policy implementation, youth policy competencies, youth participation in youth policy development and implementation, as well as basic principles for the funding of initiatives, participation in decision-making and social life, and youth work (Article 2).
Objective	The purpose of the law is to improve the quality of life of young people by promoting their initiatives, work ethic, patriotism and participation in decision-making and social life, as well as supporting youth work (Article 1).
Principles	The basic principles of youth of nske politics are the following (Art. 2): 1) principle of participation - ensuring that young people have the opportunity to engage in discussion of decisions concerning youth policy and its decision-making; 2) principle of information availability - promoting the provision of information to young people that meet their development needs; 3) the principle of equal opportunities - to provide young people with the opportunity to actively participate in the activities of public, political, cultural and economic life without any discrimination;

	<p>4) principle of respecting the interests of youth - to respect the interests, rights, needs and possibilities of youth in resolving youth issues;</p> <p>5) principle of favourable economic preconditions - to promote the creation of such conditions in which young people have the opportunity to be economically independent citizens of Latvia;</p> <p>6) youth integration principle - to promote intercultural dialogue in all stages of youth policy development and implementation;</p> <p>7) the principle of mobility and international cooperation - to ensure that young people have the opportunity to be mobile, to acquire knowledge and skills outside of their residence, and to promote the exchange of recommendations, as well as the best practices of other countries and their introduction into youth policy of LV.</p>
Definition of a young person	Persons from 13 to 25 years of age (Article 1).
Youth work and youth professions	The law designates youth work as a set of planned youth-oriented practical measures that ensure the implementation of youth policies, the formation of value orientation of youth and the strengthening of universal values (Article 2). Tasks of youth work (Article 2a) are to: 1) support and promote youth initiatives by creating favourable conditions for their intellectual and creative development; 2) ensure that young people have the opportunity to acquire the skills, knowledge and competences of informal education necessary for their lives; 3) ensure that young people have the opportunity to use their free time in a useful way; 4) Give young people access to information that suits their developmental needs. The law overlooks that if a specialist in youth issues is in charge of working with youth at the local level, he must undergo proper training.
Youth rights and responsibilities	The law does not regulate this issue, but implicitly determines the right for youth to participate in the development and implementation of youth policies: 1) by engaging in acquiring and providing informal education and performing voluntary work; 2) performing activities in local self-governments of educational institutions; 3) developing and implementing projects, as well as other initiatives; 4) participation in the activities of youth organizations, but also other associations and foundations; 5)

	<p>inclusion in the decision-making process of state and local authorities affecting youth policy; 6) engaging in other activities aimed at promoting youth participation in the development and implementation of youth policies.”</p>
<p>Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making</p>	<p>The right of youth to participate in youth policy making and implementation processes is confirmed in Article 7: <i>‘Youth have the right to participate in the development and implementation of youth policies: 1) by engaging in the acquisition and provision of informal education and performing voluntary work; 2) performing activities in local self-governments of educational institutions; 3) developing and implementing projects, as well as other initiatives; 4) participation in the activities of youth organizations, but also other associations and foundations; 5) inclusion in the decision-making process of state and local authorities affecting youth policy; 6) engaging in other activities aimed at promoting youth participation in the development and implementation of youth policies.’</i></p> <p>The law envisions the formation of an Advisory Youth Council (Article 4) established by the Government to promote development, implementation and co-ordination of youth policies, and to ensure youth participation in decision-making and social life. The council consists of delegated representatives of state administration, local self-governments and youth organisations. Delegated representatives of youth organizations comprise at least 1/2 of the membership.</p> <p>LSG can form a local Youth Council as a framework for youth participation in decision-making in LSG (Article 5). The Council monitors and analyses the needs of youth in LSG and proposes measures that will improve the position of youth in LSG.</p>
<p>Forms of youth organizing</p>	<p>The law recognizes <i>‘youth organization’</i> as a basic form of youth organizing. Youth organization is an association registered in the Records of Youth Organizations consisting of at least 2/3 children and youth, where youth participate in governing bodies and whose statute lists youth as the target group or area of achieving goals, and which implements youth work (Article 6). The law also recognizes informal groups that can take part in decision-making processes.</p>

<p>Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care</p>	<p>LSG is obliged to ensure '<i>institutional system for youth work</i>', and to draft planning documents of the local administration for youth policy development (Article 5). After establishing an institutional system for youth work, LSG has the right: 1) to appoint an authority in charge of youth work; 2) to hire an expert in youth affairs - the person who plans, performs and co-ordinates work with youth; 3) to establish an advisory commission on youth affairs that promotes the planning and implementation of youth work of local government, as well as youth participation in decision-making; 4) to establish a youth centre; 5) to establish a local youth council;</p> <p>Local government will ensure that youth organisations and initiatives (informal groups) have the opportunity to engage in the decision-making process of interest to youth.</p>
<p>Institutions and services for young people</p>	<p>LSG may establish the Youth Centre as a local youth institution (Article 5). The role of the youth centre is to carry out youth work that will ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) implementation of measures, projects and informal education programmes; 2) engaging young people in youth organizations or informal youth groups and volunteer work; 3) inclusion of young people at risk of social exclusion in their peer environment; 4) intercultural dialogue among young people; 5) advising youth on topics that are current; 6) inclusion of youth in the youth work of local government and measures, projects and programs organized in this way
<p>Practical policies for young people</p>	<p>The law designates "<i>Youth Policy</i>" as a set of targeted actions to be implemented in all areas of national policy that promote full and comprehensive development, inclusion in society and improving the quality of life of youth. Politics towards youth are carried out by the institutions of state administration and LSG according to their jurisdiction, as well as youth organizations and other natural and legal persons. The Ministry prepares the annual State Program of Youth Politics, which sets annual priorities (Article 3).</p>
<p>Youth policy financing</p>	<p>Funding from the state budget, earmarked for youth and their organizations, is approved in open calls under the annual state youth policy programme (Article 12).</p>

	<p>The youth organization is entitled to funding from the state budget, if it meets all the criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The organization is registered in the Youth Organization registry; 2) implement informal education programmes for youth; 3) is a full member of the network of international cooperation of related areas of action; 4) has at least 300 members; 5) implements youth work in at least 3 planning regions; 6) organizes at least 1 conference annually at the national level for its members and other stakeholders on current issues related to youth policy; <p>LSG may approve funding for local youth policy in accordance with the possibilities, based on an open call.</p>
Records	The law stipulates that the ministry shall keep records of youth organizations (Article 6).
Reporting	The law does not regulate this issue.
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	The line ministry is in charge of supervision. The law does not prescribe violations or penalties.

Advantages	Shortcomings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law regulates the institutional system for youth policy at the local level. • The law in a separate article, while declarative, underlines the right of youth to participate in decision-making and implementation processes. 	

LITHUANIA

Lithuania has regulated youth care through the Law on Youth Policy Framework (2003, 2018) which contains 9 articles. The law focuses on youth policies, youth work, the position of youth organisations and youth organisations in the youth care system. The law creates a framework for effective work with youth for NEET category and other vulnerable youth. The law defines "*Mobile work with youth*" as working with young people who move to a residential area without infrastructure to work with young people, taking into account the individual needs of young people living in the area. The law also defines the term "*inactive young person*" (or NEET) as a young person who does not study, is not in training, and does not work on a labour contract or

on his/her own, has no other legal relations equivalent to employment, does not deal with unpaid employment and does not seek work.

Subject	The Law determines the specialities of creating and implementing youth policies, youth work, advisory institutions, the competencies of youth organizations and organizations for youth (Article 1).
Objective	/
Principles	Youth work is based on the following principles (Article 6): 1) open and informal communication - the relationship between a person working with a young person and a young person is based on mutual trust, equivalents and mutual learning; 2) voluntary participation - youth work is based on voluntary engagement and inclusion in activities; 3) joint activities - working with youth includes learning about how group problems can be solved, making decisions in cooperation with other youth, as well as joint contribution to activities and sharing of responsibilities; 4) individuality - working with youth is organized according to the needs of each young person with whom the work is performed; 5) Learning from experience - working with young people is based on personal experience and self-assessment of a young person; 6) referral - a young person, taking into account its individual needs, is sent to state and/or municipal institutions and/or institutions, other subjects that may provide it with the necessary support and (or) information; 7) a safe environment - young people must be provided with conditions for safe learning, action, application of ideas without encountering physical and psychological violence.
Definition of a young person	A young person is a person from 14 to 29 years of age (Article 2).
Youth work and youth professions	Youth work is an activity aimed at creating conditions for a young person to engage in personal, professional and social development and development of their competences (Article 2). The law distinguishes several forms of youth work: 1) open youth work; 2) working with young people on the street; 3) mobile youth work; 4) development of practical skills of youth;

	<p>Youth work on the street is working with youth in a non-institutional environment, directly in informal youth gathering places (public spaces, streets, parks, cafes, sports fields, clubs, etc.).</p>
Youth rights and responsibilities	<p>The law does not regulate this issue.</p>
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	<p>The mechanism for youth participation in decision-making processes at the national level in Lithuania is the Youth Affairs Council, which is made up of delegated representatives of state institutions, the League of Lithuanian Municipalities, the Lithuanian Youth Council and the World Youth Organisation of Lithuania (Article 4). The Youth Affairs Council discusses youth policy issues in Lithuania and submits proposals to the government, ministries, other state and municipal institutions and bodies, on youth policy, its implementation, youth policy priorities, implementation measures, co-operation with foreign Lithuanian youth organisations, draft laws relating to youth implementation politics and other issues.</p> <p>The mechanism of participation at the local level is the Municipal Council for Youth Issues - a public advisory institution formed by representatives of LSG and from the spectre of municipal youth organizations operating in the territory of LSG (Article 5).</p>
Forms of youth organizing	<p>The law recognizes several forms of youth organizing.</p> <p>The main form of youth organisation is the Youth Organisation as an association established to represent and interest young people, with at least 2/3 of the members being young (Art. 2).</p> <p>Organization for Youth is a legal e whose goal is to carry out activities with young people.</p> <p>The Lithuanian Youth Organisations Council is a rooftop youth organisation whose main purpose is to represent youth and youth organisations at the Lithuanian level.</p> <p>The World Lithuanian Youth Union is a foreign Lithuanian youth organisation, whose main purpose is to unite foreign Lithuanian youth organisations around the world and represent them.</p> <p>The Council of Municipal Youth Organizations is a youth organization whose main purpose is to unite and represent youth organizations operating on the territory of LSG.</p>

	<p>Lithuanian youth abroad - youth of Lithuanian origin living in foreign countries.</p> <p>A foreign Lithuanian youth organisation is a foreign association registered in foreign abroad, whose representative body comprises at least two-thirds of foreign youth citizens of Lithuanian origin.</p> <p>The law does not recognize informal groups.</p>
Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care	<p>For the purposes of implementing youth policy at the local level, the Law in LSG bodies determines the position of municipal coordinator for youth affairs, which has the status of civil servant and in LSG (Article 3). The job description of the municipal coordinator for youth affairs is determined by the minister. Municipal Youth Affairs Coordinator prepares and implements youth policy and measures implemented in the municipality, analyzes the position of youth, youth organizations and organizations working with youth in the municipality, develops cooperation between municipal institutions and bodies working in the field of omladi policy, maintains relations with foreign Lithuanian youth organizations and performs other functions listed in the job description of the municipal coordinator for youth issues.</p>
Institutions and services for young people	<p>At the national level, the Law establishes a public institution "Agency for International Cooperation of Youth", founded by the ministry, and is established to manage programmes of the international community and the European Union in the field of youth policy.</p> <p>At the local level, the Law recognizes 2 types of youth institutions: <i>'Open Youth Center'</i> and <i>'Open Space for Youth'</i>. Open Youth Center is a legal entity that conducts youth work and incorporates them into its activities (Article 2). Open space for youth is a space managed by a legal person who in the field of culture, education and physical education and sports or social protection, in which he performs youth work, based on voluntary participation of youth.</p>
Practical policies for young people	<p>The law does not regulate this issue.</p>
Youth policy financing	<p>The law does not regulate the issue of funding.</p>
Records	<p>The law does not regulate this issue.</p>

Reporting	The law does not regulate this issue.
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	The Ministry of Social Protection and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania formulates youth policy, organizes, co-ordinates and controls its implementation (Article 3).

Advantages	Shortcomings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law establishes and describes the work of the municipal youth coordinator in charge of youth policy issues in LSG; • The law creates an effective youth work framework for NEETs and other vulnerable youth groups; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law does not regulate important issues in the field of youth care, such as practical youth policies and funding;

ROMANIA

The law contains 32 articles. The law stipulates to all levels of governance, units, institutions and public services that are subordinate to them, an obligation to support youth activity and ensure an appropriate framework for its development at the national and local level (Article 3).

The law establishes the **National Youth Body** as a specialised central administration unit that develops government policies in the field of youth and co-ordinates their PR (Article 5). Also established is the **Inter-Ministerial Council for Education, Culture, Research, Youth, Sports and Minorities**, which by its decision forms the Government (Article 6). By character and purpose, this body is similar to the republic's Youth Council in Serbia, but has a wider thematic cover (not just the care of youth), and consists of representatives of line ministries, without the participation of civil society representatives.

The Law regulates support **for youth economic empowerment** (Article 17). In this regard, it establishes the obligation to support youth entrepreneurial initiatives through grants for their access to start-up-specific consulting services; support for young people for the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises and for the realization of investments, through **preferential loan programmes**, with priority in rural areas and in geographical areas with low economic activity; The law approves incentives in the form of tax cuts and fees reductions for a period of at least 1 year, for companies founded by young people, regardless of the degree of their education; The state supports the training of young people for future entrepreneurs and managers by organising free courses in management and business administration. Details relating to this support are regulated by a bylaw.

Young people enjoy free access to the **literary fund** and sources of information managed by public libraries, while young people who come from accommodation centres or from families with reduced material opportunities and who wish to continue their education in higher education in the state system are entitled to **free education** provided by the Ministry in charge of educationin (Article 18). The law also establishes that the state encourages **the return to the country of young professionals** who have completed academic studies abroad (Article 19).

The law also regulates the obligation of the state to **encourage youth volunteering**. It establishes the obligation of the state to support NGOs that organize volunteering, as well as the obligation to complete both the legal and framework for the realization and recognition of volunteer activities for young people, both Romanian and foreign nationals, both on the territory of Romania and on the territory of other countries, in accordance with international conventions of which Romania is a contractual party (Article 20).

Article 23 recognizes the effort to ensure **measures to prevent youth from getting into NEET state**. This article regulates the commitment of the state to take a number of preventive measures in the field of facilitating and encouraging professional inclusion of youth, such as: a) ensuring the actual functioning of the career system; b) ensuring the conditions for professional integration of youth with physical disabilities; c) promote non-discriminatory policies in order to employ young women, with priority for young mothers; d) facilitates young people's access to the labour market by stimulating natural or legal persons who prioritize employing young people, according to applicable regulations; e) ensure the necessary conditions for retraining and professional return of young people temporarily outside the labour market.

The law also regulates the obligation of the state to manage the **social care of youth** (Article 24), thus prescribing the obligation to provide advice on family planning; access to subsidized loans for young families; develops a national programme in the area of social housing construction, for young people and families of low-income young people; supports the construction or acquisition of housing for youth. The state adopts special measures aimed at creating opportunities for young people or young families in rural areas (Article 25).

The Law also regulates the state's obligations in the field of **youth public health** (Article 26), and this: a) develops special programs for the prevention and fight against consumption of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and other harmful substances, as well as juvenile delinquencies; b) provides free medical treatment and measures for the social reintegration of young people dependent on alcohol, tobacco, drugs or other harmful substances; c) provides free medical assistance to young people who attend an accredited form of education; d) provides free medical treatment to young people suffering from chronic diseases; e) takes measures for the socio-professional

reintegration of young offenders from institutes, reeducation centres and medical and educational institutes; f) provides free access to youth health education programs.

Subject	The Law regulates the legal framework for which conditions are provided for the socio-professional integration of young people, according to their needs and aspirations (Article 1).
Objective	/
Principles	<p>The Law lists 10 general principles on which the system of youth care is based (Article 4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) elaboration and promotion of global and integrated strategies and supporting them based on the results of current social research; b) ensuring young people's participation in decisions concerning them, including the development, promotion and implementation of youth policies, in particular through non-governmental youth structures; c) increasing the level of youth participation in public life and encouraging individual or group responsibilities; d) supporting and directing young people to actively participate in the economic, educational and cultural life of the country; e) encouraging co-operation between central and local public authorities and institutions with non-governmental youth structures, establishing advisory councils made up of NGOs and youth organisations with each central or local public authority or institution that manages youth funds; f) guaranteeing the right to education, training and professional development; g) encouraging access to young information and information technologies; h) encouraging mobility among young people; i) encouraging volunteering among young people; j) promoting intercultural dialogue and fighting racism, xenophobia and intolerance among youth.
Definition of a young person	Young people are citizens between the ages of 14 and 35 (Article 2).
Youth work and youth professions	The Law does not regulate the field of youth work, the issue of professionalization or the issue of youth occupations.

Youth rights and responsibilities	<p>The law does not regulate this issue, but implicitly, young people have the right to free access to a book fund and sources of information managed by public libraries (Article 18). Young people coming from smestuarycentres or families with reducedmaterial opportunities are entitled to free tuition to attend a higher education programme.</p>
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	<p>The law recognizes the National Youth Council as a non-governmental, autonomous association (Article 15) representing the National Youth Forum and the government's main non-governmental partner in the field of youth care. The government is obliged to consult with the Council on the development of practical policies that are of interest to the youth. The Council has its delegate to the Economic and Social Council of Romania, which has the right to an advisory opinion (Article 16). The Law does not regulate the manner of establishment, composition and management of the Youth Council.</p>
Forms of youth organizing	<p>The law <i>distinguishes between 'Youth Organizations' and 'Organization for Youth'</i>, their associations, and recognizes '<i>Regional Youth Foundations</i>' and '<i>National Youth Foundation</i>'.</p> <p>Youth NGOs are an organization comprised of 2/3 of youth and the statute regulates that the organization aims to work with youth (Article 11).</p> <p>Onrganization for youth as its statutory goal must have defined work with youth (Article 12).</p> <p>Regional youth foundations consist of youth organizations and youth organizations in the territory of a particular region (Article 13). The National Youth Foundation is a legal entity that establishes regional youth foundations (Article 14). The National Foundation is the heir to the immovable property left behind by the Communist Youth League.</p>
Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care	<p>The law establishes (Article 10) the responsibility of LSG to provide the institutional framework and necessary conditions for youth participation in youth decision-making. It is prescribed the obligation of LSG to organise the procedure in consultation with youth NGOs regarding all youth issues.</p>
Institutions and services for young people	<p>The National Youth Administration may establish national youth information and counseling centres as a unit with legal subjectivity, or in partnership with NGOs for youth or with LSG</p>

	authorities (Article 9). The law prescribes the obligation of the state to provide a range of services and conditions for the realization of special affirmative rights for youth, in the areas of education, employment, entrepreneurship, scientific research, social and health care, and housing (Article 17-26). The law also prescribes assumptions for the prevention of NEET state among youth.
Practical policies for young people	The law does not contain provisions on practical policies for young people or refers to other acts governing this matter.
Youth policy financing	The law regulates that public administration bodies allocate funds in their budgets for youth care policies. It is prescribed as the opportunity for all levels of government to establish a Youth Fund from which the cost of activities for youth (Article 28) will be funded. The law also stipulates that non-economic income of youth organizations and organizations for youth is non-taxable (Article 29).
Records	The law does not regulate this issue.
Reporting	The law does not regulate this issue.
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	The Law does not regulate this issue and does not prescribe violations and punitive provisions.

Advantages	Shortcomings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law has a strong inter-sectoral character, determining the responsibility of the state to ensure appropriate measures in the areas of education, employment, entrepreneurship, housing, social and health care for youth as important aspects of youth care; • The law also touches on youth issues in rural areas, the return of young staff from abroad, the economic empowerment of vulnerable categories such as youth with disabilities, girls and young mothers; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issues of participation of young people in decision-making are very modestly regulated, except for the principle, concrete mechanisms are not included;

NORTH MACEDONIA

"The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policy" was enacted in 2020 containing 29 articles. The law regulates a number of issues in the field of youth policy, especially youth organizing, youth participation in decision-making, youth practical policy documents, activities and measures of governing bodies at the national and local level that improve the position of youth and other issues.

Subject	The subject of the law are forms of youth organizing, youth participation in the process of creating youth policies and decision-making, strategic documents at the national and local level, activities and meraundertaken by state administration and local self-government bodies to promote the position of youth in society, as well as information and joint planning of activities for youth.
Objective	1) Creating and implementing policies towards youth at all levels through a multi-sectoral approach, starting withboth the needs and interests of the youth; 2) Strengthening youth participation in the processes of creating policies for youth, active information, promotion and protection of youth interests, as well as learningabout the importance of youth and theirsocial role; 3) promoting intergenerational partnership to support youth participationinthe decision-making process; 4) support and promotion of youth organizations; 5) encouraging structural dialogue at the national and local level; 6) encouraging volunteering, youth activism and youth work, 7) encouraging personal, professional and social development of youth.
Principles	The law in Article 4 defines principles as well as the obligation of all public administration bodies and local self-government and youth organizations to implement them in working with youth. Principles include: 1) equality, equal opportunity and prohibition of discrimination; 2) pluralism and democracy in all forms of youth organizing; 3) transparency; 4) raising awareness of the importance of youth and their social role; 5) multiculturalism, interculturalism and inclusiveness in the active participation of youth; 6) interethnic inclusion and association of youth in organizing and running youth public policies; 7) accountability and

	solidarity among youth, 8) inter-institutional cooperation in the creation and implementation of youth policies.
Definition of a young person	Both worries from 15 to 29. (Article 3).
Youth work and youth professions	<p>The law in Article 3 explains the meaning of the terms "youth work" and "youth workers".</p> <p>Youth work is defined as '<i>organized and systematic process of education and support for the authentic development of youth in order to achieve their full personal, social and social potential and their active inclusion in the life of the community</i>'. Youth workers are defined as "<i>qualified persons who have competences to work with youth by carrying out activities that support their personal and social development through informal and informal learning</i>".</p>
Youth rights and responsibilities	The law does not regulate this issue.
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	<p>Article 3 defines the meaning of 'youth participation' as 'a procedure that <i>allows young people to participate and jointly make decisions and programs that shape the lives of young people</i>'. In accordance with this meaning, the law recognizes the following forms of youth participation: National Youth Assembly, National Youth Advisory Body, local youth councils, local youth assemblies.</p> <p>The National Youth Assembly (Article 10-12) is the body that selects youth representatives in the national advisory body (9 out of 17 members), defines the priorities and policies of youth engagement, and co-ordinates and monitors their work (hereinafter: Youth Assembly). The National Assembly consists of representatives of organizations registered in the Registry of Youth Organizations and Youth Organizations.</p> <p>The National Advisory Body for Youth Policy (Article 14-15) is a youth and state administration co-operation body, and has an advisory and supervisory role in implementing youth policies and activities. It is established by the decision of the Government RNM. It consists of 17 members, 8 of whom appoint the state administration body, and 9 youth representatives elected by the National Youth Assembly. The National Advisory Team has, among others, the following competencies: it makes opinions and recommendations on the application of regulations and policies for youth, on budget funds intended for youth, provides proposals,</p>

	<p>opinions and recommendations for financing activities for youth, proposes establishing mechanisms for evaluating youth participation and achieving the interests of youth in social life. Important for youth participation is the provision in article 12 of this Article. 15. That the National Advisory Body proposes establishing mechanisms for evaluating youth participation and achieving the interests of youth in social life.</p> <p>Local youth councils are the bodies through which youth participation is provided in decision-making at the local level. The law stipulates that LSG by statute should foresee the establishment of these bodies. Councils have an advisory and representation role in LSG under youth policies, with the authority among other things to: propose items on the agenda of the LSG council, concerning youth policy, raise issues of importance to youth in the scope of LSG's jurisdiction, and initiate the process of drafting a local strategy for youth. The number of members of local youth councils is odd and does not exceed more than 1/3 of LSG council members. Members of local youth councils are elected by local youth assemblies.</p> <p>Local youth assemblies consist of representatives of youth organisations and organisations for youth, youth political parties and trade unions, high school and student organisations and other forms of youth organizing. Representatives are young people 15-29 years old, who must have residence on the territory of LSG where the local youth assembly is elected, and they can be delegated by organizations that carry out activities and programs in this LSG, regardless of the place of the organization's headquarters.</p>
<p>Forms of youth organizing</p>	<p>The law recognizes 4 forms of youth organizing: youth organization, organization for youth, youth umbrella organization and national youth assembly. Of these forms, the national youth assembly has the character of a mechanism for youth participation, while an umbrella organization can have such character.</p> <p>The specificity of the youth organization (Article 6) is that its highest decision-making body consists of at least 2/3 of youth, and that its goals and activities are aimed at promoting the interests of youth. The specificity of the organization for youth (Article 7) is</p>

	<p>that its program and activities are promoting the interests of youth, even though it is not managed by the youth.</p> <p>Umbrella organization of youth (Article 8-9) is a form similar to our umbrella alliance, because they are made up of youth organizations and organizations for youth that are united to achieve common goals in certain areas of interest to youth. The youth umbrella organization should have at least 10 members from at least 5 RNM planning regions, that two-thirds of youth make up the highest governing body, that it is registered in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations, and that it has its own statute. Unlike our solution, in which the MOS issues a certificate of fulfillment of the conditions for obtaining umbrella alliance status, RNM law does not prescribe closer how to determine the fulfillment of the conditions for acquiring the status of a rooftop organisation. When it comes to competencies (Article 9), the umbrella organization may, among other things, participate in the process of creating laws and other strategic documents of interest to youth, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth policies, proposing measures for decision-makers, etc. The law does not recognize informal youth groups.</p>
<p>Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care</p>	<p>LSG is responsible for implementing youth policies at the local level. They establish youth offices (alike KZM) and appoint youth coordinators as employees. LSG is responsible for financing youth policies in the area of their territory.</p>
<p>Institutions and services for young people</p>	<p>The law recognizes youth offices and youth centres as basic public institutions that implement youth policies directly working with youth.</p> <p>Youth offices are established by LSG to coordinate youth policy in the local community (Art. 21). LSG organs are required to appoint a youth officer, who will be responsible for their work.</p> <p>Youth Center is established by LSG in cooperation with other forms of youth organisations (Article 22). Youth center prepares and implements youth programs and youth workers are responsible for working with youth.</p> <p>The law mentions the "Agency for Youth and Sports", which among other duties, manages the registry of youth organizations and organizations for youth, but no provision in the law is committed to this institution.</p>

<p>Practical policies for young people</p>	<p>The law deals more closely with the issue of the national youth strategy (Article 12) and local strategies for youth.</p> <p>The National Youth Strategy sets medium-term (5-year) goals and priorities for youth development and promotion of youth interests and sets organizational, financial and administrative measures for achieving them. It also contains an Action Plan with defined activities, dynamics, activity holders and projection of budget funds, as well as conditions and evaluation indicators. It is prepared by the Agency for Youth and Sports through a consultative, inclusive and transparent process and based on the previously obtained opinion of all youth related ethos. The local youth strategy is similar to the national in the description, but it refers to the local level and is prepared by LSG authorities in cooperation with the local youth council.</p>
<p>Funding for youth politics</p>	<p>Youth policy funding is divided between the RNM government and LSG. For the implementation of this law, funds in the RNM budget are provided annually in the amount of at least 0.3%, and in the budgets of LSG allocates funds annually are in the amount of at least 0.1% of the LSG budget.</p>
<p>Records</p>	<p>There is a Registry of Youth Organizations and Organizations for Youth (part 3) run by the Agency for Youth and Sports. When enrolling in the Registrar, an organization is obliged to provide among other data to the competent body: the programme of work, the annual report on youth activities, the total number of members of the organization and the number of members of 15 - 29-year olds. Registrar is public and available on the website of the competent state body.</p>
<p>Reporting</p>	<p>The RNM government is obliged to prepare and submit a report on the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan to Parliament annually. Youth officials at youth offices are responsible for the annual report on the work of youth institutions, which they submit to the Youth and Sports Agency.</p>
<p>Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions</p>	<p>The issue of oversight of the application of the law has not been regulated. The interim and final provisions set deadlines in which the designated state body and LSG should meet the legally prescribed obligations. However, the law does not foresee corrective mechanisms and punitive provisions If the authority fails to act in accordance with the law.</p>

Advantages	Shortcomings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law defines a multi-weight mechanism for youth to make decisions of importance to young people; • Pursuing SMART criteria, the law establishes the mechanism for financing youth policies at the national and local level, as a percentage of the national/local budget; • The law prescribes an obligation to other state bodies and levels of government to implement the specified provisions of the law within the specified time frame; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no mechanism to enforce a state organ or LSG to act according to the obligation stipulated in the provisions of the law;

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia passed the Law on Youth Work Support in 2008. The law contains 21 articles with several sub-articles. The law focuses on youth work as an activity through which youth care is provided. The law has fully regulated the issue of professionalization of youth work. Youth work can only be handled by accredited organizations and individuals performing one of 5 youth occupations. Accreditation is acquired for a period of 5 years. It is approved by the Accreditation Commission and issued by the minister. The title of youth occupations is acquired by attending accredited training and professional practice in accredited organizations for youth work. The program and exam that acquires the title, develops an accredited service provider and is approved by the Accreditation Commission in the accreditation process. Youth work can be handled under the same conditions by organizations founded by the religious community. Youth work cannot be dealt with by convicted persons and this circumstance is determined in the employment process. The law also regulates the area of youth volunteering in a whole way and without the need for a special law that would regulate volunteering (Article 11-13). Volunteering is done by a youth volunteer who can be any domestic or foreign natural person of 15-30 years of age who has no convictions, is not an asylum seeker, has not been expelled from the SK, and is not in a working relationship. Volunteer service is an activity of general interest that the volunteer performs within the framework of youth work and on the basis of a written contract with an accredited organization for youth work (volunteer organizer). The volunteer must be provided with compensation for travel expenses in connection with performing volunteer service,

reimbursement of food costs, accommodation and volunteer allowance (Article 12). A volunteer can also receive training. The volunteer organizer has the following obligations (Article 13): a) to provide everything necessary to perform volunteering, provide health insurance for the volunteer, if this arises from the volunteer contract, conclude a valid contract on ensuring its liability for any damage sustained by performing volunteer activities, volunteers on the safety and protection of health when performing volunteer service, issued to the volunteer a written certificate on the duration and content of volunteering, prepare a written evaluation of volunteer work, to provide a volunteer who is not a SK citizen with learning the Slovak language during the duration of volunteering. The contract with the volunteer can be concluded for up to one year, except when the activity lasts longer (Article 12).

Subject	The Law regulates support for youth work, informal education in the field of youth work, funding of youth work, accreditation of educational programmes in the field of youth work and volunteer work in the field and work with youth (Article 1).
Objective	/
Principles	The Law does not prescribe principles, but prescribes a prohibition of discrimination (Article 4).
Definition of a young person	A young person is a person up to 30 years of age (Article 2).
Youth work and youth professions	The law defines youth work and 5 youth occupations, and stipulates that professional training is required for one of 5 occupations - youth worker, youth leader, youth work coordinator and lecturer in the field of youth work (Article 10). Training refers to a set of professional knowledge, skills and habits acquired during training or in professional practice. Professional skills can also be acquired in an accredited subject for youth work. The content and scope of theoretical and practical training, as well as the manner and scope of exams for performing youth work activities are part of the educational programme of accredited institutions. In order for a person to pursue youth occupation and establish a working relationship, they must not be convicted of crimes. In this regard, the law for all occupations prescribes a condition that the person has integrity (Article 2a) and a good reputation and is not convicted. Youth work is an educational and participatory activity that is conducted with youth and for youth to ensure their personal and professional development and social development through non-formal education (Article 2).

	<p>Non-formal learning in the field of youth work means further training of young people, young leaders, youth leaders, youth workers and youth coordinators in order to gain new knowledge, practical experience, competences and the skills needed to work with youth.</p> <p>The young leader is a person of at least 15 and up to 17 years old, has a good reputation, actively participates in organizing youth events under the guidance of a youth leader or youth worker. The youth leader is a person of at least 18 years, has a good reputation, runs and organizes youth events.</p> <p>Youth worker is a person who supports young people in their personal development and development of their knowledge, skills and competences, prepares and organizes events or programs in the field of youth work, has business ability, in the working-legal relationship in an institution that works with youth, and performs voluntary activities in the field of youthwork.</p> <p>Youth coordinator is a person who has a good reputation and plans, usmera and coordinates youth work.</p> <p>A teacher in the field of youth work is a person who has a good reputation in educational activities developing the competences of youth workers, youth leaders, young leaders and other persons engaged in youth work (Article 2).</p> <p>Accreditation is the right to perform duties on youth work (Article 8). The condition for issuing an ear about accreditation is to submit a document on the professional ability of a professional person and lecturer in the field of youth work along with the submission of the educational programme. Accreditation decision is awarded for a period of 5 years.</p> <p>The Law establishes the Accreditation Commission in the field of youth work (Article 7) as an advisory body consisting of experts in the field of youth work, and the Minister who appoints and dismisses it. The Commission's tasks are to evaluate application for accreditation for performing youth work, and applications for the allocation of quality labels (labeled "<i>Modern Youth Center</i>").</p> <p>The law also defines the occupation of "<i>youth volunteer</i>" (Article 11), but not as a professional occupation but as a volunteer (without compensation and established working relationship).</p>
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Youth rights and responsibilities	The law does not regulate this issue.
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	Youth participation is active inclusion of youth in the process of planning, deciding and implementing events and projects in the field of social and economic life (Article 2). LSG can form the Youth Parliament (Article 6a) which considers draft local regulations, drafts of other documents and measures discussed by the LSG council concerning youth, co-operates with youth parliaments in other LSGs and is referred to the LSG council. Although LSG's authority is to regulate elections to the Youth Parliament, the assumption is that members of parliament are young people and that we can consider it a mechanism for youth participation in decision-making processes.
Forms of youth organizing	The law does not regulate forms of youth organizing.
Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care	LSG in the field of youth care supports youth work on its territory and creates conditions for youth development, supports and encourages youth participation. LSG may appoint a youth work coordinator. LSG with the status of the city is obliged to bring about the concept of youth work development and ensure its implementation (Article 6).
Institutions and services for young people	The law does not regulate institutions and services for youth, but regulates the minister's authority to assign a quality label to the 'Modern Youth Centre' to the provider of youth work that meets the prescribed criteria (8a). The Service Provider may be a natural or legal person as well as organizations that establish religious communities.
Practical policies for young people	The Law does not regulate this issue, except that article 6 stipulates that LSG with the status of the city is obliged to enact the concept of youth work development and ensure its implementation (Article 6).
Youth policy financing	The state provides funds in the budget for grants in the field of youth work. Grants can be given for a number of taxable purposes (projects, trainings, organizing volunteer activities, international cooperation, information, etc.) but up to a maximum of 90% of the total cost.

Records	The Law does not regulate the issue of records, but since there is an accreditation procedure for the activities of youth work for a period of 5 years, there must be a type of registry of this kind.
Reporting	The law does not regulate this issue.
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	The line ministry (Article 19) is responsible for supervising the implementation of the Law. The law does not determine violations and does not prescribe penalties.

Advantages	Shortcomings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Law details the professionalization of youth work, youth occupations and how to acquire youth titles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apart from the guiding principles, and the possibility of establishing youth parliaments at the local level, the law does not provide enough information and norms to ensure youth participation in decision-making.

SLOVENIA

Slovenia opted to norm the area of youth policy through 2 acts: The Law on Public Interest in the Field of Youth Sector and the Law on Youth Councils. The Law on public interest in the field of youth sector contains 34 articles and defines the meanings of basic terms. "Youth sector" is defined as the area in which youth policies and youth work are created and implemented. "Youth Policy" is a concerted set of measures of different sectoral public policies with the aim of promoting and facilitating youth integration into the economic, cultural and political life of the community and appropriate support mechanisms for the development of youth work and youth organisations, which is implemented in cooperation with youth, professional and other organisations. Public interest in the youth sector is realized in 9 areas (Article 4): youth autonomy; informal learning and training and increasing youth competence; youth labour market access and development of youth enterprises; care of young people with fewer opportunities; volunteering, solidarity and intergenerational participation of youth; mobility and international integration; healthy lifestyles and prevention of different forms of addiction; youth cultural goods approach and promotion of creativity and innovation among youth, and youth participation in the management of public affairs in society. Public interest in the youth sector is achieved in 2 ways: by creating regulatory and other conditions for youth development and inclusion of youth policy issues in strategies, policies and measures affecting youth, and through financial support for youth programs and youth programmes, including financial support for youth infrastructure development (Article 5).

The Law on Youth Councils contains 18 articles and has defined the meaning, position, competencies and other issues on the work of youth councils. Both acts define the role of local levels of government in the implementation of public interest in the youth sector, but do not prescribe imperative norms. While the Law on Public Interest in the field of youth sector, which is largely related to the conduct of state bodies, does not prescribe punitive provisions, the Law on Youth Councils prescribes them for violations committed by private and legal persons and their responsible persons.

Law on public interest in the field of youth sector

Subject	The law determines what is considered the youth sector and public interest for the youth sector , as well as the way of implementing public interest in the youth sector (Article 1).
Objective	/
Principles	The Law affirms the principles of democracy, plurality, integrity, intergenerational solidarity, equality, non-discrimination and justice, multiculturalism, intercultural dialogue, volunteering, promoting a healthy lifestyle, respect for life and the environment, and the participation of NGOs in public affairs management (Article 2), but does not clarify them more precisely.
Definition of a young person	People from 15 to 29 years of age (Article 3).
Youth work and youth professions	The law <i>defines 'Youth Work'</i> , but does not further clarify its place and importance in the youth sector. Youth work is an organized and targeted form of youth action and is intended for youth, in which youth, based on their own efforts, contribute to their own inclusion in society, strengthen their competences and contribute to the development of the community. The application of different forms of youth work is based on the volunteer participation of youth without regard to their interest, cultural or political orientation (Article 2). The Law does not regulate the issue of occupation or professionalization of youth work.
Rights and responsibilities of young people	The law does not regulate this issue.
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	The law envisions the formation of a government advisory body for youth with broad powers, in which representatives of youth organisations make up half of the members (Article 8). Other forms of youth participation in decision-making are the Youth Council of

	Slovenia (national level) and local youth councils (local level), which are subject to a special Law on Youth Councils.
Forms of youth organizing	Youth organisations and organisations for youth, together with youth councils, are treated as subjects of public interest in the youth sector (Article 9). Organizations that meet established criteria (300+ members, activities in most regions), and youth organizations of national minorities, can obtain national youth organization status.
Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care	LSG authorities are responsible for the implementation of public interest in the youth sector at the local level (Article 4). The law prescribes the authority of LSG to implement youth policy at the local level in accordance with its interests, needs, possibilities and circumstances such as population number and structure, economic strength of LSG, spatial and human resources, etc. (Article 27). It prescribes the possibility for LSG to bring in a local youth programme, educate a working or consultative body for youth, provide funds in the budget to co-finance programmes in the youth sector, take other measures in accordance with the law.
Institutions and services for young people	The law defines the youth center as an organized functional center where programs for youth and youth work are implemented at the local level (Article 28).
Practical policies for young people	The law establishes the National Youth Programme as a basic strategic program document that defines priorities and measures of public interest in the youth sector (Article 16). It is adopted for a period of nine years. It contains a description of the program, a financial plan with costs and sources, service providers, expected development impacts and impact assessment indicators, the period and time frames of implementation of this program.
Youth policy financing	The SI government's budget provides funds to co-finance programmes in the youth sector, with the programme and budget framework for co-financing comprised of the National Youth Programme. The law stipulates that funding be realized through tenders and public invitations (Article 18). Through the tender , funds can be allocated for specific public call preparation and evaluation services while all other funds earmarked for the realization of youth programs are realized through public invitations . Public invitations are intended for youth organisations, youth councils and public institutions in the youth sector. The law

	<p>also prescribes mandatory elements of the invitation for offers (Article 19) and public call (Article 20), procedure (Article 21), consideration (Article 22) and evaluation of applications (Article 23), decision making (Article 24-25), and contracting (Article 26).</p> <p>At the local level, the Law prescribes the possibility that LSG in the same way provides funds for co-financing of programs in the youth sector, whereby the program and budget framework for co-financing is in line with the local youth programme (Article 27).</p>
Records	<p>The Law prescribes the management of the Registry of Organizations of Public Interest in the Youth Sector (Article 14). The Registry is conducted for the publishing of data relevant to legal trade on public interest organizations, with the aim of increasing legal certainty and transparency in the work of these organizations.</p>
Reporting	<p>The issue of reporting is not covered by this Law.</p>
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	<p>Supervision of law enforcement is carried out by the ministry in charge of youth. The Law does not prescribe punitive provisions.</p>

Law on Youth Councils

Subject	<p>The Law regulates the position, work, activity and financing of the Youth Council of Slovenia and the Council of Youth of Local Communities (Article 1).</p>
Objective	/
Principles	/
Definition of a young person	<p>This law does not regulate this issue.</p>
Youth work and youth professions	<p>This law does not regulate this issue.</p>
Youth rights and responsibilities	<p>The law does not regulate this issue.</p>
Youth participation mechanisms in decision-making	<p>The Youth Council of Slovenia is a voluntary association of national youth organizations that have the status of public interest organizations in the youth sector in accordance with the law governing the public interest in the youth sector. The Local Community Youth Council includes youth organisations defined in the law regulating the public interest in the youth sector, which have at least 90% of members under the age of 29 and 70% of</p>

	management are aged 15 to 29 and have headquarters in this LSG (Article 2). The Youth Council of Slovenia and the Youth Council of the Local Community are legal entities of private law with rights, obligations and responsibilities determined by law and basic act (Article 3). The Law stipulates (Article 6) that the Government, ministries and other state bodies and bodies of LSG must consult the Youth Council of Slovenia or youth local communities before determining the draft law and other regulations that directly affect the life and work of youth.
Forms of youth organizing	This law does not regulate this issue.
Obligations and responsibilities of LSG for youth care	The Law prescribes the obligation of LSG to consult its local youth council on the policies they enact that are relevant to the position of youth.
Institutions and services for young people	This law does not regulate this issue.
Practical policies for young people	This law does not regulate this issue.
Youth policy financing	Youth Council of Slovenia and youth councils of local communities obtain funds from the budgets of the Government of Slovenia and LSG and from other sources such as membership fees, property rights, economic activities, donations, etc. (Article 7).
Records	The Register of the Youth Council of Slovenia and the Youth Council of local communities is managed by the ministry in charge of education and sports (Article 11).
Reporting	The law does not regulate this issue.
Supervision of law enforcement and punitive provisions	Supervision of law enforcement is carried out by the authorities in charge of law enforcement on associations (Article 13a). The Audit Court oversees the legality, purpose, economic and efficient use of public funds allocated to the Youth Council in Slovenia and youth councils of local communities (Article 9) to carry out activities. The Law also contains punitive provisions in the amount of EUR 1,000-2,000 for the Youth Council and EUR 200-400 for an authorized person for tax-related offences (Article 14).

Advantages

Shortcomings

- Detailed and precisely regulated issues and procedures for co-financing youth policy at the national and local level.
- no mechanism to enforce coercion against a state body or LSG.

KEY ISSUES FOR THE YOUTH SECTOR AND DECISION MAKERS

In the process of revision of the Law on Youth and its particular solutions, it is especially important to take note at the following key issues, on which differing opinions and opposing views are likely to arise.

1. Coverage of the law, its inter-sectoral character and compliance (at least with certain provisions) **with other laws.** Comparative analysis suggests that the majority of countries that chose to regulate youth care by special law did so through the laws on youth, youth organizing or youth work. Regardless of the name, the analyzed laws are very comparable when it comes to coverage. So is the case with our law, whose comprehensiveness is comparable, but when it comes to the quality of individual solutions, there is room for improvement. The conclusion is that this type of law focuses on creating support for youth in those areas where that support is not arranged in any other law/s, i.e.: participation in decision-making, principles of working with youth that change the paradigm of civil servants, support for youth organizing, and professionalization of youth work, etc. The analysed laws do not regulate youth support in those areas that have already been regulated by other fields, for example education, work, health, safety, which does not mean that everything is arranged properly in these areas and that solutions should not be innovated and improved. But the point of the law on youth in the observed countries is to provide co-ordination and mechanisms for young people to take part in these processes as well. In this regard, the Law on Youth should provide a solid terrain in which young people and their organisations develop, and from which they participate in decision-making processes in all areas of interest to youth. In order for this idea to live, it is important that the law contains mechanisms of inter-sectoral co-operation. In most countries, the mechanism is contained in the Youth Council as a mixed advisory body that is formed at the national level and can be formed according to the same principles locally. Through the Council, responsibility for the implementation of public interest in the field of youth is shared with other departments.

2. Principles in working with youth – it is important in the process of considering new solutions, as well as for achieving inter-sectoral co-operation, to agree on what is meant to be achieved by specifying principles in the law. Is this (declarative) promotion of some ideas and values, or are the principles general rules that all norms must be harmonised with, and which are binding in that sense? Both approaches are present in a comparative review of the presented legal solutions. Declarative principles, in the form of a statement of idea, are not much useful and purposeful for an act with the power of law. The general rule principles clarify the spirit of normation and set certain limits to it. For an area such as youth care, principles as general rules can be valuable, especially from the point of view of aspiration, to ensure participation and inter-

sectoral cooperation. Therefore, it is desirable for the principles to be concrete (specific) and for their intention to be clear.

3. **Participation** is in all legal frameworks a popular term used in affirmative meaning. Nevertheless, concrete solutions are more modest and need to be discussed in greater detail. If this is the determination of society, then concrete mechanisms of participation should be offered and explained what young people in society obtain from such participation. This can especially be illustrated these days with examples from everyday life such as the issue of youth vaccination or the issue of introducing compulsory military service, or the issue of youth returning from abroad, or traffic safety issues with numerous victims among youth. All these questions are among the most current social problems, to which society appears not to have found the right answer, and they are being resolved without the participation of the youth in creating these solutions. Therefore, the key question for decision-makers and the youth sector is whether real participation is really wanted or not. The fortunate circumstance is that there are preconditions in Serbia for full participation of youth. There is a republic, inter-sectoral and mixed Youth Council and a ministry that administers its work, there is a national representative alliance. In many municipalities and towns there are established and experienced youth offices and youth councils. These prerequisites can be used and new solutions in the Law on Youth can offer upgrades through mature and precise solutions that better define participation mechanisms. In this regard, the step towards achieving full participation would be if the ministries were obliged to seek the opinion of the national representative alliance in preparation of regulations when it applies to youth. The council, on the other hand, should advise decision-makers on important issues that society does not have the right answer to.

4. **Professionalization of youth work** – whether it is a pedagogical approach broadly implemented by different persons, or is it an occupation. If it is an occupation it must have its application in specific work environments. If it becomes an obligation, working with young people gets a different quality. It is desirable that decision-makers, and organizations that carry out youth work with youth, discuss and reach a consensus on the following issues important to systemic regulation on the matter:

1. In what circumstances for public/private sector is it necessary to have education/training in youth work?
2. Accreditation of youth work organizations
3. Which institution has jurisdiction, and what procedure does it perform in accreditation process?
4. What are the advantages of accredited organizations over the unaccredited (what is the interest of organizations to go through the accreditation process)?

5. Availability and conditions for attending accredited programs to different groups of users (juveniles, adult youth, employees in youth institutions founded by the republic, region, LSG, commercial service providers, etc.).

A favorable circumstance is the fact that the occupation is "youth worker" since 2019 part of the unique nomenclature of occupations in Serbia.

5. **Youth offices** and **municipal youth councils** have so far operated on the voluntary basis, and time has shown that this has been the greatest threat to their survival. This problem is particularly pronounced in large environments where there are many young people. It is understood that the Youth Office or youth council is probably not the most optimistic framework for caring for young people in places such as Crna Trava where there are few young people. But cities such as Belgrade, Nis, Zrenjanin, Krusevac and other, especially places that are also large university centres, *must* have the appropriate mechanism for implementing the care of young people.

6. One of the current issues is that **of records** and **information systems**. In considering this issue, it is important to reach a consensus on the purpose and use of such records with all the data collected. Then one should look at what data are collected for records, whether they are justified and usable, and whether there is an administratively more modern way of logging through e-governance, which would simplify and thus encourage records. There is also a great interest in the sector that there is an information system that would bring all the data together and make it available for research and development connected to the practice of working with youth.

7. The **funding** issue is also a topic for which there is a great public interest. The practice so far through the competition is good and coincides with solutions applied in other countries. In the competition, it is necessary to edit the criteria more precisely and refer to key comments from the consultation process with users, but solutions from other countries that have arranged for the criteria to be developed in cooperation with youth should be considered. This is another field in which youth participation is important to ensure a solution that the youth would accept.

8. Many countries have directly or indirectly in their legal solutions reference to spaces, institutions and services for youth, which speaks about how much **the spaces/services** in which young people spend time, but which also offer them some content, are actually an important topic in taking care of young people. Albania has also defined the concept of a safe space for youth and the standards of such a space. Montenegro and Albania have created the basis for financing the construction, adaptation and equipping of such spaces. Such spaces, which young people identify as their safe spaces, may also have a purpose in organizing measures for vulnerable categories of youth including NEET.

9. Given the fact that in parallel with the revision of some solutions in the Law on Youth, some new solutions in the Law on Volunteering are considered, comparative experiences of countries that have included in their youth laws the topic **of youth volunteering** should be looked at for consideration on their relevance to our situation.

10. **Violations and penalties** are another topic on which opposing views may arise. These measures have been introduced by several countries in the region. The analysis shows that violations (and penalties) are prescribed mainly for those actions that are taxed and for which deadlines are defined.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUBJECT AND OBJECTIVE

Recommendation 1.1: **Define youth care as a public interest and reformulating accordingly the first article regulating the subject of the Law.**

Recommendation 1.2: **Define the objective of youth care, and omit the aim of the law and specify this in the rationale for changes**

Existing solution	Proposal for a new solution
<p>This law regulates measures and activities undertaken by the Republic of Serbia, an autonomous province and a local self-government unit, aimed at improving the social position of youth and creating conditions for achieving the needs and interests of youth in all areas of interest to the youth.</p> <p>The aim of the law is to create conditions for youth support in organizing, social action, development and achieving potential for personal and social well-being.</p>	<p>This law regulates measures and activities undertaken by the Republic of Serbia, the autonomous region and the local self-government unit in achieving public interest in the field of youth care.</p> <p>Youth care is an area of public interest for the Republic of Serbia. The aim of youth care is to improve the social position of youth and create conditions for achieving the needs and interests of youth in all areas of interest to the youth.</p> <p>The Government, autonomous regions and local self-government units are responsible for implementing the public interest in the field of youth care in accordance with the law.</p>

Justification: This establishes that the care for young people is a public interest implemented by all levels and governing bodies. The focus shifts to the area of (systemic) care for youth, which is a broader term than youth organizing.

PRINCIPLES

Recommendation2.1: **After Article 3, and before Article 4, ADD A NEW RUBRUM II OF THE PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN YOUTH CARE**

Recommendation2.1: **After Article 3, and before Article 4, ADD A NEW RUBRUM II OF THE PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN YOUTH CARE**

Recommendation 2.2: MERGE Articles 4 and 5 into a single Article.

Recommendation 2.3: ADD 3 new principles, including the principle of obtaining information, the principle of inter-sectoral and inter-institutional cooperation in the field of youth care, and the principle of integrity.

Existing solution	Proposal for a new solution
<p>Principle of equality and prohibition of discrimination Article 5. All young people are equal. Any disparity or unequal treatment of youth is prohibited, indirectly or indirectly, on any grounds, especially on the basis of race, gender, nationality, religious belief, language, social origin, immune state, membership in political, union and other organizations, mental or physical disability, health, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity and other real or assumed personal characteristic.</p> <p>Principle of equal chances Article 6. Young people are entitled to equal chances and participation in all areas of social life in accordance with their own choices and abilities.</p>	<p>II PRINCIPLE OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN YOUTH CARE</p> <p>....</p> <p>The principle of equality, equal chances and prohibition of discrimination Article 5. All young people are equal. Young people are entitled to equal chances and participation in all areas of social life in accordance with their own choices and abilities. Any disparity or unequal treatment of youth is prohibited, indirectly or indirectly, on any grounds, especially on the basis of race, gender, nationality, religious belief, language, social origin, immune state, membership in political, union and other organizations, mental or physical disability, health, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity and other real or assumed personal characteristic.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>The principle of information provision Article 9 Youth policy subjects provide youth with accurate, timely and complete information in the process of creating, making and implementing decisions of interest to youth.</p>

	<p>The principles of inter-sectoral and inter-institutional cooperation in the field of youth care</p> <p>Article 10</p> <p>State administration bodies and local governments co-operate and share responsibility for taking care of youth in the areas of their jurisdiction and domains in which competencies intersect.</p> <p>The principle of integrity</p> <p>Article 10</p> <p>Rad with youth is carried out by persons with integrity who have no previous convictions.</p>
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Justification: Adding rubrum II: THE PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN YOUTH CARE ARE PUT AT THE FOREFRONT OF WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND IMPLICITLY ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BODIES IN CHARGE OF YOUTH CARE, HOW THIS WORK IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE.

The principle of information provision should be a practical policy that should among public administration bodies promote culture (by determining obligation) to provide information to young people and to be open to interests coming from young people; The principles of inter-sectoral and inter-institutional co-operation in the field of youth care should be a practical policy that should be promoting among public administration bodies a culture of cooperation (by determining obligation) with others when it comes to youth; The principle of integrity is a value norm that affirms personal integrity as a desirable social value, which the law should promote in working with young people.

STARTEGIJA FOR YOUTH

Recommendation 3. 1: Amend **Paragraph 3 in Article 12** and add the deadline by which lower levels of governance submit to the Ministry an annual report on the implementation of the Strategy

Recommendation 3. 2: Consider the possibilities for reporting to be done through the information system.

Recommendation 3. 3: Reconcile rubrum and articles numeracy with previous and subsequent changes.

Existing solution	Proposal for a new solution
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<p>Article 12</p> <p>Funds for the implementation of the Strategy are provided in the budget of the Republic of Serbia, as well as in the budget of the autonomous province and local self-government units and from other sources, in accordance with the law.</p> <p>In accordance with the Strategy, the autonomous province and the local self-government unit set out action plans for implementing the Strategy on their territory and provide funds in their budget for the realisation of these plans.</p> <p>Autonomous province and local self-government unit submit at the request of the Ministry, and at least once a year, a report on the implementation of the Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy on its territory.</p>	<p>Member n (formerly 12).</p> <p>Funds for the implementation of the Strategy are provided in the budget of the Republic of Serbia, as well as in the budget of the autonomous province and local self-government units and from other sources, in accordance with the law.</p> <p>In accordance with the Strategy, the autonomous province and the local self-government unit set out action plans for implementing the Strategy on their territory and provide funds in their budget for the realisation of these plans.</p> <p>The autonomous province and the local self-government unit submit to the ministry a report on the implementation of the action plan for implementation of the Strategy on its territory by INSERT DATE.</p>
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Justification: reporting is an integral step in the public policy cycle on which the evaluation and performance assessment phase is based, and it is necessary to make this step mandatory with pre-known deadlines, without a special request from the Ministry. It can be further prescribed that the Ministry may request an extraordinary report. The process of submitting reports and processing and storing of data would be significantly simplified if the reporting process could be implemented through the information system. Such collected and processed data would also be more available for public use.

YOUTH WORK

Recommendation 4.1: **ADD a new article** to define that professional work with youth institutions in youth institutions that implement youth programs and activities, founded by the Republic of Serbia, autonomous region or local self-government unit, or funded by public revenues, is performed by a youth worker. For this provision, leave a transition period for 36 months.

Recommendations 4.2: **ADD a new article** to define a profile of a youth worker.

Recommendation 4.3: **Define** that training for youth workers is organized by accredited providers with accredited programs. **Create a Bylaw** in cooperation with professional

organizations for youth work to define the conditions and accreditation procedures within 12 months.

Recommendation 4.4: Add new rubrum III. YOUTH WORK

Recommendation 4.5: Harmonize rubrum and articles numeracy with previous and subsequent changes.

Existing solution	Proposal for a new solution
/	<p>III. YOUTH WORK</p> <p>Article n+1 Professional work with youth institutions in youth institutions that implement youth programs and activities, founded by the Republic of Serbia, autonomous region or local self-government unit or funded by public funds, is performed by a youth worker.</p> <p>Article n+2 Youth worker is a person trained to work professionally with youth who have the right qualification. The procedure and manner of obtaining qualification is stipulated by the minister in charge of youth within 12 months.</p>

Justification: Quality work with youth can be achieved by professionalization of professional work. The necessary increase in the level of responsibility in working with youth can also be achieved by introducing elements of professional obligation and professional standard of work.

IV. COUNCIL, OFFICE AND AGENCY FOR YOUTH

Recommendation 5.1: ADD the word National to the small rubrum Youth Council.

Preporuka 5.2: After Article 16, ADD a new article that will arrange for the Council to give special opinion on the draft laws and strategies that are of interest to youth and that the representative youth alliance can single out its opinion if it is different from the council's opinion.

Recommendation 5. 3: Separate Article 17 into n+a and n+b, so that the provisions on the provincial and local councils are separate articles.

Recommendation 5. 4: In front of article n+a, ADD a small rubrum Provincial Youth Council

Recommendation 5. 5: In article n+a amend the first position so that the autonomous region is recommended the establishment of a provincial youth council.

Recommendation 5. 6: In article n+a ADD a new position that will define that the composition, manner and procedure of selecting council members shall be prescribed by the executive body of the autonomous region but that 1/3 members must be made up of youth delegated by youth organizations, youth organizations and their alliances from the territory of the autonomous region.

Recommendation 5. 7: In article n+a, ADD a new composition to define that the Council in particular gives its opinion regarding the draft regulations of interest for youth and the budget provided by the local self-government unit, and that youth representatives can single out their opinion with the council's opinion if it is different from the council's opinion.

Recommendation 5. 8: After article n+a and in front of article n+b, ADD a small rubrum Youth Council of the local self-government.

Recommendation 5. 9: In article n+b after the first and before the second paragraph, ADD a new position that will bind the local self-government to establish a local youth council if there are at least 10,000 youth living on the territory of the local self-government unit.

Recommendation 5. 10: In article n+b ADD a new position that will define that the composition, manner and procedure of electing council members will be prescribed by the executive body of local self-government but that 1/3 members must be made up of youth.

Recommendation 5. 11: In article n+b, ADD a new composition to define that the Council in particular gives its opinion regarding the draft regulations of interest for youth and the budget provided by the local self-government unit, and that youth representatives can single out their opinion with the council's opinion if it is different from the council's opinion.

Recommendation 5. 12: Reconcile rubrum and articles numeracy with previous and subsequent changes.

Existing solution	Proposal for a new solution
/	National Youth Council Member n. In particular, the Council gives its opinion on draft regulations that are of interest to youth, prepared by ministries. A representative alliance can attach a singled-out opinion with the opinion of the Council.
Provincial Youth Council and Youth Council of Local Self-Government Units Article 17	Provincial Youth Council Article n+a (formerly 17)

<p>In order to harmonise activities related to the realization of youth policy on the territory of the autonomous province and the local self-government unit, the competent authority and the competent authority of the local self-government unit can establish a provincial, city and municipal youth council.</p>	<p>In order to harmonise activities related to the realization of youth policy on the territory of the autonomous province, the competent authority of the province can establish your provincial youth council.</p> <p>With the a stav, manner and procedure of selecting council members will be prescribed by the executive body of the autonomous region, whereby at least 1/3 members must be young representatives of youth organizations, organizations for youth and their alliances from the territory of the autonomous region.</p> <p>In particular, the Council gives its opinion regarding the draft regulations of interest for youth and budget stipulated by the body of the autonomous region, i.e. the body of the local self-government unit, whereby youth representatives can single out their opinion with the opinion of the Council if it is different from the opinion of the.</p> <p>Youth Council of local self-government Article n+b (former 17)</p> <p>In order to harmonise activities related to the realization of youth policies on the territory of the local self-government unit, the competent authority of the local self-government unit can establish the city and municipal youth councils.</p> <p>Na territory of the local self-government unit where at least 10,000 youth resides, the competent authority of the local self-government unit establishes the city and municipal youth councils.</p> <p>Composition, manner and procedure of electing council members will be prescribed by the executive body of local self-</p>
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	<p>government, whereby at least 1/3 members must be young.</p> <p>In particular, the Council gives its opinion regarding the draft regulations of interest for youth and the budget provided by the local self-government body, whereby youth representatives can single-out their opinion with the opinion of the Council if it is different from the opinion of the.</p>
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Justification: The role of youth council as a mixed advisory body of the Government is significant. The focus should be on coordination of measures and youth care activities. The representative alliance should give its opinion on the proposed legislation.

The Youth Council should use its inter-sectoral character more to ensure inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination. On the other hand, this body is not executive, it is advisory. Therefore, it is more valuable that all relevant departments, as well as the youth, are represented in the Council, and that this be one of the frameworks for connecting different sectors, nurturing youth communication with different sectors, than for the youth to make up the majority. It is not only an interest to hear the voice of youth (this is achieved by the participation of youth representatives), but also for young people to have the opportunity to hear the voice of institutions with which they do not normally have much contact.

As such (inter-sectoral body – forum), the council should consider and advise (not only the minister of youth but other state bodies) on all social issues that are relevant to the youth. For example, the issue of public interest in vaccinating young people against COVID-19. The question of how to ensure that young people are vaccinated en masse is of great importance to public health, and such an issue should be discussed at the Council and that the Council advises crisis headquarters on how to set a strategy for youth. The issue of traffic safety and the high number of accidents with fatalities among youth is another issue that goes beyond the framework of the competent institution (Traffic Safety Agency) and should be discussed at the Council, and the Agency should be advised on how to approach youth. Then there is the issue of economic youth migration, the issue of restoring compulsory military service, etc. These are all important issues of great and long-term impact for the youth, who by their importance are coming out of their departments and becoming social issues that need to be discussed at the council level.

The provincial level of decision-making is the level at which important decisions of interest are made for youth in the region and in accordance with the principles of youth support and active participation of youth should be enabled for young people to participate in decision-making processes.

Local self-government units where there are at least 10,000 youths (e.g. student centres) residing must ensure that there is a mechanism through which young people will be able to participate in decision-making processes concerning them, and for such local governments it is desirable to have prescribed this as an obligation. Other local self-government units, which have a smaller share of the young population, should be left with this as the opportunity.

The singled-out opinion of the Representative Alliance in the National Council, i.e. youth opinions in the provincial and local councils, will contribute to better visibility of youth opinions in the decision-making process.

YOUTH OFFICE

Recommendation 6.1: In Article 18 after the first paragraph, ADD position that defines the obligation of LSG in which resides at least 10,000 youth to establish the Youth Office.

Preporuka 6.2: In article18 after the first paragraph, ADD another position that defines the possibility that the Youth Office in cooperation with other state administration and local self-government bodies performs youth support activities according to the principle of one-stop shop, and that the conditions and procedures of performing one-stop shop principles will be prescribed by the local self-government body.

Recommendation 6.3: After Article 18, a new article is added that introduces elements of professionalization of working with youth and establishes that the coordinator of youth office is a municipal employee with the qualification of a youth worker.

Recommendation 6.4: After Article 18, another new article is added, determining the possibility that LSG apart from youth office establishes the youth club as a physical space for youth and youth work.

Recommendation 6.5: Reconcile rubrum and articles' numeracy with previous and subsequent changes.

Existing solution	Proposal for a new solution
<p>Youth Office Article 18 In order to provide conditions for active inclusion of youth in the life and work of the community, empowering youth, supporting the organization of different social activities of youth, learning and creative expression of youth needs, local self-government units may establish a youth office within its powers, needs and possibilities.</p>	<p>Youth Office Member n (formerly 18) In order to provide conditions for active inclusion of youth in the life and work of the community, empowering youth, supporting the organization of different social activities of youth, learning and creative expression of youth needs, local self-government units may</p>

<p>The Youth Office is funded from the budget of the local self-government unit, as well as from other sources, in accordance with the law. Activities from paragraph 1 of this Article are realized in accordance with the Strategy and local action plans for youth.</p>	<p>establish a youth office within its powers, needs and possibilities.</p> <p>A local self-government unit where at least 10,000 youth resides is to establish the Youth Office.</p> <p>The Youth Office, in cooperation with other public administration and local government bodies, can perform youth support activities under the principle of a one-stop-shop system. The conditions and procedure for its operation is stipulated by the local government body.</p> <p>The Youth Office is funded from the budget of the local self-government unit, as well as from other sources, in accordance with the law. Activities from paragraph 1 of this Article are realized in accordance with the Strategy and local action plans for youth.</p> <p>Article n+1 The coordinator of the youth office is a municipal employee with the qualification of a youth worker.</p> <p>Article n+2 In order to provide conditions for quality youth leisure time and implementation of youth work programmes, a local self-government unit may establish a youth club. Youth klub is a physical space intended to be used by the youth and managed by the Youth Office.</p>
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Justification: By prescribing the obligation of local self-government units with at least 10,000 youths who have residency in the territory of that unit, to form a youth office and to manage it by a person who has the qualification of a youth worker, ensures that the youth care in places

where there is significant interest is achieved. At the same time, the professionalization of youth work and the existence of professional responsibility of the coordinator for the job are provided. By introducing the possibility for the youth office to perform youth support activities under the principle of a one-stop-shop system, lays the groundwork for the introduction of one-stop shop approaches in working with young people, especially vulnerable groups of youth and youth in the NEET category.

Introducing the possibility of a local self-government unit to form a youth club provides legal assumptions for the local government to further develop the youth club, as necessary, harmonise its statute with this provision, and plans funds in the budget for the adaptation and equipping of this space.

YOUTH AGENCY

Recommendation 7.1: DELETE Article 19.

Justification: There is no need to form a Youth Agency.

FINANCING OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH SECTOR

Recommendation 8. 1: AMEND the rubrum above article 20, so that it is named THE FUNDING OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH CARE

Recommendation 8.2: Add a new position that will ensure that MOS, together with another ministry, creates a programme and a call for financing projects that will be of an inter-sectoral character, and where part of the funds will be paid by the youth ministry and another part shall be paid by another ministry.

Recommendation 8.3: Reconcile rubrum and articles numeracy with previous and subsequent changes.

Existing solution	Proposal for a new solution
FINANCING OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH SECTOR Article 20 The Budget of the Republic of Serbia provides funds for financing programmes and projects of public interest in the areas of the youth sector that:	FINANCING OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH CARE Member n (former 20) The Budget of the Republic of Serbia provides funds for financing programmes and projects of public interest in the areas of the youth sector that:

<p>1) provide conditions for the development and improvement of youth activities through encouraging youth to actively participate in social flows;</p> <p>2) encourage youth associations, associations for youth and alliances to participate in the implementation of youth activities and to achieve the goals of the Strategy;</p> <p>3) youth is informed on issues of importance to youth and publication of importance to youth;</p> <p>4) encourages career guidance and counseling of youth and organizes trainings, seminars and events relevant to employment, self-employment and youth entrepreneurship;</p> <p>5) encourage informal education of youth in the areas of the youth sector and develop the quality of nonnformal youth education;</p> <p>6) performs social empowerment of youth, especially through encouraging volunteerism and youth work and building capacity of youth associations;</p> <p>7) Young people are encouraged to actively and and in good quality spend their free time, nurture healthy and safe lifestyles, as well as to meet their needs in the field of culture;</p> <p>8) encourage youth activity in youth sector areas at the local level through support for the realization of local action plans for youth and programs and projects of local youth offices;</p> <p>9) conduct research on the position and needs of youth in the Republic of Serbia;</p> <p>10) implement and affirm international cooperation in the areas of the youth sector;</p> <p>11) supports young talent through rewarding, scholarship and training for students.</p> <p>For providing support to young talent through the awarding, scholarship and training of</p>	<p>1) provide conditions for the development and improvement of youth activities through encouraging youth to actively participate in social flows;</p> <p>2) encourage youth associations, associations for youth and alliances to participate in the implementation of youth activities and to achieve the goals of the Strategy;</p> <p>3) yoth is informed about issues of importance to youth and the publications of importance to youth;</p> <p>4) encourages career guidance and counseling of youth and organizes trainings, seminars and events relevant to employment, self-employment and youth entrepreneurship;</p> <p>5) encourage informal education of youth in the areas of the youth sector and develop the quality of nonnformal youth education;</p> <p>6) performs social empowerment of youth, especially through encouraging volunteerism and youth work and building capacity of youth associations;</p> <p>7) Young people are encouraged to actively and in good quality spend their free time, nurture healthy and safe lifestyles, as well as to meet their needs in the field of culture;</p> <p>8) encourage youth activity in youth sector areas at the local level through support for the realization of local action plans for youth and programs and projects of local youth offices;</p> <p>9) conduct research on the position and needs of youth in the Republic of Serbia;</p> <p>10) implement and affirm international cooperation in the areas of the youth sector;</p> <p>11) supports young talent through rewarding, scholarship and training for students.</p>
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<p>students, a fund from the budget of the Republic of Serbia is established by the Government for these purposes (hereinafter: the Young Talent Fund), in accordance with the law governing the budget system.</p>	<p>For providing support to young talent through the awarding, scholarship and training of students, a fund from the budget of the Republic of Serbia is established by the Government for these purposes (hereinafter: the Young Talent Fund), in accordance with the law governing the budget system.</p> <p>The Ministry in charge of youth may, together with other ministries, pool funds and co-finance joint programmes of public interest, in line with the Youth Strategy and other strategic government documents.</p>
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Justification: By providing the possibility that MOS, together with at least one or more ministries, will form a joint programme of general interest in which inter-sectoral projects will be financed, the inter-sectoral character of youth care is being emphasized.

INTERIM AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Recommendation 9.1: Oblige the LSGs to harmonize their statutes with the provisions of the Law within 12 months (especially the provisions concerning the Youth Office and the Youth Council).

ANNEX 1: ANALYSED LAWS

1. HORIZONTAL LEGISLATION

- 1.1. Law on Associations ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 51/2009, 99/2011 - Dr. Laws and 44/2018 - Dr. law)
- 1.2. Law on Public Property ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 72/2011, 88/2013, 105/2014, 104/2016 - Dr. Law, 108/2016, 113/2017, 95/2018 and 153/2020)

2. EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- 2.1. Law on the Basics of Education and Upbringing ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 88/2017, 27/2018 - Dr. Law, 10/2019, 27/2018 - Dr. Law and 6/2020)
 - 2.1.1. Rulebook on Student Cooperatives ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 31/2018-105)
- 2.2. Law on Secondary Education ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 55/2013, 101/2017, 27/2018 - Dr. Law, 6/2020 and 52/2021)
- 2.3. Dual Education Law ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 101/2017 and 6/2020) and bylaws
- 2.4. Law on Higher Education ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 88/2017, 73/2018, 27/2018 - dr. law, 67/2019, 6/2020 - dr. laws, 11/2021 - authentic interpretation, 67/2021 and 67/2021 - dr. law)
- 2.5. Law on Student Organizing ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 67 of July 2, 2021)
- 2.6. Law on Adult Education ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 55/2013, 88/2017 - Dr. Law, 27/2018 - Dr. Law and 6/2020 - Dr. Law)
- 2.7. Law on the National Framework of Qualifications of the Republic of Serbia ("Official Gazette of RS" No. 27/18)
- 2.8. Law on Culture ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 72/2009, 13/2016, 30/2016 - First, 6/2020 and 47/2021)

3. INFORMATION AND MEDIA

- 3.1. Law on Public Information and Media ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 83/2014, 58/2015 and 12/2016 - Authentic Interpretation)
- 3.2. Law on Public Media Services ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 83/2014, 103/2015, 108/2016 and 161/2020)
- 3.3. Law on Broadcasting ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 42/02, 97/04, 76/05, 79/05 - Dr. Law, 62/06, 85/06 and 41/09)
- 3.4. Law on Personal Data Protection ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 87/2018)

4. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

4.1. Law on Science and Research (Official Gazette of RS, no. 49/2019-3)

5. MIGRATION

5.1. Migration Management Act ("Official Gazette of RS", No 107/2012)

5.2. Asylum and Temporary Protection Act ("Official Gazette of RS", No 24/2018)

5.3. Law on diaspora and Serbs in the region ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 88/2009)

5.4 Strategy on Economic Migration of the Republic of Serbia 2021-2027 (21/2020-45)

5.5 Action Plan for implementation of Strategy 2021-2023 ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 21/20)

6. SOCIAL POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT

6.1. Law on Employment and Insurance in Case of Unemployment ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 36/2009, 88/2010, 38/2015, 113/2017, 113/2017 - Dr. Law and 49/2021)

6.2. Law on Occupational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 36/2009 and 32/2013)

6.3. Law on Labour ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 24/2005, 61/2005, 54/2009, 32/2013, 75/2014, 13/2017 - DECISION US, 113/2017 and 95/2018 - authentic interpretation)

6.4 Law on Social Protection ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 24/2011)

6.5 Family Law ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 18/2005, 72/2011 - Dr. Law and 6/2015)

6.6 Law on Financial Support for Families with Children ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 113/2017, 50/2018, 46/2021 - DECISION US, 51/2021 - DECISION US, 53/2021 - DECISION US and 66/2021)

6.7 Law on Volunteering ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 36/2010-6)

7. HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

7.1. Law on Health Care ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 25/2019)

7.2. Law on Consumer Protection ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 62/2014, 6/2016 - Dr. Law and 44/2018 - Dr. Law)

7.3. Law on Tobacco ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 101/2005, 90/2007, 95/2010, 36/2011, 6/2012 - Harmonised Ex., 69/2012 - Harmonized Ex., 93/2012, 8/2013 - Harmonized Ex., 64/2013 - Aligned Ex., 108/2013, 4/2014 - Harmonised Ex., 79/2014 - Harmonised Ex., 5/2015 - Harmonized Ex., 67/2015 - Harmonised Ex., 5/2016 - Harmonised Ex., 65/2016 - Harmonised Ex., 8/2017 - Harmonised Ex., 76/2017 - Harmonised Ex., 18/2018 - Harmonised Ex., 62/2018 - Harmonised Ex., 95/2018, 4/2019 - Harmonised Ex., 91/2019, 91/2020 - Harmonised Ex. and 11/2021 - Harmonised Ex.)

7.4. Law on Advertising ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 6/2016 and 52/2019 - Dr. Law)

8. JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

8.1. Krivični zakonik ("Sl. glasnik RS", br. 85/2005, 88/2005 - ispr., 107/2005 - ispr., 72/2009, 111/2009, 121/2012, 104/2013, 108/2014, 94/2016 i 35/2019)

8.2. Zakon o maloletnim učionicima krivičnih dela i krivičnopravnoj zaštiti maloletnih lica (Sl. glasnik RS", br. 85/2005)

8.3. Zakon o prekršajima ("Sl. glasnik RS", br. 65/2013, 13/2016, 98/2016 - odluka US, 91/2019 i 91/2019 - dr. zakon)

8.4. Zakon o državljanstvu Republike Srbije ("Sl. glasnik RS", br. 135/2004, 90/2007 i 24/2018)

8.5. Zakon o ličnoj karti ("Sl. glasnik RS", br. 62/2006, 36/2011 i 53/2021)

8.6 Zakon o Vojsci Srbije

9. TRANSPORT

9.1 Law on Road Traffic Safety ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 41/2009, 53/2010, 101/2011, 32/2013 - Decision US, 55/2014, 96/2015 - Dr. Law, 9/2016 - Decision US, 24/2018, 41/2018, 41/2018 - Dr. Law, 87/2018, 23/2019 and 128/2020 - Dr. Law)

10. EU STRATEGY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

ANNEX 2: COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW OF THE LEGAL DEFINITIONS OF YOUTH ACCORDING TO AGE CRITERIA

COUNTRY (ENTITY)	AGE	DEVIATION
ALBANIA	15 – 30	/
AZERBAIJAN	14 – 29	/
BOSNA AND HERCEGONWINES (FEDERATION OF BIH ENTITY)	15 – 30	Exceptionally, nthe administration bodies of the FbiH authorities, cantons and LSG can broaden the definition of youth age by the age of 35, with youth education programmes concerning employment, housing, education in the field of information and communication technologies, learning foreign languages, qualifications.
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINAONWINES (ENTITY REPUBLIKA SRPSKA)	16 – 30	/
BULGARIA	15 – 29	/
MONTENEGRO	15 – 30	/
ESTONIA	7 – 26	/
FINLAND	≤ 28	/
CROATIA	15 – 30	/
ISLAND	/	The Law on Youth does not set the age limits of children and youth but is applied to address issues of children and youth aged 6 - 25
LATVIA	13 – 25	/
LITHUANIA	14 – 29	/
ROMANIA	14 – 35	/
NORTH MACEDONIA	15 – 29	/
SLOVAKIA	≤ 30	/
SLOVENIA	15 – 29	/