



The International Youth Sector: Mapping and Directory

Prepared for the Open Society Institute Youth Initiative

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Introduction

The Open Society Institute (OSI) Youth Initiative seeks to empower young people to become active citizens who are willing and able to influence public life and promote open society ideals. It further aims to help the OSI network to act globally on opportunities and on threats to open society values that are particularly relevant to young people making the transition from childhood to adulthood. Until now, OSI's interest in young people has been expressed largely through its commitment to improving formal educational provision in its target regions. Mainstream youth-related concerns, as identified by the international youth work and policy sector, such as youth participation, youth civic engagement and activism, quality and recognition of nonformal education, good governance in youth policy making, and so on, have been partially addressed through the Network Debate Program (NDP) out of which the current OSI Youth Initiative grew. At the same time, the mission of OSI coincides largely with the mission of the international youth sector, in the sense that they are both concerned with the promotion of open society values—human rights, democratic pluralism, citizen participation, and good governance, among others.

While both education and debate remain cornerstones of OSI's work in relation to young people, the Youth Initiative now seeks (a) to involve young people and their initiatives more broadly in the work of OSI and its wider community of partners, and (b) to increase and intensify its contribution to the support of young people. While primarily focusing on the direct empowerment of young people through its different operational tools and programs, the Youth Initiative also wants to contribute to advocacy for the adoption of sound national and international youth policies. Taking up this role in a mean-

ingful manner requires that OSI engage actively with the existing international youth sector, a complex web of relationships between nongovernmental and institutional actors with programs run for, by, and with young people in support of the active contribution young people can make to their societies and of “good governance” in the sphere of youth policy making. The evolution of OSI’s youth mission requires an up-to-date and in-depth understanding of the international youth sector.

With this background in mind, OSI has commissioned the preparation of this document in order to better understand:

- the nature of the international youth sector; and
- the added value of OSI’s approach to youth issues, empowerment, and youth-related programming in relation to established provision in the area of youth policy development and support for young people.

The mapping and directory provide OSI with the following:

- an overview of key actors in the international youth sector and their programs for young people;
- a clearer picture of existing provision for youth internationally, in terms of funding for youth-related activities, technical support for youth policy development internationally and nationally, and knowledge production about young people and youth policy;
- a map of existing international cooperation mechanisms in the field of youth and youth policy;
- information that will help OSI to make decisions concerning the added value of its action in the international youth sector; and
- a reference resource for international legislation on youth and youth policy, the spectrum of governmental and nongovernmental actors in the youth field, and relevant cooperation processes in which OSI may wish to participate.

As such, the current document can be understood as a knowledge base on which those wishing to promote greater OSI involvement in support of youth and a generally more visible and active presence of OSI in the international youth sector (to which it has an important contribution to make) can encourage others within the OSI system to include a youth perspective in their work. It is also a resource for the elements of the OSI system that have already decided they wish to work in the youth sector.

This document contains two main parts. Part 1, “OSI and the International Youth Sector,” provides some basic background information concerning the international youth sector and how it functions. This is followed by an exploration of some options for OSI to make an entry into the international youth sector with a contribution of added value. Part 2, “Directory of the International Youth Sector,” has three main subsections. The first subsection, “The International Youth Sector” maps out the different categories of actors engaged in the youth sector on the global level (the international sector) and explains the different forms of institutionalized cooperation through which these actors make youth policy. The second subsection, “Mapping the Youth Scene in Different Regions of the World,” maps out the different categories of actors engaged in the youth sector in regions of interest to OSI and their main programs and policies, provides an overview of the relationships and cooperation mechanisms for youth policy development they are involved in regionally, provides regional examples of good practice that could be considered interesting initiatives, and where available, provides, specific sources of information on youth issues for the region. The third subsection, “Key International and Regional Legislation and Documents Pertaining to Youth,” provides a basic introduction to the kinds of documents that exist at the international level and their status (from legally binding through voluntarily adopted), a listing of key international and regional conventions, legal instruments, political declarations, and other documents establishing the basis for international engagement in the youth field, and website addresses showing where these documents can be downloaded in full-text versions.



PART 1:

OSI and the International Youth Sector

Five Good Reasons Why OSI Should Get More Involved

1. Demography

Ongoing demographic developments such as the development of youth bulges in the poorest developing countries, and the shrinking and aging of populations in high- and middle-income countries, have highlighted the specific and often vulnerable position of young people. In many countries where OSI is active, young people either make up a very significant proportion of the population (and therefore a potentially large beneficiary group) or the group that is most inclined to be concerned with promoting OSI values.

2. Development

The overriding socioeconomic condition of most young people in the world today is characterized by risk and vulnerability, with young people demonstrating frailty of lifestyles, social support networks, and coping skills. Political and economic uncertainty exacerbates their vulnerability to unemployment and exclusion, which is already more pronounced than for older population groups. Gaps in financial and human resources and the importance given to other priorities limit government effectiveness in developing and implementing

youth policies. And, even when they are not substantially disadvantaged, not all young people are able to profit from the available opportunities. Many of OSI's programs are in one way or another related to development and, therefore, more attention should be paid to the specifics of youth development for their success.

3. Normative and Ethical Considerations

Organizations with value-based goals have begun to realize that their mandates require them to consider children and young people. There is growing awareness that young people should have the opportunity to enjoy “being young” in full health and without fear or oppression and guaranteed the means to remain “youthful”; to develop confidence that they have a present as young people and not just a future as adults; and to complete their transitions without experiencing the adverse effects of vulnerability. They should have access to development and welfare because it is their human right, according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other legal documents. Organizations that claim to defend human rights should be sensitive to the need to address young people's concerns and issues. This commitment should be visible in the mechanisms of decision and policy making within the organization. Such an approach will create legitimacy for OSI in the eyes of other actors of the international youth sector and further afield.

4. Institutional Reasons

Young people are the primary beneficiaries of a wide range of international programs. Standard wisdom claims that the participation of beneficiaries

makes programs more effective. Hence, there is growing awareness that young people should be considered, consulted, and take an active part in the determination of policies of those institutions. Acceptance across the OSI system that young people should be the drivers and not only the objects of policies affecting them stands to make its programming more effective.

5. Politics

At the national level, several governments that one could classify on a scale of increasing authoritarianism (for their monopolization of political power and their disrespect of the civic, political, and human rights of their citizens) have become uneasy in the face of the prominent role that civil society organizations led by young people have played in recent democratic change. Young people are seen as something of a threat to stability. In such countries, informal groups of young people and nongovernmental youth organizations need additional support to be able to deal with measures taken by government to keep them under control. One of OSI's key areas of expertise has been to support civil society organizations through difficult circumstances. Supporting such youth organizations would be a concrete and even unique contribution of OSI to the youth sector.

Overview

OSI has an extensive but somewhat indirect history of engagement with young people in the regions and countries where it is active. Young people have been active participants and beneficiaries of many of OSI's programs and are often the most eager members of the population to work in support of OSI values. To date, OSI has not actively engaged or systematically cooperated with the established youth sector at international or national levels on common policy objectives, preferring to roll out its own programs in key sectoral policy areas, such as education. Several mainstream youth sector concerns such as participation, civic engagement and activism, quality and recognition of nonformal education, and good governance in youth policy making overlap considerably with OSI concerns. Inside the OSI Youth Initiative, there is growing awareness of the considerable opportunities for creating synergies between its sectoral work and the youth-specific approaches of other established actors of the international youth sector. Understanding the added value of its own approach and the contribution it can make to fostering better national and international youth policy practices has become a priority. Outlined below are the parameters of the international youth sector and an exploration of how OSI can engage with it, as a prelude to the presentation of an in-depth mapping of the international youth sector, the regional youth scenes in several regions where OSI is active, and the key international and regional texts that provide the sector's guiding principles.

Definition

The international youth sector is a complex web of relationships between non-governmental and international institutional actors with programs run for, by, and with young people in support of the active contribution young people can make to their societies and of “good governance” in the sphere of youth policy making. In principle, it seeks to promote effective evidence-based action by governments and other relevant actors (e.g., international nongovernmental youth organizations, international institutions, the research community) to address the needs and concerns of young people in terms of human development and civic, political, and social participation.

It is guided by a consensus on certain values, some of which are key to OSI, e.g., the promotion of pluralist democracy, human rights, peace, and social cohesion. This consensus has been translated into a series of principles. The youth sector’s action is intended to be:

- characterized by shared decision making between governmental and non-governmental partners;
- based on policies grounded in evidence of the condition of young people;
- empowerment oriented;
- considerate of the interdisciplinary nature of the youth field;
- underwritten by a human rights perspective; and
- guided by the belief that young people are a resource rather than a problem.

Widespread international acceptance of these principles has led to the development of some good practices in youth policy development, such as conducting youth policy making in awareness of the fact that youth experience differs from place to place according to recent and more distant social and political developments, irrespective of biological age definitions,¹ and that differing

1 Contemporary sociologists basically reject the idea that youth is determined by a specific age range, citing the way in which social realities determine the experience of the youth phase—adulthood therefore can be attained at a younger or older age depending on when the person becomes fully independent of the usual support systems. This has led to complicated discussions concerning the natural choice of certain age ranges for the implementation of programs for young people nationally and internationally. The

traditions of youth policy making in particular regions and individual countries influence the way that youth is positioned as a political or social theme.

The international youth sector is endowed with a variety of more or less formalized mechanisms for cooperation, policy making, technical assistance, education, and further training of its professional and voluntary staff and research, in different stages of elaboration depending on region or institutional arrangement. These are described in detail for the global level and several regions of the world in the mapping and directory.

Functions

The international youth sector has several functions, understood as the objectives that international institutions and the international nongovernmental youth sector have in common in the youth field, even if these have not been enshrined by relevant institutional partners as “common objectives” in all cases. These functions include:

- Facilitating the active participation of young people in decision-making processes, especially (but not exclusively) concerning policies addressed toward young people;
- Encouraging active engagement of young people in the social, political, and civic life of their communities;

most established age range for youth is that used by the United Nations (15 to 24), but it does not reflect the realities in all regions. In Europe, for example, youth is variously defined by different institutions and governments as ages 13 up to 35. In national youth policy documents, the government approach (including, *laissez faire*, controlling, Father State [see Peter Lauritzen, “Youth Policy Structures in Europe,” speech to the Potsdam Conference on East-West Youth Exchanges, 1993] significantly determines the extent to which the age range of youth is determined and within that, which youth are considered for support. For a more extensive discussion on this see Yael Ohana with Ditta Dolejsiova and Christopher Grollman, “Youth Policy Review—Europe and Central Asia: Environmental Scan Related to UNFPA Core Programme Areas,” UNFPA, 2007; available at www.unfpa.cst.sk/secured/cst_docs_RRA.htm (login: cst; password: welcome [case sensitive])

- Easing access of young people to the labor market and supporting policies that put in place conditions for the full exercise of the economic dimension of citizenship by young people;
- Developing access to attractive, useful, and relevant youth-specific information;
- Promoting youth mobility and international exchange among young people by reducing administrative and financial obstacles and encouraging the development of attractive, quality youth-mobility projects;
- Promoting nonformal education/learning and the development of recognition mechanisms for skills acquired through involvement in voluntary work, youth organizations or any other form of free-time activity that is socially beneficial, at all levels of governance, from local through international;
- Supporting human development efforts by providing expertise and technical assistance to non-youth-specialized actors on the specificities of youth in relation to development;
- Encouraging cooperation, coordination, and effective use of resources among child, family, and youth policies at national and international levels; and
- Advocating to national governments for the mainstreaming of established good practices and the implementation of standards in the field of youth policy development and provision of technical support for such efforts.

The idea of quality standards for youth policy development and implementation is relatively new. As a result of international and regional cooperation in the youth field, researchers and policy makers agree that a body of good practice in youth policy can be distilled from multinational experience and used in many different contexts with adaptation to local circumstances and specificity. In generic terms this means that academics, youth-work practitioners, and (governmental) policy makers have established and accept the use of “indicators” for the ways that national youth policies should be made and

conducted.² This acceptance extends to the use of such indicators as a guide to policy making and a basis for evaluation and assessment, and it has provided the nongovernmental sector with benchmarks for holding governments to account. Although in the youth field these are generally not legally binding, they have become the accepted wisdom of the field.³

Key Debates

The international youth sector is also defined by its debates. Some of the most important are:

- Who are young people? Who can be considered young? Should youth be defined by an age range or by sociological perspective? If the latter, how can this be translated into effective programming?
- Who can/should define young people's needs? Who speaks for whom? Do young people always know what is best for them?
- How representative is representative? Which youth platforms are legitimate partners? What about the so-called nonorganized youth? How can elitism be avoided and inclusion be achieved?
- What is the best approach to involving young people in youth policy decision making? How can principles such as youth adult partnership and

2 The process of the development of youth policy indicators began in Europe in the late 1990s with the support of both the Directorate of Youth and Sport (DYS) of the Council of Europe and the Youth Unit of the European Commission. In the long run, the aim is to define the framework within which “quality” youth policies are developed and implemented, at the national and international levels. For more information on the European process contact: Andre-Jacques Dodin at the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe, andre-jacques.dodin@coe.int. During the 1990s, the UN Youth Unit (predecessor to the current UN Youth Program) did some work on youth policy indicators, but this process has not led to the adoption of any specific document.

3 One important result of the (long-term) process of creating benchmarks for youth policy is the European synthesis of practice titled “A European Framework for Youth Policy” (Lasse Siurala, 2006); available at http://youth-partnership.coe.int/export/sites/default/youth-partnership/documents/EKCYP/Youth_Policy/COE_european_framework_4YP_EN.pdf.

co-management⁴ be established and institutionalized in participative mechanisms?

- To what extent is the voluntary character of the youth sector its most important feature? How far should efforts toward professionalization be taken before the voluntary character is lost? What kind of mechanisms for the recognition and qualification of professional staffing does the field need?
- What should be the standard that defines “good quality” youth work and youth policy and how should it be assessed? How far should standard setting go? To what extent should this remain a national prerogative? Once standards are set, what kind of monitoring, evaluation, assessment, and benchmarking should be put in place? How should enforcement be organized?
- When establishing indicators for youth policy, what can/should be included? Who determines this (governments, youth organizations, or international actors)?

These questions have consistently determined the content of the work of professionals in the youth field and to some extent delineate the directions of the field’s continuing development. Those working in international institutions and in the research community, international nongovernmental youth organizations, and (voluntary or professional) youth workers are involved in such debates in a variety of ways, including through formally organized mechanisms of international cooperation. These are mapped out in some detail in the directory. Any organization interested in entering the international youth sector with a contribution to advocacy for sound national and international youth policies will have to engage with such questions and become involved in these debates.

⁴ Shared decision making and management of youth policies by governmental and nongovernmental actors in the youth field.

Scope

The international youth sector is anything but marginal or small, even if it is not very well known. It is made up of a wide variety of organizations, with very different missions and reasons for existence. Some have long histories of engagement with youth issues and/or exist for the fulfillment of exclusively youth-specific objectives. Others have discovered that youth issues and young people are key to the implementation of their missions. It is a highly specialized field, and one with reach into many different thematic fields, from education, to development, to democracy assistance.

A snapshot of the “facts and figures” on the condition and situation of the world’s young people provides a basic overview of some of the human development issues that the international youth sector seeks to address in full cooperation with young people and the scale of action that would be required to address the needs of this population adequately worldwide.

Some Facts and Figures About the World's Young People

Population

- There are 1.5 billion people aged 10–25 living in the world in 2007;⁵
- Nearly half of all people are under the age of 25;
- Some 1.2 billion people are between the ages of 10 and 19;
- 87% live in developing countries.

Development

- The number of young people in the world surviving on less than a dollar a day was estimated at 238 million, almost a quarter (22.5%) of the world's total youth population (2000);
- South Asia has the largest concentration of young people in extreme poverty (106 million), followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (60 million), East Asia and the Pacific (51 million), and Latin America and the Caribbean (15 million);
- Each day, 5,000 children become refugees, and one in every 230 persons in the world is a child or adolescent who has been forced to flee his or her home;
- An estimated 300,000 soldiers under the age of 18 were involved in 30 conflicts around the world (2000);
- Global estimates of street children vary from 100 million (half of them in Latin America) to 250 million, and their numbers are rapidly increasing;
- Approximately 4 million suicide attempts take the lives of more than 90,000 adolescents each year.

(continues)

⁵ www.unfpa.org/adolescents/index.htm.

(continued)

Sexual and Reproductive Health

- An estimated 6,000 youths each day become infected with HIV—one every 14 seconds. The majority are young women;
- At the end of 2001, an estimated 11.8 million young people aged 15–24 were living with HIV/AIDS. Only a small percentage of these young people know they are HIV-positive;
- More than 13 million children under age 15 have lost one or both parents to AIDS. The overwhelming majority of these AIDS orphans live in Africa. By 2010, their number is projected to reach 25 million;
- 82 million girls in developing countries who are now aged 10–17 will be married before their eighteenth birthday;
- Pregnancy is a leading cause of death for young women aged 15–19 worldwide, with complications of childbirth and unsafe abortion being the major factors.

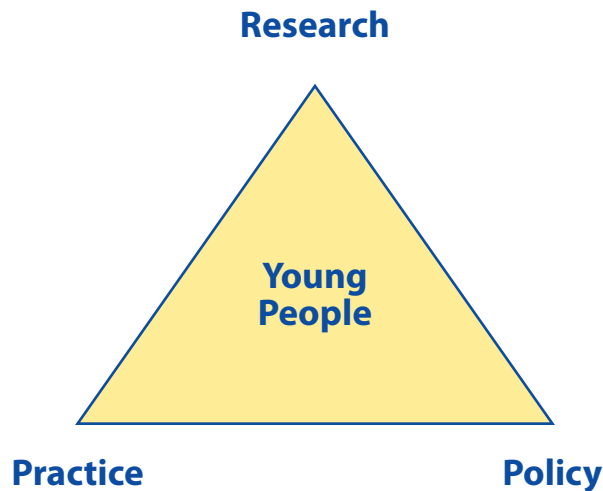
Education and the Labor Market

- An estimated 115 million children currently do not attend primary school. The majority (57%) are girls;
- About 57 million young men and 96 million young women aged 15–24 in developing countries cannot read or write;
- Worldwide, an estimated 352 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 were economically active in 2000, over 246 million of them working illegally, nearly 171 million in hazardous conditions.

Adapted from public information provided by the United Nations Population Fund: www.unfpa.org.

Who Is Involved in the International Youth Sector?

The Magic Triangle provides a tool for understanding “who makes up the youth sector” (at the national and international level) and, therefore, also the parameters of participation in youth policy making.



In an ideal world, youth policy development would always be conducted in a cooperative and collaborative manner with all relevant stakeholders included and having a role to play: the government (policy), the academic community (research), and practitioners (professional and voluntary youth workers and educators). Young people themselves, are at the heart of these stakeholders’ concern and are, therefore, at the very center of the triangle.

In this sense, the triangle is both a normative and practical description of the youth sector. The weakness of the triangle is that it is two-dimensional and does not show the relationships between actors and stakeholders within each of the three areas of the triangle. It is implied that these relationships need to be collaborative to ensure the best results and coordination. In reality, though, sometimes the relationships among actors within each part on the local or national level can be even more competitive than among those in the different parts of the triangle. International institutions have tried to demonstrate the added value of cooperation.

OSI Engagement

With its extensive resources and credibility, OSI is in a position to act in a variety of ways to support advocacy for youth policy in the international arena. Advocacy in the youth field is a cumulative process. The key is to identify areas of advocacy that need complementary support. In the case of OSI, the natural entry point will be to try to position itself in support of the existing efforts of international nongovernmental youth organizations to achieve the implementation of “well-intentioned” international agreements (explicitly, Regional Youth Platforms, International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations [ICMYO], Global Cooperation Coordinating Committee [GCCCC]) and of international institutions already engaged in some form of technical assistance to national governments in the field of youth policy development in countries where OSI has a presence.

In relation to the international youth sector, three main courses of action for OSI are obvious:

- strengthening the capacity of the international nongovernmental youth sector for advocacy on its own behalf;
- developing partnerships with key advocacy actors already engaged in the international youth sector; and
- participating in youth sector cooperation processes as an observer or in any other possible capacity.

Each of the above lines of action will require planning and specific resources, and most important, the development of new strategic relationships with a variety of actors of the international youth sector that, currently, are not

significantly on OSI's radar, including some of the more "mainstream" or "traditional" (and politically recognized) actors.

At the same time, the international level has limits with respect to ensuring solid national youth policies. One key objective of advocacy in the youth field is to get national governments to do more and better, and to stop them from rolling back achieved gains, as government has the responsibility for both making and implementing youth policies. So, at the same time as developing its profile internationally, OSI will need to act very consciously and in a highly targeted manner at the national level, using the knowledge, expertise, and moral authority of its newly achieved embedding in the international sector to legitimate its entry into the youth field at the national level.

In concrete terms this means OSI should:

- assess in which national contexts it has access to government, and understand what the key interest of specific governments is in youth policy;
- develop relationships with the relevant ministries and the national nongovernmental youth sector (i.e., the formal structures—national youth councils and large membership-based youth organizations with a long history of engagement);
- develop a clear picture of the strengths and weaknesses of the youth sector in those countries; and
- test itself as the broker of mutually serving objectives among different actors in the field.

In many countries where OSI has a presence, the nongovernmental youth sector is completely isolated and ignored by government, lacking resources and lacking capacity to the extent that collective advocacy is totally absent. To make a contribution to empowering the nongovernmental youth sector at the national level, three courses of action can be undertaken:

- raising awareness for youth issues and the role of the youth nongovernmental sector through OSI in country-programming efforts;

- directing support to nongovernmental youth actors at the national level to increase their capacity to participate in advocacy efforts and policy making; and
- participating in technical assistance to relevant governmental authorities at national, regional, or local levels on youth policy development.

It is important to consider the power of “walking the talk” in this field. The principles and good practices of the youth field can be mainstreamed by any organization with enough political will and the dedication of resources. Especially in the context of programs rolled out nationally, attention should be paid to the mainstreaming of principles such as evidence-based programming and co-management. At the international level, organizations that make efforts to create truly inclusive mechanisms of shared decision making on their own internal policies and programs for young people are increasingly being considered partners in policy making by way of their example to the rest of the community. An explicit commitment to such mainstreaming will require two main courses of action:

- internal mainstreaming of youth “sensitive” programming across internal OSI operations; and
- capacity building in youth-related issues for key OSI operational staff internationally and in country programs.

This will be challenging. OSI is a philanthropic organization. As such it might have difficulty entering the international youth policy development sector as a legitimate policy-making partner, as it is neither an intergovernmental organization with a mandate from its member states for engaging in youth policy making at the international level nor a classical international representative nongovernmental youth organization on whose cooperation the current international youth policy development system is based. This can be compensated for by its good reputation as a kind of “transparency watchdog” in its core areas of action.



PART 2:

Directory of the International Youth Sector

Using the Directory

The directory contains three main sections, further divided into subsections.

In the first section, “The International Youth Sector,” we provide information about the different categories of actors engaged in the sector at the global level, the relationships between them, and the many different forms of institutionalized cooperation through which youth policies at the international level are developed.

The first subsection deals with the main actors of the sector at the international level. These are:

- Intergovernmental and supranational organizations
- The governmental and nongovernmental development aid community
- The nongovernmental youth sector
- International foundations and organizations providing finance for youth/youth-related projects
- The international youth research community

These communities are addressed in detail because they have specific and prominent policies and programs dealing with young people. Their *raison d’être* or the fundamental objectives of their work are specifically related to young people.

In the second subsection we deal with the institutionalized processes of cooperation that determine the way in which youth policies are debated and decided upon at the international level. This section specifically covers:

- Cooperation among governments
- Cooperation among international nongovernmental youth organizations, Regional Youth Platforms, and other nongovernmental organizations with an interest in young people
- Mechanisms for national and international youth policy development involving those actors

In the second section, “Mapping the Youth Scene in Different Regions of the World,” we deal with the youth scenes in several regions of interest to OSI programming: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This section presents information about the main actors in the youth field, their interaction within the region and across regions, as well as different mechanisms of youth policy cooperation they are engaged in, related or unrelated to the global context outlined. For each region treated, we provide some basic facts about youth in the region, an overview of the most important actors and some youth initiatives that could be considered innovative and, therefore, interesting as examples of good practice. In some cases, and where these exist, we also include specific (Internet) sources of information for youth issues in the region.

In section three we provide a listing of “Key International and Regional Legislation and Documents Pertaining to Youth” (i.e., international conventions, political declarations, and other documents). These are organized according to the level at which they have been adopted, international or regional, and by the adopting organization, that is, United Nations, African Union, and so on.

The International Youth Sector

Main Actors in the International Youth Field

In an ideal world, international and national youth policy would be made collaboratively among governments that have the executive mandate to prepare and implement policy, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that legitimately represent the needs and concerns of young people, and the academic community, which provides evidence of the situation of youth—in other words, those actors in the Magic Triangle. At the international level, the three elements of the triangle are useful for identifying the actors of the youth field: policy represents the multilateral organizations established for international cooperation among governments and the overseas development aid agencies of individual governments. Practice is composed of international nongovernmental youth organizations and various other forms of youth engagement in civil society that act internationally and can be considered as having global reach. Research includes those academics who are active in intercultural and international studies of a sociological and empirical nature on young people and youth issues worldwide. In this section, we address the work of the main multilateral organizations with youth strategies (the United Nations System, the World Bank Group, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and the Commonwealth) and of the development aid community; provide an overview of the very diverse international nongovernmental youth sector; and chart the action of the international youth research community.

Relations among those inhabiting each part of the Magic Triangle are both institutionalized and ad hoc in nature. This section, therefore, also deals with the institutionalized mechanisms of cooperation that have developed over time, through which these institutions and organizations interact bi- and multilaterally. In practice, relations between and among actors (policy, research, practice) have been competitive (issues of funding and institutional survival prevail) or, until recently, simply absent (governmental actors have not been especially well-known for their willingness to cooperate/consult with the nongovernmental and research sectors). Mandates play a large role in what international (especially, governmental) actors in the youth field can do and how they work. Youth policy remains largely the preserve of national governments and, therefore, “international youth policy” exists as an ideal of cooperation and mainstreaming of good practice rather than as a body of enforceable legislation. Nevertheless, awareness is growing that governments should be open to mainstreaming existing good practice and should consider the principles accepted by the largest part of the international community in preparing national youth policies. At the same time, and with increasing frequency, governments are seeking out the technical assistance of international actors (especially the institutional actors) in developing and improving their national youth policies.

Intergovernmental and Supranational Organizations

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

History of Engagement with Youth

The United Nations has long recognized that the imagination, ideals, and energy of young people are vital to the development of the societies in which they live. The UN acknowledged this in 1965 with the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding

between Peoples. In 1985, the UN General Assembly observed International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace. It drew attention to the important role young people play in the world and to their potential contribution to development and the goals of the United Nations. In 1995, on the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, the United Nations strengthened its commitment to young people by adopting an international strategy—the World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY).

Mandate

The focal point within the United Nations system for youth issues is located in the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The responsible entity within the secretariat is called the UN Youth Program. This program defines young people as those between the ages of 15 and 24. The United Nations is authorized to work in cooperation with the action of national governments at the invitation of its member states individually and collectively. This can mean a limited scope of action for UN agencies. Even when governments do not live up to their responsibilities under human rights conventions and other international commitments, UN agencies have great difficulty in criticizing them publicly, despite their mandates.

Objectives

- To enhance awareness of the global situation of youth and increase recognition of the rights and aspirations of youth; promote national youth policies, national youth coordinating mechanisms, and national youth programs of action as integral parts of social and economic development, in cooperation with both governmental and nongovernmental organizations; and
- To strengthen the participation of youth in decision-making processes at all levels in order to increase their impact on national development and international cooperation.

Budget

Finding even a “guesstimate” of what the UN system spends on youth activities per year is impossible. In addition, it is impossible to find an estimate of the amount being invested from the general UN budget for the implementation of the UN Youth Program and World Program of Action on Youth. It is not clear why such calculations are not done, or if they are, are not made public.⁶

Major UN Agencies and Agency Programs

In this section we present the global-level programs and the United Nations’ agencies that have specific youth-related mandates and objectives and, therefore, operational programs.

UNESCO Youth Unit

www.unesco.org/en/youth

UNESCO’s (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) objective is to empower young people by reaching out to them, responding to their expectations and ideas, and fostering useful and long-lasting skills. UNESCO encourages the participation of youth and their engagement in dialogue. It also supports the integration of youth concerns and issues into the policy agendas of member states in education, the sciences, culture, and communication in order to create spaces and opportunities for empowering young people and giving recognition, visibility, and credibility to their contributions. UNESCO’s youth program focuses on inter-agency cooperation, cooperation with NGOs, youth forum(s), youth policies and programs.

UNICEF

www.unicef.org

UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children’s rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential under the guidance of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It strives to establish children’s rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behavior by mobilizing political will and resources. UNICEF works with young people up to age 18.

⁶ In part, the difficulty of calculating UN System expenditure on youth arises from the high diversity of active agencies and the several levels at which the UN works on youth matters—global, regional, and in country—with budgets being drawn from a wide variety of sources, including third parties.

Voices of Youth

www.unicef.org/voy

UNICEF's Voices of Youth aims to offer all children and adolescents, including the hard-to-reach, a safe and supportive global cyberspace within which they can explore, discuss, and partner on issues related to human rights and social change, as well as develop their awareness, leadership, community building, and critical thinking skills through active and substantive participation with their peers and with decision makers globally.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

www.unfpa.org/adolescents/index.htm

UNFPA promotes and protects the rights of young people. It envisions a world in which adolescents and young people of both sexes have optimal opportunities to develop their full potential, to freely express themselves and have their views respected, and to live free of poverty, discrimination, and violence. UNFPA works to empower adolescents and youth and promote health, including sexual and reproductive health. UNFPA takes a holistic, multisectoral, collaborative approach, framing adolescent and youth issues within the larger development context of poverty reduction. Its programs advocate for an essential package of social protection interventions for youth that includes education, sexual, and reproductive health services, support for establishing livelihoods, and intergenerational alliances.

World Health Organization, Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (CAH)

www.who.int/child_adolescent_health/en

The Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development envisions a world in which children and adolescents enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and development, a world that meets their needs as well as respects their rights, enabling them to live to their full potential. CAH aims to reduce the rate of infant and child mortality by two-thirds from the 1990 rate by 2015 (in line with the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs]), to promote the physical and mental health of adolescents, and to reduce by 25% HIV prevalence among young people age 15–24 years by 2010. The CAH's work is guided by the MDGs.

The World Program of Action on Youth (WPAY)

In 1995, on the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, the United Nations strengthened its commitment to young people by adopting an international strategy—the World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (WPAY). The Program provides a policy framework and practical guidelines

for national action and international support to improve the situation of youth. It contains proposals for action to the year 2000 and beyond to promote improved well-being and livelihoods among young people. The themes identified by the General Assembly for the International Youth Year—participation, development, and peace—represent the overall themes of the World Program. The Program also builds upon other recent international instruments, including the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, adopted by the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights; the Program of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development; the Copenhagen Declaration and the Program of Action of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development; and the Platform for Action adopted by the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women.

International Youth Day

www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm

www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyd2008.htm

The General Assembly of the UN adopted August 12 as International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Program of Action for Youth. The theme of the day changes annually according to current youth issues. The 2009 theme is Sustainability: Our Challenge, Our Future.

UN Youth Newsflash

www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/flash.htm

Subscription-based e-newsletter that is circulated once a month by the UN Program on Youth with updates on UN-wide activities relevant to professionals and volunteers working on youth issues.

The World Youth Report

www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr07.htm

The UN Program on Youth prepares and publishes the World Youth Report, a global report on the situation of youth. The most recent report, from 2007, reviews the progress and challenges in youth transitions to adulthood globally. It confirms that a lack of adequate investments in youth, challenges related to globalization, changes in the world economy, as well as social and cultural constraints, continues to create unfavorable contexts for youth development and participation.

Other UN Agencies and Youth

The UN system comprises many different agencies that do different kinds of work on youth issues in accordance with their mandates. Even taking into account the responsibility for the implementation of the World Program of Action on Youth, which is held by the UN Youth Program, several UN agencies are trying to position themselves as “lead agencies on youth.” But these agencies have different mandates and modus operandi, affecting their ability to cooperate and creating competition. In any given country, UN activities in the field of youth are highly diverse. The extent and scope of UN investment in youth in one country depends on which agencies are active and their specific mandates, whether one UN agency has traditionally “taken the lead,” and whether or not a UN Theme Group on Youth has been established to specifically ensure coordination of youth-related programming. A UN Theme Group on Youth is a coordination mechanism among all agencies working on youth-related programming in one country and is intended to serve the purpose of the UN system “acting as one” in one context. Specific information on the action of each agency in relation to youth is available at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/agenda.htm.

Other Initiatives Involving the UN

The Alliance of Civilizations (AoC)

www.unaoc.org

The Alliance of Civilizations was established in 2005, at the initiative of the governments of Spain and Turkey under the auspices of the United Nations. The AoC aims to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions and, in the process, to help counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism. Working with all social partners, the AoC supports a range of projects and initiatives aimed at building bridges among a diversity of cultures and communities.

Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) Youth Solidarity Fund

www.unaoc.org/content/view/93/128/lang,english

To support youth-led initiatives that promote long-term constructive relationships among young people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, the Alliance of Civilizations has launched the pilot phase of a Youth Solidarity Fund. The Fund will provide seed funding in amounts up to US\$20,000 to a small number of outstanding youth-led projects in the fields of intercultural and interreligious exchanges, youth leadership training, and youth voices in the media. Projects must have long-term outcomes that connect youth from previously unconnected communities with a view

to overcoming perceived or real cultural and religious divides and must be entirely managed by youth for the benefit of youth.

The United Nations CyberschoolBus

www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/mdgs/flash/index.asp

The United Nations CyberschoolBus was created in 1996 as the online education component of the Global Teaching and Learning Project, whose mission is to promote education on international issues and the United Nations. The UN CyberschoolBus captures the growing potential of the Internet as an educational tool and provides an effective medium with which to disseminate information and resources about international affairs as well as bring together diverse communities of students and educators from around the world.

Youth Employment Network

www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen

The Youth Employment Network is a multistakeholder initiative that seeks to improve the employment prospects of young people by developing better policies taking into account the underlying concerns of young people and causes of youth unemployment. The Youth Employment Network views young people as partners in devising solutions to a common problem. The Network will ensure that its policy recommendations support the aspirations of young people rather than impose perceived “needs” on them and will continue to work to ensure that representative youth groups play central roles in the development and implementation of National Action Plans on youth employment.⁷

THE WORLD BANK AND THE WORLD BANK GROUP

History of Engagement with Youth

By the early 2000s senior management at the World Bank had become aware that the bank needed to address the children and youth agenda in a more systematic and integrated manner. The Children & Youth Team was established in late 2002 within the Human Development Network to guide and foster coor-

⁷ A national action plan is a plan defined by the government to implement a specific policy strategy in a specific policy sector. In Europe during the 1990s and 2000s, it became popular for ministries responsible for youth affairs to develop national youth action plans on the basis of a Council of Europe international youth policy reviews. For more on Council of Europe National Youth Policy Reviews, see the directory Part 2, Mapping the youth scene, subsection on Europe.

dination and partnerships that contribute to more effective children and youth development work.

Mandate

The World Bank can engage with young people ages 15 to 24 to further the objectives below. The Bank is aware of the limitations of its definition of youth. An extensive discussion of this in relation to World Bank objectives is available at <http://go.worldbank.org/RVVTZLXKK0>.

Objectives

- To provide the World Bank a strategic framework for action in the area of Children and Youth (C&Y);
- To support regions in developing, implementing, and monitoring C&Y operational plans;
- To improve coordination among sectors, networks, and regional work;
- To ensure consistency with companion development strategies in human development, social protection, social development, urban strategies, gender, and other sectoral groups;
- To provide effective and innovative knowledge management;
- To promote improved C&Y learning outcomes across sectors and countries;
- To contribute to shaping the World Bank's collaboration on C&Y issues with other international agencies and donors;
- To raise additional funds; and
- To facilitate dialogue with children and youth worldwide, especially in developing countries.

Budget

Although no concrete figures are available, the World Bank has invested resources in activities to develop and consult on its C&Y Strategy and, as per the objectives of the C&Y Team, to support the implementation, conduct, and monitoring of operational plans for children and youth, regionally and locally. The World Bank has no specific grant-making program for youth-related

work. At the same time, young people are the beneficiaries of World Bank (co) financed programs, and youth organizations can make use of the World Bank Small Grants Program for local communities (see www.worldbank.org/small-grants). The Small Grants Program is one of the few global programs of the World Bank that directly funds civil society organizations. In addition, a World Bank loan has occasionally been used for the development of a national youth policy or elements of a national youth policy (e.g., in Macedonia). The budget is available at <http://go.worldbank.org/Q04JULJV10>

Major Agencies and Programs

World Bank Children and Youth Portal

<http://go.worldbank.org/Z12D7RZVZ0>

More information about the activities of the World Bank to fulfill the objectives of its C&Y strategy is available on the Children and Youth Portal, the World Bank's primary information resource for the public in this regard.

Youth for Development and Peace (YDP) Network

www.worldbank.communityzero.com/ydp

YDP is an informal and inclusive network of youth organizations operating at the local, regional, and global levels, focusing on development and poverty eradication. The network aims to create direct interaction among youth organizations, the World Bank, and other institutions to facilitate active youth participation in projects, policy design, and youth advocacy for development. This is to be achieved through knowledge sharing, capacity building, empowerment, and resource mobilization. The network was established after several consultation activities organized by the World Bank within the Youth for Development and Peace process from 2003 through 2005. This process was initiated in order to engage young people and their representative organizations more directly in the process of World Bank decision making on its programming for youth specifically as well as more generally in relation to development policies.

Youth Voices: Youth Consultative Groups at the Country Level

<http://go.worldbank.org/3100EZ9FI0>

Following the initiative of the World Bank's Peru office, Youth Voices groups have been established in 20 countries. The establishment of Youth Voices groups is—by definition—a country-led and country-owned process. The groups engage in a variety of activities depending on the country context. Generally, they

are active in providing input to country assistance strategies and other policies that target or affect young people. In 2008, there were Youth Voices groups in the following countries: Benin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ecuador, Kenya, Kosovo, Macedonia, Mozambique, Moldova, Peru, Rwanda, Turkey, Venezuela, and Yemen. Nevertheless, these are very poorly visible in the public information of country offices and programs, and the extent of their effectiveness/sustainability is far from clear.

THE COMMONWEALTH

The Commonwealth is an association of 53 independent states consulting and cooperating in the common interests of their peoples and in the promotion of international understanding. Commonwealth states were formerly British colonies. As independent states they decided to join the association voluntarily. It was founded in 1949. The Commonwealth Secretariat, established in 1965, is the main intergovernmental agency of the Commonwealth, facilitating consultation and cooperation among member governments and countries. The association has always had a priority on investing in youth, and has had a youth program since the founding of the Secretariat.

Commonwealth Youth Program

www.thecommonwealth.org/Internal/152828/about_cyp

The Commonwealth Youth Program (CYP) works with young people up to age 24 to help them to become active citizens and to fully participate in development projects that create opportunities for themselves and their communities. CYP operates through its pan-Commonwealth Office (at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London) and its four Regional Centers—in Zambia for Africa, in India for Asia, in Guyana for the Caribbean, and in the Solomon Islands for the Pacific. CYP focuses on three strategic program areas: youth enterprise and sustainable livelihoods; governance, development, and youth networks; and youth work education and training.

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE (OIF)

The International Organization of the Francophonie brings together 55 member states and governments and 13 observer states around their common language,

French, spoken by 200 million people worldwide and the official language of 32 OIF member states.

Conférence des Ministres de la Jeunesse et des Sports des Etats et Gouvernements ayant le français en partage (CONFEJES)

www.confejes.org

The Conference of the Youth and Sports Ministers of French-speaking Countries (CONFEJES) plays a leading role in the field of youth and sports by focusing on a strategic dialogue between political and social partners to improve youth and sports policies and elaborate programs in these areas, which are relevant to the contemporary situation of young people in the member states of the OIF.

Francophonie Youth Portal

www.jeunesse.francophonie.org/accueil/index.cfm

This portal enables French-speaking young people all over the world to find out more about OIF activities of relevance to them.

Network of International Nongovernmental Organizations Cooperating with the OIF

<http://ong-francophonie.net/index.php>

Since 2005, 63 international nongovernmental organizations and other international civil society organizations have had consultative status with the OIF. Many of these have specific programs for developing the civic and social engagement of young people or young people are beneficiaries of their programs. It is also a mechanism through which youth organizations can develop policy dialogue with governments.

Volontariat Francophone

www.francophonie.org/actions/developpement/volontariat.cfm

OIF aims to support the development of young people's active and responsible citizenship and works with youth up to the age of 30. OIF's three main areas of programming for/with youth are: (1) meetings among French-speaking young people about issues of society, politics, and policy making that concern them; (2) technical assistance to member states to reinforce their national youth policies and intersectoral policies that affect young people; and (3) support and encouragement of French-speaking young people to get involved in the Francophonie volunteer program.

The Governmental and Nongovernmental Development Aid Community

Some countries' overseas development aid (ODA) agencies are very active in the youth field, providing funding, capacity building, and other forms of support through a variety of instruments and mechanisms. In addition, many have young people as a specific beneficiary group. Each agency defines the age range of young people it works with according to its own criteria, often referring to international sources for legitimation (e.g., the UN definition). In some cases, a regional approach has been taken. A good example of this is Southeastern Europe, whose young people were considered a key target group for post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation work by the wider ODA community. Many of the youth programs targeting Southeastern Europe work toward both national and regional objectives, using regional activities to complement those for specific countries. Both governmental development agencies and international nongovernmental development aid organizations increasingly work with young people in a dual perspective: young people are both the beneficiaries and key actors of development.

GOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AID AGENCIES ACTIVE ON YOUTH

The following table presents some of the countries whose development agencies have important youth-related programming—whether centralized or regionalized.

It should be noted that in addition to centralized and larger scale programs of an educational or technical assistance nature implemented by governmental development aid agencies, small grants are often also available from the embassies and cultural institutes of key countries for small-scale youth initiatives locally. A good example of this approach was the MATRA⁸ program of the Netherlands that was active in Central and Eastern Europe in the 1990s, in

⁸ www.minbuza.nl/en/europeancooperation/subsidies/The-Matra-Programme.html.

response to that region's transition to democracy. It provided multiyear small-scale funding for youth and other local civic initiatives. Later the program expanded its operation into Southeastern Europe.

Country	Agency	Website (youth program where available)
Canada	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/En/JOS-614141049-PBT
	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	www.idrc.ca/en/ev-30321-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html
Germany	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)	www.gtz.de/de/themen/891.htm (German only)
	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, German Development Bank (KfW)	www.bmz.de/en/issues/index.html
Netherlands	Ministry of Development Cooperation	www.minbuza.nl/en/themes,human-and-social-development
Norway	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Development Program	www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/selected-topics/Development-cooperation.html?id=1159
	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)	www.norad.no/default.asp?V_LANG_ID=0
Sweden	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	www.sida.org/sida/jsp/sida.jsp?d=121&language=en_US
Switzerland	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC, Helvetas)	www.sdc.admin.ch/en/Home/Projects
United Kingdom	Department for International Development (DFID)	www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/
United States of America	Inter-American Foundation (IAF)	www.iaf.gov/index/index_en.asp
	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	www.youth-policy.com//index.cfm?page=basicSearch

NONGOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

In the field of development, some characteristics and traditions dominate the way in which nongovernmental organizations have and continue to engage with youth. These include:

- a strong and usually dominating focus on children;
- origins in the principles of Christian charity as a result of long traditions of missionary work;
- a strong tradition in humanitarian action; and
- work with the voluntary commitment of young people from more developed regions.

Many of these NGOs developed strong practices of internal evaluation and have begun to engage in processes of strategic realignment toward an understanding of the purpose and relevance of youth policy development and more comprehensive and holistic ideas about childhood and youth development. Nevertheless, there tends to be a strong focus on younger youth—adolescents and young people up to about age 25. Often these NGOs are far ahead of their governmental and even intergovernmental counterparts in adopting innovative approaches and mainstreaming good practices. In specific country or regional contexts there have been interesting examples of cooperation and partnership among relevant development NGOs as well as among coalitions of NGOs and governmental and intergovernmental partners (the region of Southeastern Europe stands out as an example). Nevertheless, issues of the compatibility of specific objectives and mandates continue to be problematic for the success of such partnerships and have, in many cases, resulted in lack of cooperation, duplication of programming, and competition among NGOs themselves and between NGOs and intergovernmental organizations.⁹

9 For more on this, see Yael Ohana with Ditta Dolejsiova and Christopher Grollman, “Youth Policy Review—Europe and Central Asia: Environmental Scan Related to UNFPA Core Programme Areas,” UNFPA, 2007; available at www.unfpa.cst.sk/secured/cst_docs_RRA.htm (login: cst; password: welcome [case sensitive]).

The following table includes some of the best-known, internationally organized and internationally active nongovernmental development aid organizations with programs that have young people as beneficiaries or as actors of development in the countries and regions where they are active.

NGOs with Youth Involvement

Name	Website (youth-specific where available)
ASEED	www.aseed.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19&Itemid=38
CARE	www.care.org/campaigns/cftc/index.asp?s_subsrc=170960090000&s_src=default
Childreach/Plan International USA	www.childreach.org
Children's Aid Direct	www.cad.org.uk
Childwatch International	www.childwatch.uio.no
Christian Children's Fund	www.ChristianChildrensFund.org
Coalition to Stop Child Soldiers	www.child-soldiers.org/home
Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)	www.doctorswithoutborders.org
The Global Movement for Children	www.gmfc.org
GOAL (an international humanitarian aid organization based in Ireland)	www.goal.ie/deved/schools.shtml
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	www.icrc.org/youth
International Medical Corps (IMC)	www.imc-la.com
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	www.theirc.org/media/www/education.html
Islamic Relief	www.islamic-relief.com/whatwedo/projectList.aspx?pjCatID=5
Mercy Corps International (MCI)	www.mercycorps.org/topics/children ; www.mercycorps.org/topics/civilsociety ; www.mercycorps.org/topics/education

Relief International	http://ri.org/program3.php
Save the Children/US (SC/US)	www.savethechildren.org
United Way International	www.uwint.org
Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children (affiliated with the IRC) (WC)	www.womenscommission.org
World Concern	www.worldconcern.org/children/index.htm
World Relief	http://community.wr.org/Page.aspx?pid=992
World Vision	www.wvi.org

The International Nongovernmental Youth Sector

The international nongovernmental youth sector has a long history. In principle, most of today's international nongovernmental youth organizations developed out of different kinds of religious and ideological/political movements over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (e.g., the trade union and worker's movement, the missionary movement, the antiwar and peace movements, the ecological movement). The fact that these organizations developed out of movements, constituencies of like-minded young people, and a large social membership base has provided them with legitimacy as "representing young people." International politics (especially during the Cold War) played a large role in positioning youth organizations.¹⁰ Some have retained power and influence despite weakened membership and limited economic means to conduct large-scale programs.

¹⁰ For more information concerning the role of the youth movement in the Cold War, see Joel Kotek, *Students and the Cold War* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996) and *La jeune garde: Entre KGB et CIA, la jeunesse mondiale, enjeu des relations internationales, 1917–1989* [The Young Guard: Between KGB and CIA—World Youth in International Relations] (Paris: Seuil, 1998).

In the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries the explosion of new information and communication technologies (ICTs), new awareness and acceptance of the importance of the role of civil society in governance, and the emergence of social issues such as migration, intercultural relations, among others, has led to the creation of new nongovernmental youth organizations with an international reach. Many of these new organizations cater to constituencies of young people who are not interested in joining a political party or who are particularly concerned with a single value-related issue. Others cater to young people who do not feel welcome or represented in “traditional” or “mainstream” youth organizations and prefer to form their own communities internationally (such as young people from specific minority communities).

Many of these have their institutional base in Europe where the financial, administrative, and legal conditions for such organizations to establish themselves are more advantageous than elsewhere.¹¹ There is no consensus among these organizations concerning the age range of youth, and they do not consider agreement necessary. They work with very diverse target groups from as young as 13 to as old as 35.

INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

The following table includes the most important international nongovernmental youth organizations active at the international level. These organizations have the longest history of action, the largest membership globally, the most elaborate structure in terms of national and regional affiliations, or are very active in the international youth sector.

¹¹ Many international nongovernmental youth organizations with global reach are headquartered in Europe and share secretariats with their European branches, as European institutions provide administrative grants for the institutionalization and organizational development of INGyOs, allowing them to maintain a permanent secretariat and a full functioning office.

NGOs Active at the International Level

Name	Website
AFS [American Field Service] International-Intercultural Youth Exchanges	www.afs.org
Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Services	www.ccivs.org
Federation of International Travel Organizations / World Youth, Student and Educational Travel Confederation	www.aboutwysetc.org
Global Youth Action Network	www.youthlink.org/gyanv5/index.htm
Global Youth Alliance	www.globalyouth.org
Habitat for Humanity International Campus Chapters and Youth Programs	www.habitat.org/youthprograms
International Association of Adolescent Health	www.iaah.org
International Association of Students of Economics and Commerce	www.aiesec.org
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions	www.icftu.org
International Cultural Youth Exchange	www.icye.org
International Falcon Movement—Socialist Educational International	www.ifm-sei.org
International Federation of Liberal Youth	www.iflry.org
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations	www.ifmsa.org
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	www.ifrc.org
International Movement of Catholic Agrucultural and Rural Youth	www.mijarc.org
International Movement of Catholic Students	www.imcs-miec.org
International Union of Socialist Youth	www.iusy.org

(continues)

Name	Website
International Young Catholic Students	www.iycs-jeci.org
International Young Democrat Union	www.iydu.org
Red Cross Youth	www.ifrc.org/youth
The Student World Assembly	www.studentworldassembly.org
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations	www.ymca.int
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts	www.wagggs.org
World Federation of Democratic Youth ¹²	www.wfdy.org
World Organization of the Scout Movement	www.scout.org
World Student Christian Federation	www.wscf-europe.org
World Summit on the Information Society Youth Caucus	http://wsisyouth.takingitglobal.org/who.php
World Young Women's Christian Association	www.worldywca.info ; www.worldywca1.org
Youth for Development and Cooperation	www.ydc.nl
Youth for Understanding	www.youthforunderstanding.org

¹² The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) is a left-wing youth organization, recognized by the United Nations. It was founded in London in 1945 as a broad international youth movement. At the beginning of the Cold War, almost all Western organizations pulled out of WFDY due to its association with Soviet-aligned socialist and communist parties. WFDY experienced a crisis with the collapse of the Soviet Union, which led to the disappearance of its most important member organization, the Soviet Komsomol. It survived this crisis and maintained its left-wing character. The main event of WFDY is the World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS). The seventeenth WFYS will be held in Belarus in 2009.

VIRTUAL NETWORKS ADDRESSING YOUNG PEOPLE, INFORMATION ASSOCIATIONS/PORTALS

Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)

www.crin.org/about/index.asp

CRIN is a global network that coordinates and promotes information and action on child rights. Its guiding framework is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. CRIN distributes news and reports; runs events; lobbies; enables advocacy; and promotes knowledge sharing and coordination. CRIN participates in international child rights coalitions and advocacy groups, supports campaigns, and makes the UN and regional mechanisms more accessible to those lobbying for social change. CRIN has a membership of more than 1,900 organizations in 150 countries.

Oxfam International Youth Partnerships Portal

http://oiyp.oxfam.org/oiyp/template_14a.aspx?id=2294

This portal offers information about forthcoming global youth-related events, campaigns, and conferences.

Social Edge

www.socialedge.org/features/issue-areas/youth-social-entrepreneurship

Since 2003, Social Edge has been a global online community where social entrepreneurs and other members of the social benefit sector connect to network, learn, inspire, and share resources. Social Edge is particularly targeted at social entrepreneurs with limited access to other local resources and practitioners due to the nature of their work (e.g., international development) or their location (e.g., developing countries or rural areas). Social Edge is supported by the Skoll Foundation, which has a grant-making program for social entrepreneurship (www.skollfoundation.org/aboutskoll/index.asp).

Taking It Global (TiG)

www.takingitglobal.org

TiG provides a portal for young people to find inspiration, access information, and get involved in improving their local and global communities. TiG's mission is to provide opportunities for learning, capacity building, cross-cultural awareness, and self-development through the use of Internet communications technology. TiG focuses on encouraging youth participation. By leveraging the power of social networks and digital media, TiG tries to achieve interactive learning, collaboration, dialogue, and action that is completely interactive.

World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)

www.civicus.org

CIVICUS is an international alliance of members and partners that constitute an influential network of organizations at the local, national, regional, and international levels, and span the spectrum of civil society. CIVICUS works to strengthen citizen action and civil society throughout the world, especially in areas where participatory democracy and citizens' freedom of association are threatened. CIVICUS provides a focal point for knowledge sharing, common interest representation, global institution building, and engagement among these disparate sectors. It acts as an advocate for citizen participation as an essential component of governance and democracy worldwide. CIVICUS has established its global headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa. CIVICUS networks many national and international organizations, including youth organizations. In addition, it runs special projects, including one on the promotion of volunteering, which is particularly relevant to young people:

www.civicus.org/special-projects.

YouthActionNet

www.youthactionnet.org

YouthActionNet is a program that invests in the potential of young people to create positive change. Through its global and national-level fellowship programs, customized trainings, dynamic website, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities, YouthActionNet offers young change makers ideas, resources, and connections to like minds around the world. Launched in 2001, YouthActionNet is an initiative of the International Youth Foundation (www.iyfn.org), a global not-for-profit organization supporting youth development programs in 70 countries.

Youth for Development Portal

<http://youth.developmentgateway.org/Youth-for-Development.8594.0.html>

Youth for Development is an online community, a collaborative space where development practitioners and youth can share knowledge, best practices, and research about youth and development. It is an initiative of the Development Gateway Foundation, an international nonprofit organization with the mission to reduce poverty and enable change in developing nations through information technology. The foundation started within the World Bank, later became an independent foundation supported by government and private-sector donors who recognized the high potential of information and communication technology to increase the impact of scarce development resources.

You Think!

<http://youthink.worldbank.org>

You Think! is the World Bank's youth information portal. It offers young people easy access to research, knowledge, and experience gathered by World Bank experts on international development. It also provides young people with the opportunity to share their opinions on development issues.

International Foundations and Organizations Providing Finance for Youth/Youth-Related Projects

The funding organizations listed below are only those that function transcontinentally. These are most relevant as they have youth-specific funding mechanisms or projects that offer support and financing for truly international youth projects. Only those with a track record of financing youth-related projects have been included. As in the case of other actors, there is no consensus among these funders concerning the age range of youth. They all work with their own definitions.

European or other continental programs, such as the funding mechanisms of the Council of Europe's European Youth Foundation and the European Union's Youth in Action Program, which have lines of action for projects involving young people from all over the world (limited as these may be), are covered in the appropriate regional sections below.

ASHOKA and Youth Venture

www.genv.net/?gclid=CPuvqljrjZQCFRTyXgodUjK3Tg

ASHOKA, which promotes social entrepreneurship, provides outstanding individuals with funding to grow and develop as social entrepreneurs. Social entrepreneurs tackle problems in all areas of need: the environment, health, learning, human rights, civic engagement, and economic development. Youth Venture, which is an ASHOKA initiative directed at young people, helps teams of people start new youth-led organizations.

Ford Foundation

www.fordfound.org

The Ford Foundation works by making grants and loans to build knowledge and strengthen organizations and networks. It wants to be a long-term and flexible partner with innovative leaders of thought and action. It makes grants from its New York headquarters and regional offices in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Russia. Relevant fields of work include community development, environment, civil society, human rights, education, arts and culture, media, HIV/AIDS, sexuality, and reproductive health. Ford Foundation-funded projects can be youth-led, and beneficiaries are also young people, although it does not have a youth project-funding program per se.

The International Award Association

www.intaward.org/about-the-award

The International Award Association is a self-development program available to all 14-to-25-year-olds. Launched in the UK in 1956 as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the program has now spread to 126 countries. Any group working with young people can participate. Young people design their own Award Program, set their own goals, and record their own progress. The only people they compete against are themselves, by challenging their own beliefs about what they can achieve. Young people who work toward achieving the Award discover what they are made of, make an impact on their community, and develop a set of life skills.

The International Youth Foundation

www.iyfn.org/section.cfm/5

The International Youth Foundation (IYF) is working in more than 70 countries and territories to improve the conditions and prospects of young people where they live, learn, work, and play. Established in 1990 to bring worldwide resources to young people in need, IYF works with hundreds of companies, foundations, and civil society organizations to strengthen and “scale up” existing programs that are making a positive and lasting difference in young lives. Its grant-making is directed at its global network of partner foundations/organizations, which identify promising and effective programs and make grants to expand or adapt individual programs.

Kellogg Foundation

www.wkkf.org/Default.aspx?LanguageID=0

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930. Grants are awarded in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa. The Kellogg Foundation has a Youth and Education Grant-Making Program, which

aims to improve learning outcomes for vulnerable children and youth. Kellogg supports new ideas about how to engage children and youth in learning and new ways to bring together community-based systems that promote learning.

The Skoll Foundation

www.skollfoundation.org/aboutskoll/index.asp

The Skoll Foundation advances systemic change to benefit communities around the world by investing in, connecting, and celebrating social entrepreneurs. Skoll supports not-for-profit organizations rather than individuals; works with organizations that have a proven track record in the field of empowerment; leverages resources and influence through grant-making; seeks long-term impact and universal application; and values innovation, creative ideas, and new solutions to problems. The Skoll Foundation does not have a youth funding program per se but its principles lend themselves to funding youth projects.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

www.wfd.org/pages/standard.aspx?i_PageID=144

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy works to strengthen parliaments and political parties in priority countries in Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East, on both national and local levels. In addition, WFD supports activities in the fields of local government, civic participation, women, youth, elections, rule of law, media, and trade unions. Young people are often marginalized from the processes of policy formation and political decision making. This frequently leads to disillusionment and disengagement. Youth represents the future and yet, if young people do not feel part of the running of their country, they may move abroad and realize their potential elsewhere.

The International Youth Research Community

Youth research emerged relatively recently as a recognized field of sociological study. Only a few individuals worldwide identify themselves as “youth researchers.” Yet, certain countries (e.g., France and Germany) and regions (e.g., Europe and Latin America) have long traditions of publicly supported and organized youth research through institutes established by government or within public universities. Although youth research has gained recognition over the years, institutionalized structures for interregional exchange and cooperation

are relatively new. These processes have been initiated as a result of growing awareness that reliable social science research evidence on young people is an important basis for the development of specific youth policies. Such cooperation has strong continental and regionalized traditions, but unfortunately, cooperation across those traditions has remained weak, probably as a result of language barriers. Nevertheless some global networks and forums for youth research exist (e.g., within the International Sociological Association). The youth research community is relatively weakly incorporated into institutionalized mechanisms of cooperation in the youth field on the global level (as outlined above). This means that although youth researchers may be consulted here and there within the context of ministerial conferences on youth, they are not active stakeholders in processes of cooperation on youth policy development to the extent necessary for research evidence to be at the forefront of the process.

This section includes information about the main youth research journals published internationally, the two international associations of youth researchers, and several world-reputed and specialized international youth research initiatives that are producing research about young people and children using the most up-to-date approaches.

Note that this subsection does not contain reference to UN or World Bank research on young people. Both organizations regularly and increasingly often commission specific empirical research on the situation and condition of youth in specific regions and even worldwide as well as policy research for particular purposes. They do not systematically bring together youth researchers to exchange the latest research findings and do not have a process by which such evidence is used as a basis for the development of policies and programs, although they do have in-house research departments and produce in-house research publications.¹³ Nor do they make it a priority to participate in institu-

13 See <http://go.worldbank.org/T1XXR1L9L0> for the Human Development Network Children and Youth Department (HDNCY) Working Paper Series, which examines issues of a cross-sectoral nature that affect children and youth.

tionalized processes of international youth research cooperation on a regular basis. This may be because of clear differences in research approach between the institutions and the international youth research community: the former tend to be concerned with facts and figures whereas the latter are more interested in sociological processes. To find out more about research publications on youth produced by the United Nations and the World Bank, refer to the following websites:

UN: www.un.org/youth and www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/flash.htm

WB: <http://go.worldbank.org/Z12D7RZVZ0>.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RESEARCH JOURNALS

Journal of Youth Development

www.nae4ha.org/directory/jyd/index.html

The field of youth development research is multidisciplinary, drawing researchers from the fields of psychology, family and consumer sciences, education, sociology, public health and nutrition, agricultural education, and other disciplines. This journal is multidisciplinary, applied, and focused on the development of school-aged youth through the transition to adulthood (ages 6–22).

Journal of Youth Studies

<http://taylorandfrancis.co.uk/journals/titles/13676261.asp>

This international scholarly journal is devoted to the theoretical and empirical understanding of young people's experiences and life contexts. It focuses on young people in a range of contexts (e.g., education, labor market, family) and highlights key research themes (the construction of identity, the use of leisure time, involvement in crime, consumption, and political behavior). The journal particularly encourages the submission of articles that highlight interconnections among the different spheres of young people's lives and articles that offer a critical perspective on social policies.

Young: Nordic Journal of Youth Research

<http://you.sagepub.com>

This journal publishes articles, reviews, and scholarly comments that develop and qualify international youth research. The aim of the journal is to contrib-

ute to developing a truly interdisciplinary youth research field, where it is both possible to apply approaches of a single discipline and to integrate insights, perspectives, and methods from different disciplines. *Young* addresses a broad scope of questions in the life situation of youth in the age of globalization—questions that are related to increased mobility of people and commodities, hybridization of culture, and the sensitivity of young people to changes in the labor market, culture, urban, and rural contexts. While it is called the *Nordic Journal of Youth Research* and indeed focuses on Nordic issues, it includes a significant number of international themes and articles, some of a comparative nature.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RESEARCH NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

Children, Youth and Family Consortium, University of Minnesota

www.cyfc.umn.edu

This website provides information about the Consortium, current discussion groups, and reports published. There is also a clearinghouse with topics such as adolescents, youth and disabilities, and parenting and families. Contexts are largely based on American examples, but the Consortium has a strong theoretical foundation, and much of the research can apply in other contexts.

Childwatch International

www.childwatch.uio.no

Childwatch International is a not-for-profit, nongovernmental network of institutions engaged in research for children. The network seeks to strengthen child-centered research to contribute toward real improvement in children's well-being. Childwatch International was founded in 1993 as a response from the research community to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention serves as a common agenda for research aimed at improving children's living conditions, well-being, and participation in society.

The Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies at Columbia University

www.childpolicyintl.org

The Clearinghouse provides cross-national, comparative information about the policies, programs, benefits, and services available in the advanced industrialized countries to address child, youth, and family needs.

Infojeunesse/Infoyouth

www.infoyouth.org

The Infoyouth network was created to provide as complete a picture as possible of youth policies throughout the world via its portal site. Designed as a network of networks, it provides users with a tool for more local-based collection, selection, and dissemination of data. The Infoyouth network operates in conjunction with the National Commission for UNESCO commissions and other youth organizations, governmental and nongovernmental institutions, and data research agencies.

International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet)

www.icyrnet.net

The Network's mission is to promote, internationally, the interdisciplinary study of children and young people in order to further awareness and understanding of issues that affect their well-being.

International Sociological Association Research Committee 34. Sociology of Youth (RC34)

www.isa-sociology.org/rc34.htm

www.rc34youth.org

The aim of RC34 is to contribute to the development of the theory and practice of youth sociology and youth research on an international level, uniting professional knowledge, scientific consciousness, and social commitment of its members to work on problems and issues of youth on local, regional, and international levels.

The Network University (TNU)

www.netuni.nl/tnu/moz

The Network University facilitates innovative learning and capacity building for a global network of professionals, students, nonprofit organizations, agencies, and networks. It specializes in creating e-tools for education and networking in the field of development. TNU has developed courses on youth and conflict and youth and development (with financial and content support from international institutions such as UNICEF). Any young person or professional interested in the content may register for the courses.

Young Lives—International Study of Childhood Poverty

www.younglives.org.uk

Young Lives is a long-term international research project investigating the changing nature of childhood poverty. The aims of the project are to improve understanding of the causes and consequences of childhood poverty, to exam-

ine how policies affect children’s well-being, and to provide an information base for the development and implementation of policies and practices that will reduce childhood poverty. Twelve thousand children growing up in four developing countries are being tracked over 15 years in the study countries—Ethiopia, the state of Andhra Pradesh in India, Peru, and Vietnam.

Institutionalized Processes of Cooperation in the International Youth Field

The institutionalization of international cooperation in the youth field has taken many years and is still a work in progress. Governments do not take lightly the idea that anyone else, whether it is an international institution, a nongovernmental organization, or another state, should have a say over their sovereign fields of responsibility. This is no different in the youth field, although it has a long history of international cooperation, and some consider it a model field in this regard. Even so, many of the present-day mechanisms for international cooperation suffer the trappings of nineteenth-century style *realpolitik* in international relations. It, therefore, remains difficult to speak about the development of “international youth policies,” except possibly with respect to those few cases of international legislation pertaining to youth issues that are legally binding on nation-states.¹⁴ Nevertheless, the youth field has managed to develop some consensus and several agreements on the way in which national youth policies should be made and conducted, and even if not legally binding these have significant weight and have provided the nongovernmental sector with benchmarks for holding governments to account.

¹⁴ The most useful is probably the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, although this deals only with children and young people up to the age of 18.

Cooperation Among Governments

In this subsection we include those mechanisms of cooperation between governments that are globally recognized and legitimated by the United Nations. Other forms of cooperation are organized by transnational organizations, such as the Catholic Church, but these do not involve governments per se and as such, do not have the necessary recognition to be understood as policies. This is because, until today, the responsibility and mandate for working out and implementing youth policies lie primarily with governments.

World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

www.un.org/events/youth98

The first World Conference of Youth Ministers took place in Lisbon, Portugal, August 8–12, 1998. Representatives of 146 nations committed their governments to placing national youth policy formulation, implementation, follow-up processes, and funding at the highest political levels. They adopted the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs, thereby agreeing to develop national youth policies and operational programs at the appropriate levels, and to implement international commitments and youth policy goals. In addition, they committed to introducing measurable time-bound goals and indicators to allow a common basis for national evaluation of the implementation of the agreed policies.

World Program of Action on Youth (WPAY)

www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/ga60.htm#documents

The World Program of Action on Youth is a blueprint for action that covers 15 priority areas.¹⁵ In principle, international action, especially in the UN, should aim to fulfill the objectives and meet the targets set in this program. Many international youth organizations (in cooperation and individually) also promote the implementation of the provisions of the WPAY. In 2005, the UN conducted a ten-year review of the WPAY to evaluate progress made in its member states. During this event, many countries were represented by national youth delegates. Delegates from youth organizations and UN Agencies attended as observers.

15 These priority areas are hunger and poverty, education, employment, globalization, environment, leisure, participation in decision making, information and communication technologies, intergenerational relations, health, juvenile delinquency, drugs, girls and young women, HIV/AIDS, and conflict.

Cooperation Among Nongovernmental Organizations, Regional Youth Platforms, and Other Nongovernmental Organizations with an Interest in Young People

Regional platforms play a particular role in the youth nongovernmental sector. In accordance with the principles of representative democracy and co-management, the Regional Youth Platforms (RYPs) aim to (1) bring together nongovernmental youth organizations in a given region to discuss and understand the main concerns and challenges of the young people who are associated with them, and (2) to convey those concerns to regional and international political bodies that have a role in the elaboration of youth policies.

The composition of regional platforms can complicate and even undermine their democratic legitimacy. In many regions, the platforms are made up of national youth councils, which depending on the country and region concerned can, in fact, be government-operated nongovernmental organizations (GONGOs). In some regions, these were the organizations of young people associated with national liberation movements that subsequently came into government as the parties of power. Where this is the case, regional platforms have been known to advertently and inadvertently exclude grassroots nongovernmental youth movements, thereby developing monopolistic relations with government. In response, nongovernmental youth organizations, especially the international nongovernmental youth organizations (INGYOs) with global reach and activities in the region, have sought to establish their own coordinating platforms, often without sufficient resources to ensure sustainability and effectiveness of advocacy.

Stronger platforms (notably the European Youth Forum) and some large INGYOs with global reach, have taken initiatives to develop support mechanisms for the development of more representative and democratic regional platforms and for cooperation and exchange of experience among different kinds of nongovernmental youth platform active internationally. But these efforts have been frustrated by political developments in the regions concerned and by the

lack of political and financial support for regional platforms from key regional and international funders. In addition, international youth NGO coordination activities are currently not supported financially by any international institution and, therefore, INGYOs and RYPs often do not have the financial means to be regularly represented at the meetings of the two main coordinating bodies, the Global Cooperation Coordinating Committee (GCCC) and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO).

The Global Cooperation Coordinating Committee (GCCC)

www.youthforum.org/en/our_work/ywd/global_priority2.htm

The GCCC is a network of regional nongovernmental youth platforms from around the world. As of 2008, its members were the African Youth Network, the Arab Youth Union, the Asian Students Association, the Asian Youth Council, the Caribbean Federation of Youth, the European Youth Forum, the Latin American Youth Forum, the Pacific Youth Council, and the Pan African Youth Union. The GCCC was established in 1997 in response to the need for regional youth platforms to work together on common global issues affecting young people. The GCCC is convened by the European Youth Forum. The objectives of the GCCC are to create a space to improve communication among the respective platforms (information and agenda exchange); create a space for meeting and dialogue (once or twice a year); coordinate the participation and involvement of the platforms in global youth work and global events, while respecting the independence of each; and effectively share and conserve the scarce resources available for the work of regional youth platforms.

International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO)

www.icmyo.net

ICMYO brings together membership-based, democratic, representative, and accountable INGYOs and RYPs in a platform for coordination. The main objectives of ICMYO are the strengthening of cooperation among youth organizations at the regional and global levels and the coordination of political inputs to global youth policy processes. The ICMYO is organized at least once a year under the responsibility of a taskforce (as of 2008, World Student Christian Federation, Young Men's Christian Association, World Organization of the Scout Movement, and the European Youth Forum). Between meetings, organizations participating in ICMYO function as an informal network. ICMYO convened for the first time in 2004. The most recent meeting took place in June 2008. It is an open structure that functions on the basis of voluntary participation of youth organizations meeting predefined criteria.

GLOBAL YOUTH FORUMS

Global youth forums are held all the time by many different kinds of organizations. But “global youth forum” does not necessarily denote policy-making capacity or legitimacy. Only certain world gatherings of young people can be considered as directly contributing to policy making, even if it has become popular among international organizations to organize such youth events as a means of “consulting” young people on strategies and actions. Clearly, there is a difference between the direct participation of the representatives of young people and their organizations in policy making and the consultation of young people at a global youth forum. Global youth forums with a recognized policy-making role are usually organized by the United Nations System with the support of other key international or regional stakeholders, involve participants recruited using some form of representational principle, and involve from the outset in their organization both governmental and nongovernmental partners. This approach to participation respects key principles of the youth sector such as co-management or youth–adult partnership. The last such forum was organized in 1998.

World Youth Forum, Braga, 1998

www.un.org/events/youth98

From August 2–7, 1998, the United Nations organized the third World Youth Forum. Five hundred young people from around the world met in Braga, Portugal, to discuss youth policies, youth participation, and youth rights. Their recommendations were presented the following week to over 100 government leaders at the first World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon, August 8–12. The participants of the World Youth Forum issued a declaration, called the Braga Youth Action Plan (available at www.un.org/events/youth98/yforum98/bragayap.htm).

INTERREGIONAL YOUTH FORUMS

Africa-Europe Youth Summit

www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Youth_Summit_en.asp

The Africa-Europe Youth Summit was organized on the initiative of the North–South Centre of the Council of Europe and took place in Lisbon, Portugal, De-

cember 5–7, 2007. It gathered 250 representatives of youth organizations from Europe and Africa and 60 observers from governments, regional and international organizations, and the media. The participants prepared a declaration to the heads of state during the second EU-Africa Summit (Lisbon, December 8–9, 2007), which took place immediately afterward.

Euro-Latin American Youth Forum (FEULAT)

www.feulat.org/moodle

FEULAT is an event organized annually by the European Youth Forum and the Latin American Youth Forum in cooperation with the Spanish Youth Council and with the support of the Spanish Youth Institute and the Ibero-American Intergovernmental Organization. FEULAT is a meeting point for Latin American and European youth organizations with a view to strengthening and consolidating Euro-Latin American cooperation. It takes place in the framework of the University on Youth and Development organized annually by the North–South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Spanish government, and the Spanish Youth Council.

OTHER INFLUENTIAL WORLD YOUTH EVENTS

Even if they do not have a direct influence on policy making through an institutionalized process underwritten by a legitimate body such as the United Nations, several of the following global youth events are influential in that they attract large numbers of young people and are organized by influential organizations and bodies that have access to resources and the media, and benefit from a degree of international credibility. These events are a channel for gauging international youth opinion on key youth and broader policy issues.

G8 Youth Project and World Youth Forum (WYF)

www.youthsummitjapan.com/wyf/about-wyf.html

In 2008 A SEED Japan, the Japan Youth Ecology League and the Youth, Development and Peace Japan Network organized a forum for youth around the world to share and discuss ideas on how to formulate practical solutions for a sustainable future on the occasion of the G8 summit in 2008. The forum included 50 international participants in addition to 250 Japanese participants.

UNESCO Youth Forums

<http://unesco.takingitglobal.org/index.en.html>

Since the beginning of the 2000s, UNESCO has regularly organized youth forums to enhance networking among young people involved in its youth programming and to receive feedback on UNESCO policies and proposed programs.

World Youth Congress

www.wyc2008.qc.ca/index.php?rand=1801164078

The fourth World Youth Congress, “Youth-Led Development,” brought together 600 of the world’s most dynamic young activists in the field of sustainable development to Quebec from 120 different countries in August 2008. The World Youth Congress is organized by Peace Child International and Taking It Global.

World Youth Day (WYD)

www.wyd2008.org

World Youth Day, organized by the Catholic Church, is the largest youth event in the world. Held every several years, WYD is a weeklong series of events attended by the Pope and hundreds of thousands of young people from all over the globe. The week culminates in a final Mass celebrated by the Pope on the last day (the actual World Youth Day). Typically, it is the largest event of the week and has drawn millions of people. The latest was held in Sydney, Australia, July 15–20, 2008.

Mechanisms for National and International Youth Policy Development

The idea of quality standards for youth policy development and implementation is relatively new. With the institutionalization of the youth ministerial conferences on world and regional levels came acceptance that a body of good practice in youth policy could be distilled for use in many different contexts with adaptation to local circumstances and specificity. The existence of the World Program of Action on Youth (WPAY, see above) is one expression of this acceptance, although it is entirely up to the member states of the United Nations whether they actually commit to meeting its standards. In Europe, probably more than in any other region of the world, academics, practitioners,

and policy makers have established indicators for quality in youth policy development and implementation that are accepted by governments and should be used as a guide to national policy making and as a basis for evaluation and assessment. These indicators are not legally binding, but have become the accepted wisdom of the field, to some extent “rubbing-off” on other regions and individual countries. This has led to several interesting initiatives in the field of youth policy evaluation and assessment, referred to as national and international youth policy reviews.¹⁶

The Council of Europe’s Program of National and International Youth Policy Reviews

www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/IG_Coop/youth_policy_reviews_en.asp

The Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe has developed a system to evaluate national youth policies on the invitation of its member states. Based on an extensive national evaluation report and study visits in the countries concerned, an international expert team drafts an evaluation report, which is presented to the European Steering Committee for Youth and the minister responsible for youth issues of the country concerned at a public hearing. As of 2008, 14 International Reviews of Youth Policy have been conducted in member states. In addition, as of 2008, two analytical reports (“Supporting Young People in Europe,” Vols. 1 and 2) have been published, summarizing good practices in the field of youth policy development on the basis of the experience of the international youth policy reviews.¹⁷

Youth Policy Advisory Missions¹⁸

Individual member states and partner countries of the Council of Europe occasionally request technical assistance in the development of their national youth policies through what is known as a “youth policy advisory mission.” In this context, a senior civil servant and specially selected international experts visit the country in question to meet a wide variety of stakeholders in

16 For a concise but in-depth discussion of standards and benchmarking in the field of youth policy (in Europe, but relevant to other regions and the global level as well), refer to Howard Williamson, “Supporting Young People in Europe,” Vol. 2 (Council of Europe Publishing, 2008), pp. 53–54.

17 The National Youth Policy Reviews conducted and the two synthetic volumes bringing together the experience gained from the review process so far can be ordered on the following website: http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=39&lang=EN&theme_catalogue=120171.

18 More information about youth policy advisory missions is available from the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. For more information, contact Andre-Jacques Dodin, andre-jacques.dodin@coe.int.

the youth and social policy fields as well as nongovernmental partners and prepare a series of recommendations to the national authority concerning how to develop and improve its national youth policy.

OTHER YOUTH POLICY REVIEW PROCESSES

International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP)

www.icnyp.net/index.php?id=14

ICNYP is an international nongovernmental organization dedicated to the promotion and development of national youth policy concepts and processes. ICNYP addresses itself to nations, which are primarily responsible for national youth policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. In its activities, ICNYP works with all stakeholders, including young men and women, NGOs, notably youth NGOs, governments, parliaments, intergovernmental organizations, bilateral organizations, and the United Nations System to foster the development of quality youth policy development and implementation.

UNFPA Counting on Youth Policy Review 2006–2008

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

(login: cst; password: welcome [case sensitive]).

In July 2006 the UNFPA [United Nations Population Fund] Country Technical Services Team for Europe and Central Asia (based in Bratislava, Slovakia) commissioned an environmental scan of the situations and needs of young people in seven countries of Europe and Central Asia, of youth and social policy provision pertaining to youth, and of complementary UN programming in the field of youth. In 2007 the study was extended to include Kosovo, and seven more countries in the region. The objectives were to describe the situation of young people with a view to better understanding their needs in relation to UNFPA core program areas (including sexual and reproductive health) and to provide recommendations for improving UNFPA action on youth. The content of the review covered fertility and population dynamics, socioeconomic conditions of youth, health, gender and the participation of young women, participation in social and political life, and youth policies and programming. UNFPA hopes to continue with youth policy reviews in other regions in the coming years, including the Middle East.

Mapping the Youth Scene in Different Regions of the World

Africa

Facts About Youth in the Region

As of 2006, there were approximately 305 million people aged 10 to 24 living in Africa, representing approximately 33% of the overall population of the continent.¹⁹ Slow and deteriorating progress in meeting the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in most African countries, combined with the devastating impacts of HIV/AIDS and conflict, have created a crisis of staggering scale affecting young people in Africa. Some facts and figures about children and young people in Africa are revealing. Children and young people up to 24 years of age represent 62% of Africa's population (420 million in 2000), and this population is growing rapidly. Africa has the highest rates of child mortality (1 in 6) and malnutrition (36%) in the world in children up to 5 years of age. Africa has the worst schooling outcomes in the world (51% out of school) in the age group from 6 to 14 years. For young people aged 15 to 24, unemployment is at 41%, and only 20 % of this age group completes secondary school.

¹⁹ Population Reference Bureau, "The World's Youth Data Sheet 2006"; available at www.prb.org/pdf06/WorldsYouth2006DataSheet.pdf.

There are 34 million orphans due to HIV/AIDS pandemic, conflict, and disease, and growing rapidly. By 2010, 15 to 25% of all children in 12 countries of Africa are expected to be orphans. The macro- and microeconomic impact of this snapshot is considerable. It is estimated that the impact of HIV/AIDS alone on annual growth rates is now at minus 2.0% of GDP, and that household savings in families fostering orphans is reduced by 33% (Uganda).²⁰ There is increasing awareness of the fact that the situation of youth is crucial for the overall development prospects of the continent.

Overview of the Main Actors in the Youth Field

In this section we present the action of the main international and regional actors with specific programs that consider young people either beneficiaries or partners. These include, in particular, the United Nations System and the World Bank, in addition to regional cooperation mechanisms such as the African Union. In this region, the international organizations bringing together former colonies also are quite active.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The United Nations and Youth in Africa

The UN Development Assistance Framework organizes the in-country programs of agencies in terms of their specific mandates. But despite recent attempts of the various UN agencies active in African countries to “deliver as one,” real common programming between UN agencies is still largely not the case. Although there are some regional interventions serving youth in several countries (such as the Africa Youth Alliance [see below]), there is no “one-stop shop” providing an overview of the UN’s efforts regarding youth across the African continent. Nevertheless, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Africa Portal: www.undp.org/africa provides access to information about UN actions in general, through country offices and Pan African

²⁰ “Reaching Africa’s Young”; available at <http://go.worldbank.org/K8X5HXAQE0>.

programs, including specific youth-related activities where they exist. For the most part, youth remains an “invisible” category—being among the beneficiaries of cross-sectoral programs (MDGs, UNAIDS) and a variety of country programs. Only some UN agencies have specific programs targeting youth and children (e.g., UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund) and these may differ from country to country. Where a country office has put in place a UN Theme Group on Youth, youth can gain more visibility. One highlight for Africa as a good practice in the field of youth in the UN System is in Botswana, which has a UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health.

World Bank: Reaching Africa’s Young (RAY)

<http://go.worldbank.org/K8X5HXAQEO>

The Africa region was the first to develop a strategic framework to focus on the needs of children and youth using a life-cycle framework. RAY’s plan for 2005–2015 proposes a three-pronged strategy to scale up action in three priority groups: intensifying interventions for the youngest vulnerable children (0 to 5 years); emergency action for orphans and vulnerable children; and addressing the needs of youth at risk. RAY envisions significant scaling up of analytical work, capacity building, and lending, using existing instruments (e.g., multicountry AIDS programs, poverty reduction strategies, education programs, health programs, social funds, and urban programs) as well as new instruments (e.g., conditional cash transfers, safety nets, community financing, and subregional programs).

Youth Voices: Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Ethiopia

While the World Bank website affirms that there are Youth Voices Groups in Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Ethiopia, the WB country office websites have no information concerning the activities of these groups.

REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS

The African Development Bank (ADB) and the African Development Fund (ADF)

www.afdb.org

The ADB is a multilateral development bank whose shareholders include 53 African countries and 24 non-African countries from the Americas, Asia, and Europe. It was established in 1964 and officially began operations in 1967. The Bank Group’s primary objective is to promote sustainable economic growth

in order to reduce poverty in Africa. It achieves this objective by financing a broad range of development projects and programs, many of which have young people as their primary beneficiaries.

The African Development Forum (ADF)

www.uneca.org/ADF

The African Development Forum is a multistakeholder platform for debating, discussing, and initiating concrete strategies for Africa's development. It was established in 1999 and has been held four times with outcomes including the initiation of a program to support national information and communication technology policy formulation and implementation in Africa. In 2006, it was organized under the theme "Youth and Leadership in the 21st Century." ADF-V is organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union in partnership with UNICEF, UNFPA, the African Development Bank, and the OIF. The decision to devote the fifth African Development Forum (ADF-V) to youth acknowledges that political stability, social solidification, and economic prosperity lie in harnessing the capacities of youth and recognizes the obvious gap between the real situation of African youth and the potential contribution youth could make to achieving development.

African Union (AU)

www.africa-union.org/root/au/index/index.htm

Founded in 1964, the African Union is the continent's principal organization for the promotion of accelerated socioeconomic integration, with the aim of creating greater unity and solidarity among African countries and peoples. It focuses on the promotion of peace, security, and stability on the continent as a prerequisite for the implementation of the development and integration agenda of the Union. Given their demographic importance, young people are seen by the African Union as a key vehicle for implementing its objectives of peace, unity, and prosperity.

African Youth Charter

www.unicef.org/media/media_46798.html

In principle, the African Youth Charter and the plan of action elaborated for its implementation were accepted by all countries that took part in the Conference of the Ministers in Charge of Youth of the African Union. Having said this, ratification has been very slow. By late 2008, only 11 of 53 member states of the African Union have signed the Charter and only three have ratified it. In December 2008, UNICEF announced a campaign to involve young people in getting their governments to ratify the Charter.

African Youth Day (November 1)

The celebration of African Youth Day, observed annually on November 1, is aimed at sensitizing the population on African youth development issues as well as creating awareness about some projects of the African Union in relation to youth, e.g., the African Charter. In 2008, the theme of African Youth Day was Peace and Development. The AU had not yet announced the theme for 2009 by the time of writing in January 2009.

African Youth Year (2008)

The African Union declared 2008 as African Youth Year. A declaration was issued in February 2008 (see below). The AU website provides no information concerning the events and activities that took place to commemorate African Youth Year.

Conference of the Ministers in Charge of Youth of the African Union

www.africa-union.org/root/ua/Conferences/Mai/HRST/22%20mai/Welcome.htm

To date, the most important contribution of the African Union to youth policy making is that it championed the elaboration of the African Youth Charter and established the Conference of Ministers in Charge of Youth, which held its first ordinary session in May 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. On that occasion the Pan African Youth Forum was also held, during which youth delegates brought their issues and concerns to the table of the African Youth Ministers. The Conference of the Ministers in Charge of Youth of the African Union issued the Addis Ababa Declaration of Youth, outlining new directions for youth policy development and implementation in Africa.

Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)

www.cplp.org/Default.aspx

The CPLP [Comunidade de Países Língua Portuguesa] was formed in 1996 with seven countries: Portugal, Brazil (a former colony in South America), and five former colonies in Africa: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and São Tomé and Príncipe. East Timor joined the community in 2002 after independence. The CPLP is a bloc under construction, and the societies of the eight member nations have little knowledge of each other. One unique feature of the CPLP is that its members are linked by a common language and shared cultural features, which form a bridge among countries separated by great distances and on different continents. The CPLP has some programs relevant to youth in Africa, including its HIV/Aids Program, which is designed to help the five African member states, and the Centre for the Development of Entrepreneurial Skills that is being established in Luanda, Angola.

The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in Africa

http://jeunesse.francophonie.org/formulaires/AssociationsDesJeunes_List.cfm

The OIF has a directory of youth organizations, the majority of which are located in its African member states.

DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND FOUNDATIONS

African Youth Alliance (AYA)

www.ayaonline.org/overview.htm

The African Youth Alliance is a collaborative program between the United Nations Population Fund, the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), and Pathfinder International—three expert development groups that have come together to form a unique and significant alliance to reduce the incidence and spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and improve overall adolescent reproductive health in Botswana, Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda. By partnering with governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community-based and youth-serving groups, AYA aims to make a significant difference in young people's lives by providing resources and support to encourage their healthy behavior.

The African Youth Foundation (AYF)

www.ayf.de/about/about.html

The African Youth Foundation is a nonprofit development organization based in Bonn, Germany, with a regional office in Accra, Ghana. It was established in 2000 to aid young Africans in Africa and its diaspora, as well as Europeans of African descent, to undertake projects that will enable them to obtain skills necessary for their future livelihoods. The organization specializes in training young people in business and entrepreneurial skills through the help of local business institutions. AYF promotes self-awareness, researches development conditions in African countries, and analyzes favorable conditions for development and participation of youth in social life.

Commonwealth Youth Program (CYP), Africa

www.thecommonwealth.org/subhomepage/152819/home

The Commonwealth Youth Program Africa Center is located in Lusaka, Zambia, and is one of four centers established to serve the member countries of the Commonwealth. The CYP Africa Center responds to youth development for 21 countries. CYP Africa Center's programs are aimed at improving youth livelihoods. CYP Africa implements the Action for Youth Empowerment and

has developed an African Youth Caucus. In addition, it has two specialized projects: the Young Ambassadors of Positive Living Program (YAPL) was initiated as a response to the challenges posed by the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people and Project Hope (Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre [NUYDC]), which aims to contribute to the rebuilding of Northern Uganda in partnership with youth through decent employment and positive living. It is a partnership project between CYP Africa and the Ugandan government.

Youth Action International (YAI)

www.youthactioninternational.org/yai

Youth Action International is a global nonprofit working to rebuild wartorn African communities. The organization establishes safe and healthy environments for women and their children by providing for their core needs and developing new community infrastructure. YAI is run by a network of young international leaders who are defining a new approach to delivering humanitarian aid. By leveraging the use of local materials and employing local people, YAI maximizes the economic and social impact of programs that include building schools and playgrounds as well as micro-lending. It runs projects in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Ghana. It is financed by USAID, corporate and individual donors in the United States, and several American foundations.

REGIONAL YOUTH PLATFORMS

Regional youth platforms are coordinating or umbrella organizations of youth organizations and in particular, national youth councils, in a given region. A national youth council is an umbrella organization for youth organizations active at the national level. Its role and function are to represent the interests of its member organizations to national authorities responsible for youth. As a coordinating body of organizations with nationwide membership, these organizations tend to consider themselves “representative.” In Africa, regional platforms have tended to be made up of nongovernmental youth organizations or student associations. Several platforms either cooperate or compete depending on circumstances—most often, African regional politics. Some have the support of international institutions. The African platforms face the challenge of becoming considered and accepted as partners in the work of the African Union, or they are regularly invited to participate in meetings organized by

that institution. In addition, they are weakened by the fact that they are not systematically recognized by governments in African countries as representatives of young people.

African Youth Network (AYN; no website)

Permanent Secretariat
B.P. 4542 Lomé, Togo
e-mail: raj_ayn@hotmail.com

The African Youth Network, established in December 1995, is a platform for nongovernmental organizations active on the African continent to discuss youth policy in areas such as the environment, trade, and poverty, through seminars, workshops, and regular publications. The organs of the network are the General Assembly, the Executive Council, the Permanent Secretariat, and the Specialized Committees. There are representatives from the northern, southern, central, western, eastern, and Indian Ocean regions of Africa.

All-Africa Students Union (AASU; no website)

8th Floor Bay 1, State House/P.O. Box M274
GH-Accra/Ghana.
e-mail: aasu@nes.com.gh

AASU is a continental representative organization of democratic student unions founded in 1972 with 51 member unions from Africa. It is affiliated with the International Union of Students (IUS). AASU has a consultative status with UNESCO and it is UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)-accredited with UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). AASU develops working relations/cooperation with other subregional, regional, and international youth and student organizations as well as governmental, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental organizations on issues of common concern and interest: access to education, democracy, HIV/AIDS, information and communication technology in higher education in Africa, gender issues, and academic freedom.

Pan African Youth Union (PYU)

www.panafricanyouth.org/index2.php

The Pan African Youth Union originates in the Pan African Youth Movement. It is the result of a profound process of renewal within the movement in light of the political transformations that have taken place on the African continent and in the world and the present and future challenges these imply. It was created at the Windhoek Congress in November 2003. The Pan African Youth Union is a platform for African youth engagement and mobilization. It strives to promote

the aims of the African Union; to stimulate, coordinate, and support youth participation and activity in Africa; to contribute to development; to advocate for the needs and concerns of children and young people in Africa; and to contribute to the development of an African civil society. The Pan African Youth Union's membership is largely made up of national youth councils. It is a member of the GCCC and is invited to the ICMYO.

INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN AFRICA

The table below includes those international nongovernmental organizations with a track record of presence in the African region, whether through international programs or the establishment of regional and national affiliate organizations with extensive programming.

NGOs with Presence in African Region

Name	Acronym	Website (Africa-specific where available)
Federation of Medical Students' Associations	IFMSA	www.ifmsa.org/regional/africa/
International Association of Students of Economics and Commerce	AIESEC	www.aiesecus.org/cms/aiesec/AI/About/network/africa.html
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions	ICFTU	www.icftu.org/default.asp?Language=EN
International Falcon Movement—Socialist Educational Involvement International	IFM/SEI	http://ifm.tomazic.name/?m=c&a=show&id=16
International Federation of Liberal Youth	IFLRY	http://iflry.org/mos/list.aspx?region=Africa http://advocacy.africaliberalnetwork.org
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	IFRC	www.ifrc.org/youth/about/networks/Africa/index.asp

(continues)

Name	Acronym	Website (Africa-specific where available)
International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth	MIJARC	http://mijarc.net.server416-han.de-nserver.de/index.php?id=14
International Movement of Catholic Students	IMCS (Pax Romana)	www.imcsafrica.levillage.org
International Union of Socialist Youth	IUSY	www.iusy.info/iusy/content/blogcategory/0/252/lang,en
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations	YMCA International	www.ymca.int/index.php?id=26#74
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts	WAGGS	http://africa.wagggsworld.org/en/home
World Organization of the Scout Movement	WOSM	www.scout.org/en/africa
World Student Christian Federation	WSCF	www.wscfglobal.org/wscfAllRegion.php?region=Africa
World Young Women's Christian Association	YWCA	www.worldywca.info/index.php/ywca/world_ywca/national_ywcas

Interesting Initiatives

This section includes some initiatives for youth that have been undertaken in the region. These may not form part of the work of the “traditional” youth sector of the region, but they nevertheless constitute examples of good practice and demonstrate the extent of development and innovation under way in the youth sector in this region.

Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organizations of the North–South Centre of the Council of Europe

www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Youth/Youth_Form_ACT4_2007_en.asp

Under its objective to provide training and capacity building of young people and youth organizations outside Europe, the North–South Centre of the Council of Europe, based in Lisbon, Portugal, organizes the Africa-Europe Training

Course for Youth Organizations. The course takes place either annually or biennially, depending on the availability of financial support. Its objectives include (1) strengthening the role of youth organizations as civil society actors and the capability of youth to organize and take action, as well as strengthening political participation in poverty eradication and social cohesion; (2) identifying educational principles to promote the global citizenship of young people in Europe and Africa. It contributes to strengthening the capacity of multipliers in youth organizations in Europe and Africa with the necessary skills to develop and implement Africa–Europe cooperation programs, notably those aimed toward reducing poverty and creating an informal network of youth leaders and organizations interested in developing Africa–Europe cooperation.

Africa Files

www.africafiles.org

Africa Files is a network of volunteers committed to promoting African perspectives and alternative analyses for human rights and economic justice in Africa. It is active in the fields of information and research and was launched in 2002 by former volunteers in two well-established groups based in Toronto, the Economic Rights in Southern Africa group of the Inter-Church Coalition on Africa and the Toronto Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa. When these groups ceased operation in 2001, members from each group came together to explore ways to continue their work and express their solidarity with Africa. It is also a useful and up-to-date information resource for youth-related activities.

Global Youth Partnership for Africa (GYPA)

www.gypafrica.org

GYPA is an NGO that strives to cultivate youth as global citizens and partners in development and advocacy for Africa. GYPA seeks to develop deeper appreciation, understanding, and respect between young American and African leaders, who are tomorrow's global decision makers.

Pan African Youth Leadership Forum of the Friends of Africa International

www.fafrica.org/index.html

Friends of Africa International (FAI) organizes the Pan African Youth Leadership Forum, first held in Ghana in 2007, then in Egypt in 2008, and is foreseen to be an annual event. The goal of the Pan African Youth Leadership Forum is to provide African youth with the essential education and training necessary for leadership, and to offer a forum for youth to share their unique knowledge and experiences among colleagues. The mission of FAI is to promote human rights, social justice, democracy, and good governance in Africa.

The Young People's Commission for Africa (YPCfA)

www.ypcf.net/index.html

The Young People's Commission for Africa was a project organized by Plan UK and Gemin-i.org, which linked 25 UK schools with 25 schools in Africa between January and June 2005. The YPCfA was designed to give young people the chance to engage with the Commission for Africa and have their voices heard by the G8 leaders. The project encouraged young people in Africa and the UK to work collaboratively as they explored their impressions of Africa and its challenges and opportunities. The project developed technological tools to link schools and communicate the concerns and issues of young people to governments. Some young people who took part in the project were invited to Downing Street to meet the prime minister of the UK.

Asia-Pacific

Facts About Youth in the Region

As of 2006, approximately 1,015 million people aged 10 to 24 were living in Asia, if one includes China.²¹ One-fifth of the population in South Asia is between the ages of 15 and 24. India alone has some 200 million young people. This is the largest number of young people ever to transition into adulthood. Youth unemployment is high, with youth accounting for half of the unemployed and being six times more likely to be jobless than older workers. Formal job growth has not kept up with economic growth and there is a mismatch in skills between those demanded by employers and those acquired in school. Literacy rates among young people are low in all countries, except Maldives and Sri Lanka. On average, only 62% of young women can read and write (versus 77% of young men). South Asia has the largest gender gap in literacy in the world. Student migration is particularly important for Asian youth. East Asia and the Pacific are increasingly receiving international students, but more important, these regions contribute the largest group of students studying abroad (29% of the global total of mobile students worldwide). In absolute terms, China has the largest share of internationally mobile migrants and accounts for 14% of all mobile students.²² Young people increasingly engage in high-risk behaviors with 40% reporting unprotected sex. It is estimated that 2.2 million young people live with HIV/AIDS in Asia. Fifty percent of HIV infections are believed to be in the 15 to 24 age group. Early pregnancy and its attendant risks of high maternal and child mortality also remain a problem in the region. Tobacco use is on the increase. Young women face additional problems, with many being malnourished and suffering from anemia. Social pressures continue to force young women into early marriage and childbearing. Girls

21 Population Reference Bureau, "The World's Youth Data Sheet 2006"; available at www.prb.org/pdf06/WorldsYouth2006DataSheet.pdf.

22 "United Nations World Youth Report, 2007"; available at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr07.htm.

and young women (especially in rural areas) are especially vulnerable, and are increasingly becoming victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.²³

Overview of the Main Actors in the Youth Field

In this section we present the action of the main international and regional actors with specific programs that consider young people either beneficiaries or partners. These include, in particular, the United Nations System and the World Bank, in addition to regional cooperation mechanisms such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), among others.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The United Nations and Youth in Asia-Pacific

Although some regional UN interventions are serving youth in several countries (e.g., the EU/UNFPA cooperation initiative on Reproductive and Sexual Health of Young People in Asia; RHIYA, see below), there is no “one-stop shop” providing an overview of the UN’s efforts regarding youth across Asia and the Pacific. Nevertheless, the United Nations Development Programme Asia (UNDP) Portal, www.undp.org/asia/ provides access to information about UN action in general, through country offices and regional programs, including specific youth-related activities where they exist. In addition, among the aims of three regional centers of UNDP based in Asia-Pacific is the management of knowledge on best practices. These centers can be contacted for more specific information about engagement with youth in the specific subregions they serve.

Bangkok: <http://regionalcentrebangkok.undp.or.th/>

Colombo: www.undprcc.lk/

Fiji: <http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj/>

23 “Some Key Statistics on Youth in South Asia”; available at <http://go.worldbank.org/7QM6YCSW00>.

EU/UNFPA Cooperation on Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (RHIYA)

www.asia-initiative.org

The EU/UNFPA Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia (RHIYA) expands on the successful multicountry intervention: the EC/UNFPA Initiative for Reproductive Health in Asia (RHI). The RHIYA continues the successful collaboration among the European Union, UNFPA, European and local NGOs toward improving the sexual and reproductive health of the most vulnerable populations, especially young people, in South and Southeast Asia. Partnering with NGOs and governments, RHIYA aims to improve the sexual and reproductive health of young people between the ages of 10 and 24, through information and education campaigns, the provision of youth-friendly services, and the development of advocacy initiatives.

UNICEF South Asia

www.unicef.org/infobycountry/southasia.html

www.unicef.org/rosa

UNICEF in South Asia works to implement UNICEF's commitments toward children and young people up to age 18 in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. UNICEF attempts to draw on the strong, local traditions of social participation in this diverse region to design and carry out programs that help communities nurture their children.

UNICEF "Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific": Survey of East Asia and the Pacific

www.unicef.org/polls/eapro/index.html

"Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific" reports on a survey of approximately 10,000 children and adolescents aged 9 to 17, carried out by UNICEF's regional office in 17 countries and territories. The young people interviewed were a representative sample of the children in each country and territory in terms of age, gender, geographic location (urban or rural), and socioeconomic status. Representative of some 300 million young people, this survey is believed to be the largest and most comprehensive of its kind ever carried out in the region. Survey questions focused on what children know about their rights, HIV/AIDS, and other related issues, as well as their perceptions of and opinions on family life, school, and society in general.

World Bank in the South Asia Region

General information on World Bank activities that have an impact on young people, among other populations targeted by its development efforts, is available at <http://go.worldbank.org/I7VBKP0ED0>. Some youth-specific projects have been conducted by the WB in this region, and information about those is available at www.worldbank.org/saryouth.

Youth Consultations in South Asia

<http://go.worldbank.org/SXQM4AZZE0>

In early 2006, the World Bank organized several consultations with youth and on youth throughout South Asia to learn more about regional demographic trends and policy challenges. These meetings were part of the global WB consultations on youth to gather research for the World Development Report on Youth (2007), an annual bank publication that looks at the state of the world in relation to a particular theme or population group.

REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

www.aseansec.org

ASEAN was established in 1967 in Bangkok by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, later joined by Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia. It aims to accelerate economic growth, social progress, and cultural development and to promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries in the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter. It has an elaborate framework of cooperation mechanisms for youth policy development called the ASEAN Institutional Framework for Youth Matters (see below).

ASEAN Institutional Framework for Youth Matters

www.aseanyouth.org/index.php?p=somy

This institutional framework has been developed to make the role of young people in Asian development and governance more visible and effective. It comprises several elements, outlined below.

ASEAN+3 Youth Festival

www.aseanyouth.org/index.php?p=programmes

The ASEAN+3 Youth Festival (AYF) is a celebration of youth engagement, empowerment, and expression, bringing together 150 youth leaders from the

ASEAN member countries, China, Japan, and Republic of Korea. It was held in July/August 2008 in Singapore. Through the AYF, the ASEAN+3 region can become a more bonded community, where young people from different nations will better understand one another and be seen as one, working hand in hand for a common cause, a common goal, a common vision, and a better future. The activities focus on a theme targeted at active youth participation in regional youth affairs and an appreciation of the diverse cultures within the region. The AYF is one of the recommendations of the inaugural ASEAN Youth Caucus presented at the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth in April 2007.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY)

The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth was created to act as the higher-level body to resolve common social problems among young people in ASEAN member countries. AMMY is now part of the ASEAN institutional framework reporting to the ASEAN Heads of Government Meeting through the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. The last AMMY (V) took place in 2007, had the theme “Youth: Creating Our Future Together,” and involved 300 young people. AMMY V developed joint action plans to engage youth, maximize their potential, and harness their energies in society.

The ASEAN Youth Caucus

http://ammy.youth.sg/?page_id=12

The ASEAN Youth Caucus is an eight-day event involving 50 youth leaders from across the ASEAN region. The participants tackle challenging youth-related issues and address the concerns of ASEAN young people in four areas: education, employment and entrepreneurship, engagement (civic, political, social), and environment. The culmination of the Youth Caucus in 2007 was the preparation of recommendations to the ASEAN Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for youth at their meeting in Singapore (AMMY V).

ASEAN Youth Day

www.aseanyouth.org/index.php?p=awards

August 8 is commemorated as the ASEAN Youth Day (AYD). The commemoration of AYD is held in each of the member countries every year by rotation.

Model Asia-Europe Meeting (Model ASEM)

www.modelasem.org

Model ASEM is modeled on the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). The Model ASEM has the same objective as ASEM: to create greater understanding among people from Asia and Europe. The purpose of the Model ASEM conferences is to promote a greater understanding of the ASEM organization, its structure,

and political process. The last one took place in Beijing in October 2008 in conjunction with the 2008 ASEM.

The Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund

www.nyc.pa.gov.sg

The Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund supports joint youth activities in the ASEAN region over a five-year period until 2011 with SGD\$5 million. It is an initiative of Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, and aims to foster unity among ASEAN young people aged 15 to 35 and to promote greater international awareness of ASEAN. The Fund supports partnerships among ASEAN young people and Youth Sector Organizations (YSOs). The Fund is open to YSOs and National Youth Focal Points (contact persons for youth affairs) from ASEAN member countries. It was launched in 2007 at AMMY V and is administered by the National Youth Council of Singapore.

Youth@ASEAN

www.aseanyouth.org/home.php

The Youth@ASEAN portal is an online community for young people from ASEAN member countries. It is an initiative of the Senior Official Meeting on Youth. It aims to provide a platform for ASEAN young people to interact and exchange information and knowledge and to offer a one-stop resource database of youth-related information in ASEAN.

The Pacific Community

SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community) is an international organization that has provided technical assistance, policy advice, training, and research services to 22 Pacific Island countries and territories in areas such as health, human development, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries since 1947. SPC's vision for the region is "a secure and prosperous Pacific Community, whose people are educated and healthy and manage their resources in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way." The Pacific Community has a specific youth strategy (see below). The Community's website is: www.spc.int/corp.

Compendium of National Youth Policies for Pacific Community Members

www.spc.int/youth/youth_countries_updates.html

This is a website on which the national youth policies of Pacific Community Members have been collected along with progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Pacific Youth Strategy.

The Pacific Community Youth Focus—The Pacific Youth Strategy

www.spc.int/youth

In 2005, the Pacific Youth Ministers adopted the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010 (PYS2010) as the regional framework for youth development in the region. To enable SPC and stakeholders, including national governments and development partners, to respond effectively to youth issues in the Pacific region, PYS2010 focuses on priority initiatives to be implemented from 2006 to 2010, including accessing integrated education; nurturing sustainable livelihoods; promoting healthy lifestyles; building stronger communities; strengthening institutional capacity, youth and identities; and gathering research information and data on youth.

Pacific Youth Bureau (PYB)

www.spc.int/Youth/About_PYB/pyb_description.htm

The Pacific Youth Bureau was officially launched in June 1998 to coordinate the implementation of the Pacific Youth Strategy, first developed for the period 1998 to 2005. The Pacific Youth Council is also hosted by the secretariat Pacific Youth Bureau.

DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND FOUNDATIONS

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The Asian Development Bank is an international development finance institution whose mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their populations. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, the Philippines, ADB is owned and financed by its 67 members, of which 48 are from the region and 19 are from other parts of the globe. ADB's main partners are governments, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, development agencies, community-based organizations, and foundations. Under Strategy 2020, a long-term strategic framework adopted in 2008, ADB will follow three complementary strategic agendas: inclusive growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. In pursuing its vision, ADB's main instruments include loans, technical assistance, grants, advice, and knowledge. The bank's website is at www.adb.org.

ADB Engagement with NGOs (including youth NGOs)

www.adb.org/NGOs/default.asp

ADB interacts with a broad range of civil society organizations through operational cooperation and dialogue. NGOs, community-based organizations, labor unions, and foundations are among ADB's partners in fighting poverty and promoting prosperity in the Asia and Pacific region. ADB's experience shows that cooperation with civil society organizations can improve the effectiveness, quality, and sustainability of ADB-assisted activities. Information about ADB-funded projects addressing young people can be accessed on its website using the project database: www.adb.org/Projects.

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

The Asia-Europe Foundation was established in 1997 by 25 European and East Asian countries, together with the European Commission. ASEF is funded by voluntary contributions from its partner governments and shares the financing of its projects with its civil society partners across Asia and Europe. ASEF promotes greater mutual understanding among the peoples of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. It acts as the civil society outreach of Asia-Europe Meeting. The ASEF website is: www.asef.org.

ASEF Youth Partnerships 2008: Nineteenth International Youth Forum (IYF)

www.asef.org/index.php?option=com_project&task=view&id=19

The International Youth Forum is an initiative of the National Council of Youth Organizations in Korea, based and developed on the special fund that the Ministry of Sports and Youth of the Republic of Korea created in 1990 in order to promote international awareness and friendship among young people in Asia. The first IYF took place in the same year and was organized under the name "Korean International Peace Camp." In 2008, the IYF focused on creating more opportunities for interaction between Asian and European young people, on strengthening youth dialogue between these regions, and on providing Asian and European young people with a space for dialogue allowing them to reflect on important global issues.

REGIONAL YOUTH PLATFORMS

Regional youth platforms are coordinating or umbrella organizations of youth organizations and in particular, national youth councils, in a particular region.

A national youth council is an umbrella organization for youth organizations active at the national level. Its role and function are to represent the interests of its member organizations to national authorities responsible for youth. As a coordinating body of organizations with nationwide membership, these organizations tend to consider themselves “representative.” In Asia and the Pacific, regional platforms have tended to be made up of national youth councils and student associations. There are several platforms, with diverse levels of experience and effectiveness. In the Asia-Pacific region, regional youth platforms have been encouraged by the regional governmental cooperation organizations, such as the Pacific Community and ASEAN. They are accepted as partners for the advancement of the work of those organizations in the field of youth. Nevertheless, these platforms are weakened by the general absence of truly nongovernmental youth organizations among their members. They grapple with issues of representation and legitimacy in the eyes of youth nongovernmental organizations.

All China Youth Federation (ACYF)

www.acyf.org.cn/ywb

Established in 1949, the All China Youth Federation is the official coordinating body of Chinese youth organizations led by the Communist Party of China. It is a federative body with the Communist Youth League of China at its core. It is a broad patriotic united front organization of youth of all ethnic groups and all walks of life in China. It is the main Chinese partner to all other regional youth platforms. The European Youth Forum maintains contact with the All China Youth Federation within the context of Europe–China exchanges on youth issues.

Asian Youth Council (AYC)

www.asiayouth.org

The Asian Youth Council is a nongovernmental, youth-serving, regional organization, formed on August 14, 1972, to promote solidarity among young people in Asia as well as to strengthen national youth organizations in the region. Its members are national youth councils from 20 countries. It has consultative status with the ECOSOC. AYC serves as a forum for information exchange among national youth councils in Asia and other interregional agencies. It works closely with various regional and international partners to promote youth volunteerism and the development of leadership among young people. AYC priority areas are guided by the WPAY and the MDGs. It participates in the GCCC and is invited to the ICMYO.

Asia Students Association (ASA; no website)

Secretariat: c/o Rey Asis

Flat B, 2nd floor, Wang Cheong building

249–253 Reclamation Street, Kowloon,

Hong Kong SAR

e-mail: asasec@netvigator.com and reyasis@gmail.com

blog: <http://asianstudents.blogspot.com>

This platform for student organizations is a traditional partner of the European Youth Forum and other regional youth platforms because its members and its international secretariat have consistently been able to maintain independence from governments in the region, although it is different in character from other regional youth platforms, being an organized primarily on cooperation among students organizations. It is currently attempting to broaden its scope to include youth organizations. It is invited to ICMYO and international coordination events.

Indian Committee of Youth Organizations (ICYO)

www.icyo.in

www.icyo-india.org

ICYO is a not-for-profit network association with 356 member organizations in 122 districts in 23 states of India. It is committed to developing areas of mutual cooperation and understanding among the different youth voluntary agencies, youth groups, and clubs and individuals functioning in India and South Asia. ICYO promotes cooperation between youth voluntary organizations and multilateral agencies to strengthen youth organizations at the grassroots level. The European Youth Forum is exploring deeper cooperation with this platform and hopes it will become active in the GCCC and ICMYO.

Pacific Youth Council (PYC)

www.spc.int/Youth/PYC/pacific_youth_council.htm

The Pacific Youth Council is a regional, nongovernmental, voluntary association of territorial and national youth organizations established in 1996 to encourage and strengthen territorial and national youth organizations and promote a regional identity for Pacific youth. The PYC Secretariat is located within the Pacific Youth Bureau Office at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia. The PYC is a member of the GCCC, although since 2002 its participation and contact with the youth NGO coordinating mechanisms has been sporadic. The European Youth Forum and ICMYO have recently renewed contact with this platform and hope it will become an active participant of youth organization coordination activities.

INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN ASIA-PACIFIC

The table below includes those international nongovernmental with a track record of presence in the Asia-Pacific region, whether through international programs or through the establishment of regional and national affiliate organizations with extensive programming.

NGOs with a Presence in the Asia-Pacific Region

Name	Acronym	Website (Asia-specific where available)
International Association of Students of Economics and Commerce	AIESEC	http://myaiesec.net/cms/aiesec/AI/Press/releases/2008/index.html#A7
International Federation of Liberal Youth	IFLRY	http://iflry.org/mos/list.aspx?region=Asia
International Union of Socialist Youth	IUSY	www.iusy.info/iusy/content/blogcategory/0/127/lang,en
Red Cross Youth		www.ifrc.org/where/asiapac.asp?navid=05_04;
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations	YMCA	www.ymca.net/worldservice/funded_leadership.html
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts	WAGGS	http://asia.wagggsworld.org/en/home
World Organization of the Scout Movement	WOSM	www.scout.org/en/around_the_world/asia_pacific

Interesting Initiatives

This section includes some initiatives for youth that have been undertaken in the region. These may not form part of the work of the “traditional” youth sector of the region, but they nevertheless constitute examples of good practice

and demonstrate the extent of development and innovation under way in the youth sector in this region.

Asia-Europe Network for Sustainable Development

http://aeynsd.org/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,1/

The Asia-Europe Network for Sustainable Development is a partnership that enhances interregional cooperation between Asian and European youth with the intent of achieving a culture of sustainable development. This informal network of youth organizations from Asia and Europe aims to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and experiences between and among partner organizations; encourage consensus building on thematic issues and concerns among the partner organizations; present opportunities for coordinated activities and programs; and highlight positive contributions of youths and youth organizations in the campaign for sustainable development.

Asia-Europe Training for Trainers on Intercultural Learning and Cultural Diversity

www.asef.org/index.php?option=com_project&task=view&id=198

The Asia-Europe Training for Trainers on Intercultural Learning took place in May 2007, in Manila, the Philippines. It brought together 28 representatives of youth organizations in 22 ASEM countries to work on the development of skills and exchange of best practices on intercultural learning, by providing them with an innovative approach regarding intercultural capacities beyond stereotypes and prejudices. The training was co-organized by ASEF and the Philippines National Youth Commission (NYC), in close cooperation with the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) and the International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE). It contained structured learning exercises and daily reflections, simulation games, and cultural exchanges.

Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN)

www.apiyn.org/index.html

The Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network is an alliance of indigenous youth organizations, aiming to promote and defend the rights of indigenous peoples in general, and those of indigenous youth in particular. It prioritizes mobilizing the catalytic role of indigenous youth by facilitating the exchange of ideas, analysis, and experiences that they in turn can contribute and share with their indigenous communities. APIYN is the Youth Initiative of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and the Anglican Church of Canada.

Samsung DigitAll Hope 2003

www.csrwire.com/News/1861.html

Ensuring that all young people have equal access to information technology is an increasingly important issue for the future development of the Asia-Pacific region. Samsung is launching the youth-themed program in eight Asian countries: Australia, Singapore, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines. The program is part of Samsung's commitment to give back to the countries in which it operates. Youth are the focus because those aged 15 to 24 represent a large segment (almost 20%) of the overall population in the region.

Europe

Facts About Youth in the Region

As of 2006, the Population Reference Bureau estimated that a total of 164 million people ages 10 to 24 were living on the European continent, representing just 19% of the overall population of the continent.²⁴ Although the share of young people (variously defined from as low as age 13 [in some EU programs] to as high as 35 [in the Council of Europe]) is shrinking in line with developments toward lower fertility, there are significant regional differences between Western and Eastern Europe as concerns the number of young people. Nevertheless, today's young Europeans are a generation living in a rapidly evolving social, demographic, economic, and technological environment. The opportunities available to youth living in the developed market economies of the region are unprecedented. Many young people benefit from a high standard of living, access to quality education and health care, and the ready availability of the Internet. Nevertheless, inequalities in youth development exist in all countries of the region, often reflecting class, ethnicity, race, sex, and migrant status.²⁵ In addition, there are significant differences in the opportunities available to young people from the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union. The disadvantaged face unemployment, underemployment, poverty, isolation from the rest of society, and the risk of being drawn into antisocial groups. Age at the onset of drinking and using illegal drugs is becoming progressively lower and young people in the region are also choosing to be sexually active, frequently unprotected, at earlier

24 Population Reference Bureau, "The World's Youth Data Sheet 2006"; available at www.prb.org/pdf06/WorldsYouth2006DataSheet.pdf.

25 A fairly comprehensive overview of the situation concerning key themes relevant to young people in Europe can be found on individual fact sheets within the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP); available at www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/ekcyp/youthpolicy.html. The EKCYP also includes comprehensive information concerning the youth policies and programs of individual European states.

ages. The resulting sexually transmitted diseases and early pregnancies most strongly affect youth from disadvantaged backgrounds and youth with lower educational status. To a large extent, unhealthy lifestyles reflect youth alienation from human development opportunities. Inequalities in civic engagement can also be observed among youth in Europe. Those with higher levels of socioeconomic resources are most likely to participate.²⁶

Overview of the Main Actors in the Youth Field

In this section we present the action of the main international and regional actors with specific programs that consider young people either beneficiaries or partners. These include, in particular, the European Union and the Council of Europe, both of which have elaborate youth policy development and international cooperation mechanisms. This section follows a slightly different order than that for other regions because Europe has a highly elaborate and quite formalized youth sector that requires a different organization of information. In addition, some actors active in the other regions are not active in Europe, given that most of its countries are considered developed.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

European Union

The European Union's youth policies aim to meet young people's changing expectations while encouraging them to contribute to society. The Treaty of Maastricht extended the scope of EU policies to include the youth field in 1993. Before 2001, the activities of European institutions in the youth field focused mainly on the consideration and implementation of specific programs such as Youth for Europe, launched in 1988 to encourage international exchanges and mobility among young people in the member states of the European Communities. The White Paper on Youth, adopted in November 2001, proposed increased cooperation in the

26 United Nations Youth Report, 2007; available at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr07.htm.

areas of participation, information, and voluntary activities. It urged a greater understanding and knowledge of youth and recommended taking the youth dimension more into account when developing policies in areas such as education and training, employment and social inclusion, health, and antidiscrimination, with the additional aim of increasing young people's participation in social and political life and their active citizenship. The European Youth Pact (http://europa.eu/youth/news/index_1794_en.html), an initiative that promotes a more unified and coherent approach to youth issues in the European Union, was announced in 2005. The EU framework for youth policy is now composed of three main courses of action: encouraging young people's active citizenship, promoting social and occupational integration of young people, and including a youth dimension in other policies. In addition, the European Union also contributes to the development of youth mobility and the recognition of their nonformal learning experiences. The European Youth Portal is available at http://europa.eu/youth/index.cfm?l_id=en.

Eurodesk

www.eurodesk.eu/edesk/Welcome.do

Eurodesk is a European network of information services in 27 countries providing access to European information for young people and those who work with them. In each participating country, the Eurodesk partners are national bodies working in the youth field, which have been selected by the relevant ministry in each country to deliver Eurodesk services. National Partners cooperate with over 500 local youth information providers (Eurodesk Local Relays) to extend the availability of Eurodesk information services to young people at the local level. Eurodesk offers these local agencies training, information tools, and support to facilitate the provision of European information to young people.

SALTO-YOUTH

www.salto-youth.net

SALTO-YOUTH stands for Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities within the Youth in Action (YiA) program. SALTO-YOUTH.net is a network of eight resource centers working on European priority areas within the youth field. It provides youth work and training resources, and organizes training and networking activities to support organizations and national agencies of the YiA program within the frame of the European Commission's Youth in Action program and beyond. SALTO was established in 2000 as part of the European Commission's Training Strategy within the YOUTH program (the predecessor to the Youth in Action program) and works in synergy and complementarity with other partners in the field.

Youth in Action Program (YiA)

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc74_en.htm

Youth in Action is the EU Program for young people ages 15 to 28 (in some cases 13 to 30). It was adopted in 2006 by the European Parliament and the Council under Decision No. 1719/2006/EC. YiA aims to inspire a sense of active citizenship, solidarity, and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future. It promotes mobility within and beyond EU borders, nonformal learning, and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social, and cultural background and aims to respond to the evolution and needs of young people in Europe. The program is structured around five actions:

- **Action 1—Youth for Europe:** encourages young people's active citizenship, participation, and creativity through youth exchanges, youth initiatives, and youth democracy projects.
- **Action 2—European Voluntary Service:** helps young people to develop their sense of solidarity by participating, either individually or in groups, in nonprofit, unpaid voluntary activities abroad.
- **Action 3—Youth in the World:** promotes partnerships and exchanges among young people and youth organizations across the world.
- **Action 4—Youth Support Systems:** includes various measures to support youth workers and youth organizations and to improve the quality of their activities.
- **Action 5—Support for European Cooperation in the Youth Field:** supports youth policy cooperation at the European level, in particular by facilitating dialogue between young people and policy makers.

Youth in Action in Figures

Duration	2007 to 2013
Budget	885 million euros for seven years
Geographic reach	EU member states, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, the EU neighbors (Eastern Europe and Caucasus, the Mediterranean region, Southeastern Europe), and other partner countries in the world
Age brackets	15 to 28 (in some cases 13 to 30)

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe wants to encourage young people to get actively involved in strengthening civil society in Europe; to defend the values of human rights, cultural diversity, and social cohesion; and to promote and develop youth policies.

Directorate of Youth and Sport (DYS)

www.coe.int/youth

The Directorate of Youth and Sport supports the development of youth associations, networks, and initiatives, and promotes international cooperation in the youth field. It operates on a system of co-management that involves representatives from INGYOs cooperating with government officials to work out the priorities for the youth sector. The DYS is responsible for organizing the Conferences of European Ministers responsible for youth. The priorities of the DYS for 2009 are human rights education and intercultural dialogue, youth participation and democratic citizenship, social cohesion and inclusion of young people, and youth policy development. These priorities are pursued through various activities, including training courses, study sessions, intercultural language courses, seminars, expert meetings and research, publications, and advice on youth policy development.

European Youth Centers (EYCs), Budapest and Strasbourg

Budapest: www.eycb.coe.int

Strasbourg: www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/EYC/Strasbourg_en.asp

The European Youth Centers (EYCs) in Strasbourg and Budapest are permanent structures for the implementation of the Council of Europe's youth policy. They are international training and meeting centers with residential facilities, hosting most of the youth sector's activities. They provide a flexible and modern working environment for international activities, with meeting rooms equipped for simultaneous interpretation, information centers, and audio-visual and computer facilities. The EYC Strasbourg was founded in 1972 with financial support from the Norwegian government. The EYC Budapest was set up and inaugurated in 1995 as the first permanent service of the Council of Europe in a Central and East European country. Its premises were placed at the disposal of the Council of Europe by the Republic of Hungary. The European Youth Centers run an annual program of up to 50 activities in close cooperation with nongovernmental youth organizations.

European Youth Foundation (EYF)

www.eyf.coe.int/fej

The European Youth Foundation is a fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe (CoE) to provide financial support for European youth activities. It has an annual budget of approximately 3 million euros. Since 1972, more than 300,000 young people, aged 15 to 30, mostly from CoE member states, have benefited directly from EYF-supported activities. The EYF provides financial support for activities undertaken by nongovernmental youth organizations or networks, or other nongovernmental structures involved in areas of youth work such as educational, social, cultural, and humanitarian activities of a European character; and activities aiming at strengthening peace and cooperation in Europe. It also supports activities designed to promote closer cooperation and better understanding among young people in Europe, particularly by developing the exchange of information; and activities intended to stimulate solidarity between Europe and developing countries for cultural, educational, and social purposes; studies, research, and documentation on youth matters. In addition, the EYF provides administrative grants to international youth organizations. This financial support allows international nongovernmental youth organizations to maintain a permanent secretariat.

Solidarity Fund for Youth Mobility (SFYM)

www.eyf.coe.int/fsmj

The Council of Europe and the International Union of Railways (UIC) joined forces in 1994 to set up the SFYM, a fund for the mobility of disadvantaged young people. For every InterRail Card sold, one euro is donated by the UIC to fund projects involving Europe's least advantaged young people. The fund provides financial support to cover the rail travel costs of young people from underprivileged backgrounds or economically underdeveloped areas so that they can take part in international educational activities. To qualify for assistance, projects must involve at least two countries and a minimum of ten people.

Council of Europe Agreements and Partnerships on Youth-Related Issues

Council of Europe, North–South Centre for Global Interdependence

www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/default_EN.asp

The North–South Centre, supported by the Portuguese government, was opened in 1989 as the outcome of a five-year process to raise the profile of North–South interdependence issues inside and outside the Council of Europe. In relation to youth, its goal is to provide training and capacity building for young people and youth organizations as well as to facilitate policy action on youth in de-

velopment policies, thus reinforcing the role of youth as a fundamental force in the field of North–South interdependence. It runs a variety of activities to further this objective, including: the University on Youth and Development, the Global Youth Training Course, the Africa–Europe Youth Summit, the Africa–Europe Training Course for Youth Organizations, and participation in the Euro–Med Youth Covenant. The Centre is also active in the development and enhancement of strategies and capacity building for global education, targeting institutions and practitioners in the field of global education in the formal and nonformal sectors.

European Network of Youth Centers (ENYC)

www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Partners/ENYC_en.asp

During a constitutive meeting that took place in 2003, the representatives of ten youth centers and other bodies involved in education and training in the context of nonformal education from different member states of the CoE, established the European Network of Youth Centers, a nongovernmental organization, under the auspices of the Council of Europe. ENYC aims to develop standards for local, regional, and national centers as a means of demonstrating their quality while preserving pluralism and diversity; provide support to individual centers as they develop their work; facilitate study visits and other exchanges so that centers can learn from each other; and promote study of the processes of intercultural and international learning in nonformal settings.

European Youth Information and Counseling Agency (ERYICA)

www.eryica.org

www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Partners/ERYICA_en.asp

ERYICA is an international nonprofit association, created in 1986, that aims to ensure European coordination and representation in the field of youth information and counseling.

Partial Agreement on the Youth Card

The Council of Europe runs a number of partial agreements to which its member states may contribute voluntary funds. In the youth sector, one such agreement exists. The Partial Agreement on the Youth Card was set up between the Council of Europe and the European Youth Card Association in 1991. It aims to facilitate mobility of young people and their cultural participation. The European Youth Card under 26 is an advantage card that provides young people with affordable access to mobility and cultural facilities in European countries. The benefits apply to all young people holding the card, irrespective of the country they live in.

European Youth Card Association (EYCA)

www.euro26.org

EYCA supports its member organizations (youth card associations in European countries) in promoting the European Youth Card so that they can offer young people improved access to transport, accommodations, leisure activities, culture, sports—indeed, any benefits and services that encourage their development and mobility, and improve the quality of their lives. The European Youth Card Association is based in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The Partnership Between the Council of Europe and the European Union in the Field of Youth

www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/index.html

Since 1998, the Council of Europe and the European Commission have cooperated closely in the youth field. This partnership has taken the form of consecutive agreements focusing in the first stage on “European Youth Worker and Youth Leader Training,” complemented in 2003 by two further covenants, one on “Euro-Mediterranean Youth Cooperation” and another on “Youth Research.” As of 2005 both partners strengthened cooperation and established a single partnership agreement with the aim of providing a lasting framework for the joint development of a coherent strategy in the field of youth worker training, youth policy, and youth research. The partnership provides an added value to the programs of the two institutions and their institutional partners; fosters cooperation, complementarity, and synergies; and enhances the partnership’s impact on youth-related policies and activities in Europe and beyond. It has activities in the areas of youth research, youth policy development, and Euro–Med youth cooperation.

Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE)

The OSCE is the largest regional security organization in the world. It conducts a wide range of activities related to all three dimensions of security—human, political-military, and economic-environmental. The Organization employs about 3,000 staff in 18 missions and field operations located in Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. They work “on the ground” to facilitate political processes, prevent or settle conflicts, and promote civil society and the rule of law. The Organization does not have a centralized youth program, but according to needs identified on the ground in countries where it is active, it has developed youth-specific programming. Many of the OSCE’s regional and local programs have a strong youth dimension, involving young people in all kinds of educational activities to promote civil society reconciliation and community and human development; youth democratic leadership; and human rights, among

others. Particularly in Southeastern Europe, the OSCE has promoted youth participation in its programs as both beneficiaries and drivers of change. To this end, several OSCE delegations in Southeast European countries have hired youth program managers. The OSCE website is: www.osce.org.

OSCE Youth Forum

www.osce.org/conferences/youth_2007.html

The first OSCE Youth Forum was held in Madrid in 2007. The event was organized on the initiative of the Spanish Chairmanship. The Forum brought together participants aged 18 to 30 years from across the OSCE's 56 participating states. Participants discussed issues such as international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, support for victims of terrorism, the role of young people in conflict prevention, good use and distribution of natural resources, the environment and security, the promotion of understanding among cultures and religions, and the defense of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The results of the conference were considered by OSCE heads of state and for the further development of OSCE's programming for and with young people.

Other Agencies

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Europe and the CIS (RBEC)

<http://europeandcis.undp.org/>

UNDP's Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS serves 29 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Working under a mandate issued by the UN Secretary-General, RBEC began the process of establishing offices and programs in the region in 1992. With its headquarters in New York, RBEC comprises 24 country offices and has a regional center in Bratislava, Slovakia. While RBEC does not have a specific youth program, it works on the following thematic priorities that overlap with concerns of the European youth sector: democratic governance, poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, and gender. In many of the countries in which UNDP RBEC is active, young people make up a large part of the beneficiaries.

NONGOVERNMENTAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Most of the international nongovernmental youth organizations listed above as active on the global level, have either a strong European regional branch or

have chosen to be headquartered in Europe as a result of the favorable financial conditions available to INGYOs registered in Europe (e.g., grants from the EU or the Council of Europe for maintaining a permanent secretariat, etc.). In addition, support for INGYOs is usually more developed in Europe than in other regions: legal frameworks for the establishment of INGYOs are generally liberal and there is a variety of explicitly youth-related project-funding mechanisms. Europe has an extensive and elaborate system for involving nongovernmental youth organizations in policy making at the national and regional level, as well as long-established awareness of the importance of involving young people and their representative organizations in youth policy-making (it emerged in the 1960s and has continued to develop since then).

Regional Youth Platforms

Regional youth platforms are coordinating or umbrella organizations of youth organizations and national youth councils in a particular region. A national youth council is an umbrella organization for youth organizations active at the national level. Its role and function are to represent the interests of its member organizations to national authorities responsible for youth. As a coordinating body of organizations with nationwide membership, these organizations tend to consider themselves “representative.” In Europe, there were originally three separate platforms: one for national youth councils (Committee of European National Youth Councils), one for international nongovernmental youth organizations (European Coordination Bureau of INGYOs), and one for youth organizations associated with the then European Communities (Youth Forum of the European Communities). In 1996, these three platforms merged to create one European platform for youth organizations—national youth councils and international nongovernmental youth organizations—representing the interests of young people to all relevant institutions, in Europe and globally.

European Youth Forum (YFJ)

www.youthforum.org

The European Youth Forum is a platform made up of nearly 100 National Youth Councils and international youth NGOs from across Europe. The YFJ works to empower young people to participate actively in society and improve their living conditions by representing their interests in the European institutions, the Council of Europe, the United Nations, and other partners active in the youth field. The YFJ’s work focuses mainly on articulating and voicing the concerns of

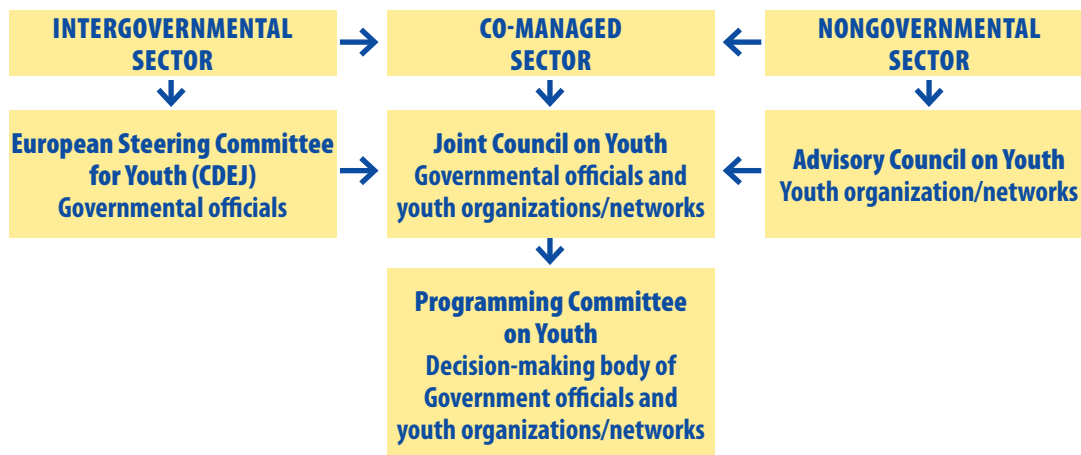
its membership and seeking their inclusion on the political agendas of governmental institutions—namely, the European Union, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations—in complementarity to the work of its member organizations. The YFJ provides a space for organizations to develop sustainably and offers strategic support for capacity building, networking, and the dissemination of good practice to build a strong and united youth movement in Europe. It empowers youth in their ability to come together and build independent, democratic, representative, and inclusive associations. The YFJ is a place for debate that leads to the development of policies and positions based on the opinions, experiences, and expertise of young people from all over Europe. Updated information on which organizations are members of the YFJ can be accessed at www.youthforum.org by selecting the “Membership” option.

INSTITUTIONALIZED SYSTEMS OF COOPERATION ON YOUTH POLICY

In Europe, the idea of “structured dialogue” among young people, their representative organizations, governments, and researchers on youth policy issues is an accepted principle, both nationally and internationally. Young people and their organizations have a chance to express their needs, concerns, and opinions, and governments should take these into account. Several mechanisms for this structured dialogue have been institutionalized.

Council of Europe Co-Management

The Council of Europe’s commitment to fostering greater youth participation can be demonstrated through its system of co-management. This involves representatives of INGYOs who sit in committees with government officials and together work out the priorities for the youth sector and make recommendations for future budgets and programs. These proposals are then adopted by the Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe’s decision-making body. The website is available at www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Coe_youth/co_management_en.asp.



Source: Council of Europe: Youth
www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Coe_youth/co_management_en.asp

Advisory Council on Youth (AC) of the Council of Europe

The Advisory Council (AC) is the nongovernmental arm of the Council of Europe's co-managed decision-making system in the field of youth. Thirty nongovernmental youth organizations are elected to the AC for a mandate of two years. These organizations are drawn from the many hundreds of INGyOs directly or indirectly related to the youth sector of the Council of Europe. As the diversity of groups involved in the Council of Europe's youth work grows, so does the potential membership of the Advisory Council, which has special provisions for involving so-called new partners: new youth networks or organizations that develop over time in response to contemporary youth concerns and needs. There is some overlap in membership between the Advisory Council on Youth and the European Youth Forum. The European Youth Forum attends the meetings of the Advisory Council in observer capacity.²⁷

Conferences of European Ministers Responsible for Youth

www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/IG_Coop/ministers_conferences_en.asp

The first European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth took place in Strasbourg in 1985. Together with the European Youth Week, the Conference was a highlight of the Council of Europe's contribution to the International Youth Year. Since then, ministers have met periodically (Oslo 1987, Lisbon 1990, Vienna 1993, Bucharest 1998, Thessaloniki 2002, Budapest 2005, and

²⁷ Information about the current membership of the Advisory Council can be accessed by contacting Sylvie Fritsch at the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe: sylvie.fritsch@coe.int.

Kiev 2008) to exchange views and coordinate national youth policies, and to recommend joint action at the European level, particularly in the areas of youth mobility, participation, information and advice, and research.

Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union (“Council of Ministers” or “Council”) is the Union’s main decision-making body. Its meetings are attended by the ministers responsible for youth from the member states of the European Union. The Council brings together the competent member state ministers in the field of education, youth, and culture. The Council is the holder of executive power, which it generally delegates to the European Commission. In most cases, the Council’s decisions, based on proposals from the Commission, are made jointly with the European Parliament under the co-decision procedure. The Council’s reports relevant to youth appear on the youth website of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm.

European Commission: Open Method of Coordination (OMC)

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/focus/focus63_en.htm

The OMC provides a framework for cooperation among the member states of the European Union, whose national policies can thus be directed toward certain common objectives. Under this method, the member states are evaluated by one another, with the European Commission’s role limited to coordination and surveillance. The European Commission coordinates and monitors the implementation of the objectives in the member states through the method. Consulting young people is part of the process. European guidelines can, in this way, be integrated into national and regional policies taking into account local differences. In the youth field, the OMC is applied with a flexible approach, with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity.²⁸ The OMC was used to establish common objectives for the four priorities of the White Paper on Youth: participation, information, voluntary activities, and a greater understanding and knowledge of youth.

²⁸ The principle of subsidiarity is defined in Article 5 of the Treaty establishing the European Community. It is intended to ensure that decisions are made as closely as possible to the citizen level and that constant checks are made as to whether action at the Community level is justified in the light of the possibilities available at national, regional, or local levels. Specifically, it is the principle whereby the Union does not take action (except in the areas that fall within its exclusive competence) unless it is more effective than action taken at national, regional, or local levels. It is closely bound up with the principles of proportionality and necessity, which require that any action by the Union should not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaty (source: http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/subsidiarity_en.htm).

Structured Dialogue with Youth

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/archive/policies/structured_en.html

The structured dialogue is an instrument to actively involve young people in policy-shaping debates and dialogue in relation to the European agenda. It is a direct follow-up of the White Paper on Youth and a logical consequence of the European Youth Pact. In 2007 it focused on social and professional integration of young people; in 2008 on intercultural dialogue; and in 2009 it will cover the further perspectives of youth policy at the European level. The European Youth Week and the youth events organized by each Council presidency are major occasions for young people to raise their voices and contribute to the shaping of European policies on matters that concern them.

FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR YOUTH

Europe has one of the richest and most elaborate systems in the world for funding youth-related projects. In addition to the Council of Europe's European Youth Foundation and the Youth in Action Program of the European Commission, a whole array of foundations and philanthropic organizations are interested in young people and fund projects focusing on their participation, active contribution to society, and international exchange. In recent years, many of these programs have focused on young people from Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe and approaches toward involving them in democratic development and post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction. Others have focused on disadvantaged young people, those living in peripheral situations, or minority young people.

Balkan Children and Youth Foundation

www.balkanyouth.org

The Balkan Children and Youth Foundation is dedicated to improving the conditions, prospects, and quality of life of children and youth up to age 30 throughout the Balkan region. It aims to increase the effectiveness, scale, and sustainability of youth programs; to strengthen the capacity of children and youth NGOs, local and national, dealing with youth and youth business initiatives; to generate social investments from the business sector, governments, international funding agencies, and NGOs; and to enhance cooperation among the business, government, and civil society sectors to improve the conditions and prospects of young people.

CSR Europe

www.csreurope.org

CSR Europe includes over 60 multinational corporations as members. The website is a source of information on corporate funding that targets young people and their initiatives. Among the many corporate funding schemes listed is the Nokia Connections program (www.nokia.com/A4254327), which since 2000, in cooperation with the International Youth Foundation, has provided funding for global youth development initiatives to strengthen the life skills of young people and prepare them for the future. To date, Nokia has invested US\$26,000,000 in 24 countries and directly benefited more than 330,000 young people.

ERSTE Foundation

www.erstestiftung.org

ERSTE Foundation is active in the Central and Southeastern European region. Since commencing its work in 2005, it has been developing projects independently and in collaboration with partners within three program areas: Social Affairs, Culture, and Europe. ERSTE Foundation works on an operational level to create new perspectives, engaging in dialogue to enable increased participation of individuals in partnerships and with an attitude of respect for the people whose experiences, knowledge, and initiatives it promotes and encourages, across borders. Focusing on the European unification process, it aims to strengthen the region of Central and Southeastern Europe.

European Cultural Foundation (ECF)

www.eurocult.org

ECF is an independent nonprofit organization that promotes cultural cooperation in Europe and funds projects that have a strong cultural component, including those run by young people and youth organizations.

Funders Online

www.fundersonline.org

Funders Online is an initiative of the European Foundation Centre (EFC) www.efc.be/projects/orpheus/ and is a useful and easy-to-use web resource for youth and other nongovernmental organizations to determine which organizations and foundations provide funding for youth-related activities. The EFC promotes and supports the work of foundations and corporate funders in Europe.

German Marshall Fund Trusts for Democracy

Balkan Trust for Democracy: www.gmfus.org/balkantrust

Black Sea Trust for Democracy: www.gmfus.org/blacksea

The German Marshall Fund of the United States manages and runs two regional Trusts for Democracy, one for the Balkans and one for the Black Sea region. Although youth activities are not the focus of these trusts, they regularly fund youth activities promoting democratic development and the civic engagement of young people.

German Political Party Foundations

Each of the German political parties runs a foundation. These foundations are inspired by the political ideals of the party but do not promote political partisanship. All the German party foundations consider young people important stakeholders in their work and important actors of social change with whom partnership is necessary to achieve their goals. Each has youth-related programming and some opportunities for young people to receive funding for their activities. This work can have a considerable international dimension (within and beyond Europe).

German Party Foundations

Name	Website
Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Social Democrats)	www.fes.de/themen/jugend
Friedrich Naumann Foundation (Liberal Democrats)	www.fnst.org
Hanns Seidel Foundation (Christian Democrats—CSU)	www.hss.de
Heinrich Böll Foundation (Greens)	www.boell.de
Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Christian Democrats—CDU)	www.kas.de
Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (Democratic Socialists—Left Party)	www.rosalux.de/cms/index.php?id=engl

Nordic Council

www.norden.org

The Nordic Council funds projects with a Nordic dimension and has a large Nordic–Baltic youth cooperation program.

Robert Bosch Foundation

www.bosch-stiftung.de

Since its foundation in 1964, the Robert Bosch Foundation has spent 735 million euros on funding socially useful projects. Robert Bosch Foundation is an operational program with diverse activities in the following youth-related areas: health and humanitarian aid, international relations, Central and Eastern Europe, education, and society and culture.

Rotary and Lyons Clubs

www.rotary.org, www.lionsclubs.org

While they originated in the United States, the Rotary and Lyons clubs are very widespread in Central and Eastern Europe. In the aftermath of 1989 they have been active in supporting young people's initiatives. Rotary and Lions clubs are organized locally and, therefore, are known for funding local initiatives of young people.

Visegrad Fund

www.visegradfund.org

The Visegrad Fund provides support for cooperation projects among the Visegrad countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary) and fellowships for young leaders.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUTH POLICY

Council of Europe Network of Youth Research Correspondents

www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/research/researchersnetwork.html

Initiated by the DYS of the Council of Europe in 1993, since 2003 the network has been developed within the work of the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of Youth (CoE/EU Partnership; see above). It consists of youth experts representing the signatories of the European Cultural Convention, nominated by national ministries responsible for youth issues. They meet yearly to exchange information on recent developments in youth research in their respective countries and on international projects in which they are involved. Between the annual meetings, the network plays

the role of a consultancy body for the CoE/EU Partnership on issues related to youth research.

Eurobarometer Survey on Youth—Young Europeans

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/publ/pdf/youth/results-eurobarometer2007_en.pdf

The Young Europeans Reports is a series of representative surveys of European youth (ages 15 to 24) conducted on behalf of the European Commission, and is part of the Eurobarometer. The most recent survey was conducted in 2007. The survey and the reports cover youth opinion on key issues in the European Union (and as appropriate, in candidate countries).

European Educational Research Association (EERA)

www.eera-ecer.edu

The European Educational Research Association consists of national and regional educational research associations. It publishes the *European Educational Research Journal* quarterly, which regularly presents articles about youth-related themes, such as nonformal educational approaches to youth work or as used in formal education settings. In addition, many researchers who also focus on youth have a strong background in comparative education research, which is the specialization of this journal.

European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP)

www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/ekcyp/index

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy aims to provide the youth field with a single entry point to access knowledge and information on the realities of youth across Europe. It aims to promote evidence-based policy making and practice, and to enhance the exchange of information and dialogue across the youth field. It is a tool for implementing the European Commission's common objectives for knowledge on young people and the Council of Europe's monitoring and evaluation of youth policy. Experts on youth policy nominated by the participating countries provide information to the EKCYP on a series of predefined subjects.

Forum 21—European Journal on Youth Policy

www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Resources/Forum_21/forum_en.asp

Forum 21 is a European information and communication project carried out by the International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB) in Germany, Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Éducation Populaire (INJEP—National Institute for Youth and Popular Education) in France, and the National Youth Agency in the United Kingdom. Its purpose is to bring national

youth policies closer together and to contribute to European dialogue about the key problems of national youth policies.

Glossary of Youth Research

www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/glossary.html

The Glossary is a research tool providing concise explanations of key youth research terms and concepts. It is regularly updated and supplemented according to new developments. It is produced by the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of Youth (EU/CoE Partnership; see above).

Project to Establish a Master's Degree in European Youth Studies (MA EYS)

www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/about/MA_presentation.html

The master's degree EYS initiative brings together first-rate teaching and research expertise from throughout Europe to create a unique Bologna 120 ECTS Master's degree²⁹ in European Youth Studies. The degree will set the quality reference point and benchmark for improving and sustaining the supply of qualified personnel to the youth sector.

UNICEF "What Young People Think" Survey: Europe and Central Asia

www.unicef.org/polls/cee/index.html

The Young Voices poll surveyed children and adolescents from 26 states in transition in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Baltic States, and 9 countries in Western Europe. The poll was based on face-to-face interviews with 15,200 children and adolescents, between 9 and 17, conducted between December 2000 and February 2001 and covered the following questions: How happy are children? How do children feel at home? How do children feel at school? How do children feel in today's society? How safe do children feel? How do children regard harmful or illegal substances? How informed are children? What are children's views on government and politics? How do children see the future? The findings provide a fascinating portrait of their views, concerns, hopes, and dreams. It also provides some disturbing

29 In order to facilitate the movement of students between European countries, a standardized schedule of higher education diplomas has been adopted by all European Union member states and many other European countries (voluntarily) within a process of educational reform called the Bologna Process. The new standardized cycle is composed of an undergraduate degree of at least three years called a bachelor's degree (BA), followed by a one- or two-year diploma called a master's degree (MA), then a doctorate, meant to be obtained in (at least) three years (PhD). This schedule replaces traditional national degree formats and the degrees are commonly referred to as Bologna degrees. For more information, see: http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/bologna/bologna_en.html.

insights into a world children and young people see as marked by violence, injustice, and discrimination.

UP2YOUTH—Research Project on Youth as Actors of Social Change

www.up2youth.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12&Itemid=37

Up2Youth is a complex research project that tries to understand the nature of youth as an actor of social change. It is conducted by the Institute for Regional Innovation and Social Research (IRIS), a private nonprofit research institute specializing in local, regional, and international research in social work and social policies, in cooperation with the Department of Education at the University of Tübingen and the Tübingen Institute for Gender and Women's Studies.

Middle East and North Africa

Facts About Youth in the Region³⁰

More than 30% of the population of the Middle East is aged between 15 and 29. Representing over 100 million young people, this is the largest number of young people to transition to adulthood in the region's history. Young people 15 to 24 constitute approximately 20% of the populations in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen, Jordan, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia. In the Middle East, educational enrollment rates are high, with nearly universal access at the primary level and nearly 70% enrollment at the secondary level. Between 1965 and 2003, Middle Eastern governments spent an average of approximately 5% of their GDP on education. Despite increased access, the quality of education remains low. Internet usage stands at 13.8 per 100 people,³¹ with young people more likely to be users than their elders. Further, youth currently constitute an estimated 44% of total unemployed in the region, according to the latest Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2005 Report.³² All countries in the region have witnessed an increase in youth unemployment rates between 1991 and 2004 with the exception of the Mashreq countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine). For example, in Syria, unemployment rates among youth (ages 15 to 24) are more than six times those of adults. In addition, duration of unemployment

30 See www.shababinclusion.org/section/about/facts. Facts are drawn from the World Bank, UNDP, and recent Middle East Youth Initiative (MEYI) publications, including the brochure on "Inclusion: Meeting the 100 Million Youth Challenge" and six working papers on "Social Exclusion: Comparative Analysis of Europe and Middle East Youth," "Youth Exclusion in Egypt: In Search of Second Chances," "Youth Exclusion in Iran: The State of Education, Employment, and State Formation," "Youth Exclusion in Syria: Social, Economic, and Institutional Dimensions," "Youth Exclusion in Morocco: Context, Consequences and Policies," and "Economic Imperatives of Marriage: Emerging Practices and Identities Among Youth in the Middle East."

31 "World Bank Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Factsheet"; available at <http://go.worldbank.org/DT45JDVOK0>.

32 See <http://arabstates.undp.org/subpage.php?spid=12>.

for new graduates is extremely long, lasting up to three years in countries such as Morocco and Iran. In the Middle East, marriage and family formation is a major rite of passage for young people. In the region today, nearly 50% of men between the ages of 25 and 29 are unmarried. Financial costs associated with marriage (housing, furniture, wedding ceremonies, etc.) and a lack of economic means contribute to the postponement of family formation.

Overview of the Main Actors in the Youth Field

In this section we present the action of the main international and regional actors with specific programs that consider young people either beneficiaries or partners. In the Middle East and North Africa, these include, in particular, the UN System, the World Bank, the European Union, and the Arab League.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNESCO Youth Focal Points in Arab States

http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=11127&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO has nominated individual country focal points (coordinators) for its work on youth in the Arab States in an effort to increase effectiveness.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Arab States

www.undp.org/arabstates/youth.shtml

Unlike in any of the other UNDP regions, youth appears as a thematic priority on the regional portal. UNDP in the region organizes Regional Programs Mainstreaming Youth, a Youth Workshop Series, and the Promotion of Youth at the Country Level.

The World Bank

<http://go.worldbank.org/1JVC0DGR50>

The World Bank does not appear to have a specific priority focus on youth in this region. Bank programs focusing on education and employment creation in this region, though, can be considered relevant to youth.

REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS

The League of Arab States

The League of Arab States (also known as the Arab League) is a voluntary association of independent countries whose peoples are mainly Arabic speaking. It seeks to strengthen ties among the member states, coordinate policies, and promote common interests. It was founded in 1945 with states joining progressively over time. Its membership now extends to 22 states. It is involved in political, economic, cultural, and social programs designed to promote the interests of member states. It has served as a forum for member states to coordinate their policy positions and deliberate on matters of common concern, settling some Arab disputes and limiting conflicts. It has played an important role in shaping school curricula, and preserving manuscripts and Arab cultural heritage. It also encourages measures against crime and drug abuse, deals with labor issues (particularly among the emigrant Arab workforce) and with issues of intellectual property and information and communication technology promotion. The League website is available at www.arableagueonline.org/las/english/level1_en.jsp?level1_id=1

Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)

www.alecso.org.tn

The League of Arab States includes several specialized organizations and councils such as the ALECSO, which was established in 1970 and has as its primary responsibility the promotion and coordination of educational, cultural, and scientific activities at the regional level.

Cooperation Between ALECSO and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth Policy

www.coe.int/t/dg4/culturalconvention/FaroALECSO_en.asp

The Council of Europe and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) have developed cooperation in the field of education, culture, cultural and natural heritage, and youth and sport. Both organizations explore possibilities for cooperation in the area of youth policy, in

particular regarding the important role that civil society organizations and processes of nonformal learning play in the advancement of intercultural dialogue and the management of cultural diversity. This may include training activities for youth leaders, NGO activists, and educators in nonformal learning contexts on human rights education and intercultural learning; seminars bringing together different actors in youth policy development, such as governmental institutions, researchers, and youth organizations; participation at key events and activities related to youth participation; and Euro-Med cooperation in the field of youth, human rights education, and youth policy development.

League of Arab States (LAS) Population Policies and Migration Department

www.poplas.org

This department is responsible for LAS activities in the field of youth (jointly with some others).

League of Arab States Youth Forum

www.lasyouthforum.org/en/index.php

The LAS Youth Forum was established in response to the Arab Kings and Presidents Decree signed at the Khartoum Summit 2006. Taking place November 19–22, 2007, in Egypt, it discussed two main themes: major challenges facing Arab youth, with special emphasis on employment, education, and health issues; and youth participation and empowerment. It was a cooperative project of League of Arab States/Population Policy, Migration and Development-Social Sector (LAS-PPMD), United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Development Programme, the International Labor Organization, and the Youth Employment Network. No report or declaration from the Forum was found online.

Other Mechanisms

European Union Euro-Med Youth Program

www.euromedyouth.net/spip.php?rubrique2

The Euro-Med Youth Program is a regional program set up within the framework of the third chapter of the Barcelona Process titled “Partnership in Social, Cultural and Human Affairs.” It promotes the mobility of young people and understanding among peoples through three types of actions: youth exchanges, voluntary services, and support measures. The current phase (III), launched in October 2005, focuses on mobility, nonformal education, and intercultural learning. Its geographical scope comprises 37 countries: the 27 EU member states and the ten Mediterranean partner countries, signatories of the Barce-

Iona Declaration. The decentralized implementation of the program, through Euro-Med Youth Units in participating countries, is an innovation, with the aim of bringing action as closely as possible to the beneficiaries, and adapting to the diversity of national systems and situations in the field of youth.

Euro-Med Youth Platform

www.euromedp.org/en/home.asp

The Euro-Med Youth Platform was launched in September 2003 with the aim of bringing young people from the region together in an environment of tolerance and mutual understanding. The platform provides networking services for youth initiatives in the region by assisting in the search for partners, facilitating the creation of networks of youth groups that have similar objectives, publishing a magazine in three languages, organizing meetings, providing a forum for discussion, researching the situation of young people in countries of the region, and distributing information about the Euro-Med Youth Program.

Partnership Between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth in the Euro-Med Region

<http://eycb.coe.int/eycbwwwroot/euromed/index.htm>

The Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe is responsible for the implementation of a three-pronged strategy to support young people in the Euro-Med region. It is complementary in its action to the Euro-Med Youth Program of the European Commission. It focuses on three main areas of action: youth policy cooperation, human rights education, and intercultural dialogue.

Human Rights Education

<http://eycb.coe.int/eycbwwwroot/euromed/hre.htm>

Following the publication of the Arabic translation of the Council of Europe's manual for Human Rights Education with Young People, called COMPASS, a series of regional training courses in human rights education were organized in the Arabic-speaking region to support the emergence of networks of trainers and multipliers and to develop the capacity of youth organizations to introduce human rights education in their work. Most of the activities are implemented in cooperation with local partners.

Intercultural Dialogue

<http://eycb.coe.int/eycbwwwroot/euromed/icd.htm>

Since 2003, the Partnership has provided further quality training and learning opportunities for youth workers and youth leaders active in Euro-

Mediterranean youth projects, with a thematic emphasis on human rights education and intercultural dialogue. Intercultural dialogue is a transversal element and objective embedded in all Euro-Med Youth activities. Training activities that promote intercultural dialogue using human rights education approaches and resources are organized in the framework of the partnership in cooperation with the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures.

Youth Policy Cooperation

www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/euromed/Euromed_Youth_policy
<http://eycb.coe.int/eycbwwwroot/euromed/em.htm#ES2007>

Since 2004, three seminars on youth policy development in the region have taken place in the context of this cooperation process. These were aimed at identifying areas in Euro-Med cooperation that are key for youth participation and youth policy development. They also focused on planning follow-up initiatives to enhance youth participation (in political processes) and developing concrete ways in which young people can contribute to intercultural dialogue that included all relevant stakeholders.³³

Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

www.isesco.org.ma/index.php?page=/Home

ISESCO was established at the Ninth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (held in Dakar, Senegal, April 24–28, 1978). Its programs focus on four inter-linked areas relevant to young people: developing member states' human resources in education, sciences, culture, and communication; highlighting the Islamic civilization's active part in knowledge fields; redressing the image of Islam and Muslims in the West; and affording the member states access to the information and knowledge society. It is UNESCO's partner in the region.

SALTO Euro-Med Resource Centre

www.salto-youth.net/euromed

The SALTO Euro-Med Resource Centre supports cooperation between European and Mediterranean countries through training opportunities and events, the dissemination of good practices, support to networks active through the Euro-Med Youth Program and through the development of partnerships with relevant institutions and funding organizations.

³³ Report of the youth policy seminar: "Youth Policy—Here and Now," Alexandria, Egypt, September 11–14, 2005; available at www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/publications/Euromed_publications.html.

DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND FOUNDATIONS

America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST)

www.amideast.org/default.htm

AMIDEAST is a private, nonprofit organization that strengthens mutual understanding and cooperation between Americans and the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa. It provides English-language and professional skills training, educational advice, and testing services to students and professionals in the Middle East and North Africa; supports institutional development projects in the region; and administers educational exchange programs. AMIDEAST is based in Washington, DC, with field offices in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen. It has been active since 1951.

Anna Lindh Foundation

www.euromedalex.org/Home/EN/Home.aspx

The Anna Lindh Foundation's work is guided by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership principles, values, and priorities as enshrined in the Barcelona Agreement of 1995 between the European Union and its ten Southern Mediterranean partners. The foundation has three main objectives: the definition of a common area of peace and stability through the reinforcement of political and security dialogue; the construction of a zone of shared prosperity through an economic and financial partnership; and the gradual establishment of a free trade zone and the rapprochement among peoples through a social, cultural, and human partnership aimed at encouraging understanding among cultures and exchanges among civil societies. The foundation functions through a network of national Anna Lindh Foundations.

Middle East Youth Initiative

www.shababinclusion.org

The Middle East Youth Initiative was created to promote the economic and social inclusion of young people in the Middle East. It was launched by the Wolfensohn Center for Development at the Brookings Institution and the Dubai School of Government in July 2006. By creating an international alliance of academics, policy makers, youth leaders, and leading thinkers from the private sector and civil society, it aims to develop and promote a progressive agenda of youth inclusion. The initiative attempts to bridge the divide between thinkers and practitioners, and uses research as a foundation for effective policy and programs. The initiative has three complementary pillars: research and policy, advocacy and networking, and practical action.

Save the Children (SC) Sweden—Middle East Region

www.scsmena.org

The most important program areas for the Middle East and North Africa are violence and abuse against children, education, child participation, discrimination, and civil society organizational development. SC Sweden cooperates with almost 40 partner organizations and allies in the region and with UN agencies covering the whole region or several countries in the region, such as UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNESCO. Current programming focuses on Yemen, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Lebanon. Other international Save the Children Alliance members are also present in the region (SC UK and SC US have offices in several countries; SC Denmark has a limited presence in Jordan; SC Spain runs projects in Morocco; SC Italy runs projects in Libya; and there are also two local SC members: SC Jordan and SC Egypt).

REGIONAL YOUTH PLATFORMS

Regional youth platforms are coordinating or umbrella organizations of youth organizations and in particular, national youth councils, in a particular region. A national youth council is an umbrella organization for youth organizations active at the national level. Its role and function are to represent the interests of its member organizations to national authorities responsible for youth. As a coordinating body of organizations with nationwide membership, these organizations tend to consider themselves “representative.”

Arab Youth Union (AYU; no website)

PO Box 12033, Damascus, Syria

e-mail: arabyouthunion@email.com

The Arab Youth Union was founded in 1974. It has 33 member organizations and its General Congress meets every four years, complemented by a Central Council that meets once a year. The AYU seeks to defend the fundamental political freedom of Arab youth and promote their democratic rights of organization, expression, and representation as well as rights to equal access to education, training, employment, health, housing, and proper development. The AYU encourages youth initiatives aimed at developing the youth movement in the Arab world and supports activities in the fields of technology, science, sports, voluntary service, literature, and issues related to the spirit of initiative and creativity among young people. The AYU is a member of the GCCC and is invited to participate in the ICMYO.

INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Some of the more established international nongovernmental youth organizations have a history of engagement with youth in the Middle East and North Africa. The development of civil society and, therefore, the proliferation of nongovernmental organizations engaging with young people are complicated by the democratic deficit or the absence of a democratic system of governance in many countries of the region.

NGOs Active in the Middle East

Name	Acronym	Website (Middle East-specific where available)
Arab Regional Scout Office	WOSM	www.scout.org/en/arab
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	IFRC	www.ifrc.org/where/mena.asp?navid=05_06
The World Assembly of Muslim Youth	WAMY	www.wamy.org.za
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts	WAGGS	http://arab.wagggsworld.org/en/home

Euro-Med Nongovernmental Platform

www.euromedplatform.org/spip/index.php?lang=fr&lang=en

In an effort to support the development of civil society in the region, the Euro-Med nongovernmental platform has been created. It is a network of civil society networks in all relevant countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, including those specifically involved in the Euro-Med Youth Program.

Interesting Initiatives

In the Middle East and North Africa, in the youth field, many interesting initiatives focusing on youth information have been undertaken. Some of the most important are described as follows.

Arab Youth InfoPortal (French and Arabic only, Supported by UNESCO and ISESCO)

www.jeunessearabe.info/sommaire.php3?lang=fr

This cooperative project between UNESCO and ISESCO aims at meeting the information needs of young people and youth associations in the Arab states. The portal is bilingual in Arabic and French and includes a rich online library and up-to-date youth information.

Euro-Med Youth Units in Euro-Med Program Countries

www.euromedyouth.net/spip.php?rubrique14

In nine of the ten Mediterranean Partner Countries, Euro-Med Youth Units were created in order to implement the third phase of the Euro-Med Youth Program of the European Commission. These are often quasi-governmental organizations (QUANGOs). Each has its own website listed on the website of the Euro-Med Youth Program (see above).

Information About (Governmental) Youth Policies in Middle Eastern Countries (by country)

www.foyouth.org/cd_rmed/English/countrygov/choix_paysgov.htm

This online resource provides an overview of country-level initiatives and organizations involved in youth policies in the region. Unfortunately, it is not clear whether the website is regularly updated.

The King Abdullah II Award for Youth Innovation and Achievement (KAAYIA)

www.kaayia.org

In the Arab world, youth are taking action to make a difference. Through hard work and perseverance they are contributing to the development of their communities, leading to impressive achievements throughout the region. In order to recognize these achievements and inspire present and future generations, the King Abdullah II Award for Youth Innovation and Achievement (KAAYIA) invites young Arabs to showcase their success stories and the positive impact they have had on their communities. Through establishing micro-enterprises, promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts, fostering intercultural dialogue, and creatively using technology to boost employment and educational opportunities, young leaders in the region are making a difference and inspiring their peers to follow their lead. The KAAYIA, under the management of the King Abdullah II Fund for Development, seeks to reward these distinguished young leaders throughout the region by providing them with much needed support and recognition. The KAAYIA will enable these outstanding leaders to continue their good work, demonstrate what is possible to their peers, and in turn allow

the concept of active citizenship to flourish and become an inherent part of the Arab youth culture.

Middle East Youth Directory (Supported by IEA and InfoYouth)

www.iea.org.lb/infoyouthme

This is a beta version of the Middle East Youth Directory of youth organizations, NGOs, networks, and structure in 15 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, and Yemen. The data were collected through 2004 and are presented in Arabic, English, and French. The purpose of this version is to provide firsthand information on youth in the Middle East to everyone concerned with youth projects and activities.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Facts About Youth in the Region

There are more than 106 million young people aged 15 to 24 in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC),³⁴ with the largest populations being in Brazil (35 million), Mexico (19.1 million), and Argentina (8.9 million). Young people are significantly affected by poverty (41%) and extreme poverty (15%).³⁵ Young women are more negatively affected than young men. Of the 23 million young people living in rural areas in LAC (representing 22% of youth), 64% are affected by poverty. In urban areas, one in three young people is poor.³⁶ In most LAC countries, educational infrastructure and the quality of teaching need to be improved. As much as 10.6% among 15-to-19-year-olds, and 13.4% among 20-to-24-year-olds are considered functionally illiterate.³⁷ Only 33% of young people have access to secondary education.³⁸ Socioeconomic conditions and urban/rural location strongly impact access to and quality of available education. Employment and income levels among Latin American youth are worse than they were in the 1990s. Young people in LAC account for 20% of employment. Overall, 25% of young people aged 15 to 29 (of whom only 2% are young men) work in the domestic service sector, which is characterized by multiple discrimination. Indigenous youth constitute one of the most vulnerable groups among youth in general. Latin America ranks first in the world in terms of deaths from violence among young people: 77 out of 100 deaths among young men are caused by violence. The sexual and reproductive health

34 The total estimated population of Latin America and the Caribbean was obtained from the ECLAC Database of Social Indicators (BADEINSO - base de datos de estadísticas e indicadores sociales) for 46 countries; available at www.eclac.cl/badeinso/badeinso.asp.

35 CEPAL, www.eclac.cl/?idioma=IN

36 Ibid.

37 World Youth Report, World Bank 2007, available at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr07.htm.

38 CEPAL, www.eclac.cl/?idioma=IN/.

of young people in LAC is highly differentiated. It can be characterized by a general early beginning of sexual life, a relatively high use of contraceptives, as well as a high exposure to STD risks. Adolescent pregnancy rates have risen, in particular among the disadvantaged (estimated at 20–35% of 17-year-old girls). Adolescent pregnancy is one of the main factors restricting access to education and work. In relation to participation, young people are less interested in traditional political organizations, but they appreciate participation as a mechanism for self-expression and development of skills. Religious and sport activities attract most young people, although youth-led activities are increasingly popular. Thematically, young people are interested in human rights, peace, feminism, ecology, and indigenous cultures, although these areas are not consistently addressed by youth organizations.

Overview of the Main Actors in the Youth Field

In this section we present the action of the main international and regional actors in specific programs that consider young people either beneficiaries or partners. For the Latin America and Caribbean region these include, in particular, the United Nations System, the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the World Bank. In addition, there are several elaborate regional cooperation mechanisms, which have some form of focus on young people, among other priorities. The most important are: the Organization of American States (OAS), the Ibero-American Organization for Youth, and the Latin American Information Technology Network (RITLA). The European Union also has a presence.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The UN System

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

www.eclac.cl/default.asp?idioma=IN

ECLAC, one of the five regional commissions of the UN based in Chile, undertakes studies and research, promotes economic and social development, disseminates information, and provides advisory services to governments at their request. Its 2008–2009 work plan focuses on young people in terms of research on population development.

International Labour Organization (ILO) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

www.oit.org.pe/portal/index.php; <http://white.oit.org.pe/tdj/>

Youth employment represents one of the specific priorities in ILO regional programming. Besides research and publications, ILO provides toolkits and resources for young people to use in their efforts to enhance their employability.

OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)—UN Human Rights Latin America

www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/LACRegion/Pages/LACRegionIndex.aspx

With the mandate to promote and protect human rights, OHCHR concentrates its efforts on the fight against poverty, inequality, and discrimination through monitoring and direct action. OHCHR works to ensure that national institutions, laws, and programs comply with human rights standards, that governments implement the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms and bodies, and that steps are taken to allow groups that are marginalized or discriminated against to participate in public policy decision-making and monitoring processes. In the Latin American context, OHCHR focuses on issues related to public safety and violence, including those related to organized crime, drug trafficking, and juvenile gangs. In 2008–2009, OHCHR will have a presence in ten countries of the region: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama. Information on its overall expenditure on youth is not publicly available.

UNESCO Latin America and the Caribbean

http://portal.unesco.org/geography/en/ev.php-URL_ID=2316&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO in LAC operates through its cluster, regional, and country offices located in 11 countries. Its mission is to assist the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the definition of relevant policy strategies in education. Its main goals are to increase the quality of education for all and promote lifelong learning; increase the awareness of scientific knowledge and policies related to science; address new ethical and social problems; promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and a culture of peace; and to build knowledge societies. Among its many activities, it supports a youth information portal for the region and one for professionals dealing with youth issues.

UNICEF Juventud opina

www.unicef.org/voy/spanish

UNICEF works with adolescents through its program Juventud opina, which focuses on information for and participation of young people.

UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

www.unicef.org/lac/index.html

Considering that 40% of the total population in LAC is under 18 years of age, UNICEF activities in the region include policy advocacy and partnerships to protect and promote children's rights, and to put children at the center of public policy, laws, and budgets. Its policy efforts focus mainly on applying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and providing support for the MDG implementation in the areas of health, education, HIV/AIDS, protection, adolescents, and public policies.

UNICEF "What Young People Think" Survey: Latin America

www.unicef.org/polls/tacro/index.html

"La Voz—The Voices of Children and Adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean" presents the results of a regional survey conducted across 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The poll was supported by UNICEF country offices in the region and the Spanish Committee for UNICEF. Representing the opinions of 103 million children, the multicountry survey is the first initiative of its kind. The study took inspiration from Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which state that every child has the right to participation and freedom of expression.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Latin America and the Caribbean

www.undp.org/latinamerica

The UNDP Regional Office focuses on five main priorities: democratic governance, poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, environment and energy, and crisis prevention and recovery. Young people represent an implicit priority, which is not directly articulated in the programming and yet represents a large target audience in its community development projects aiming toward reaching the MDGs.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Latin America and the Caribbean

www.unfpa.org/latinamerica

<http://cst.mexicocity.unfpa.org>

Focusing on poverty eradication, sexuality, sexual and reproductive health, and changing perceptions of gender, UNFPA contributes by developing expertise and providing situation analyses, as well as supporting programs often targeting young people in the region. Its programs are not framed explicitly in terms of youth policy, although at the national level UNFPA programs may well contribute to youth policy in a direct way.

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Latin America and the Caribbean

www.unv.org/en/what-we-do/countries/finland/doc/unv-showcases-latin-american.html

www.unv.org/en/news-resources/news/doc/unifem-and-unv-launch.html

Providing schemes for international volunteering, UNV is gradually growing in importance in Latin America. Following the United Nations Development Programme—mainly MDG-related—agenda, UNV reaches young people as well as civil society and local authority institutions by addressing issues related to community development, gender, participation, citizenship, and so on.

World Bank in Latin America

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/LACEXT/0,,menuPK:258559~pagePK:158889~piPK:146815~theSitePK:258554,00.html>

The World Bank has successfully supported national youth policy development efforts in several countries through the Youth Voices conferences. In seven countries of the region, the World Bank is contributing to the development of national social and labor policies that are important to young people. A specific programming focus has been on youth at risk.

REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS

European Union and Latin America

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/la/index_en.htm

The 2007–2013 thematic program “Investing in People” covers health, education, gender, and other aspects of human and social development, including youth and children, employment and social cohesion, decent work, and culture. The European Commission also promotes student mobility and tertiary education cooperation between Europe and LAC. In the youth field, specifically, there are some opportunities for promoting youth mobility and organizing youth activities between Europe and LAC through the Youth in Action Program.

Inter-American Children’s Institute

www.iin.oea.org/IIN/english/index.shtml

This organization aims to contribute to the development of public policies ensuring the promotion and exercise of children’s rights within the framework of strengthened democratic governance in the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) by promoting cooperation with civil society and the creation of a culture based on children’s rights and well-being.

Latin American Technological Information Network (RITLA)

www.ritla.net

Youth is one of the six priorities of RITLA, whose mission is to empower regional cooperation and exchange linked to the use of new information and communication technologies. Addressing the issues of the digital divide, information and communication technology, and innovation in education, as well as issues of participation, citizenship, and violence, RITLA is profiling itself as a key contributor to youth-related debates in the region.

Organización Iberoamericana de Juventud (OIJ)

www.oij.org

The Ibero-American Organization for Youth is an intergovernmental body that promotes dialogue and international cooperation in the field of youth among Latin American countries, including Spain and Portugal (the former colonial powers). Its main achievements include the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Young People, which is in the process of ratification by its member states, and a study on Latin American youth in 2007.

Year of Young People in the Ibero-American Region (2008)

An initiative of the Ibero-American Organization for Youth, the Year of Young People in the Ibero-American Region was declared as a means of raising awareness and supporting the process of youth policy development.

Organization of American States (OAS)

www.oea.org/main/english

The OAS has been one of the sporadic supporters and promoters of national youth policy development in the region. Although the current program focuses on supporting youth entrepreneurship through several programs, its overall aim is still to contribute to the improvement of the life conditions of young people in the region.

Young Americas Business Trust

www.myybiz.net/yabt/main/about/organization

The talents and prospects of young entrepreneurs in the Americas and the Caribbean today will determine the region's potential for future economic growth and democratic stability. Enterprising, energetic young people offer the best opportunity for sustaining development and growth in the Americas. The Young Americas Business Trust is itself a young startup initiative and combines the energy of talented young people, as staff and representatives, with the experience and prestige of the Organization of American States to support young people's entrepreneurship.

DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND FOUNDATIONS

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)—Youth Development and Outreach Program

www.iadb.org/exr/spe/youth/index.cfm?language=English

The Inter-American Development Bank—Youth (IDB Youth) aims to more effectively meet the needs of young people in Latin America and the Caribbean and promote their active engagement and leadership in regional development. Priorities include participation and leadership, community service, volunteerism, technology, and social and business entrepreneurship. Since the mid-1980s, the bank has approved more than US\$5 billion in loans for projects designed to meet young people's needs, especially in the areas of education, health, and employment. The Multilateral Investment Fund has provided approximately US\$44 million in nonreimbursable financing for about 20 challenge grants re-

lated to job placement, employment training, corporate social responsibility, and entrepreneurship for youth.

Inwent

www.inwent.org/themen_reg/regionen/suedamerika/index.en.php

Although not focused directly on young people, Inwent supports democratic reform processes, crisis prevention, and peace building in the region, which involves young people in an indirect way.

Terre des Hommes

www.terredeshommes.org

This organization primarily supports projects addressing issues of violence, child labor, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking in seven countries of the Latin American region.

REGIONAL YOUTH PLATFORMS

Regional youth platforms are coordinating or umbrella organizations of youth organizations and often, national youth councils, in a particular region. There are several such platforms active in the region, some more established and recognized than others. In this region, there is a strong involvement of student organizations.

Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY)

www.geocities.com/TheTropics/1667

CFY supports the advancement of youth interests and seeks the active involvement and participation of youth in the process of progressive social change. It was established in 1986 to serve as a Caribbean-wide regional organization to defend and promote the welfare of youth. CFY operates through direct support of the National Youth Councils that are responsible for implementing programs in each country.

Juventude Latino-Americana pela a Democracia (JULAD)

www.julad.org.br

Latin-American Youth for Democracy (JULAD) is a Brazil-based nongovernmental supraparty organization that promotes youth leadership development in the region. It focuses on leadership training and capacity building, youth participation in the election processes, youth policy focus groups, and exchange of youth leaders.

Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ)

www.flaj.org

Established in 1993, FLAJ is the most representative nongovernmental body uniting youth organizations and youth movements in the region. Its member organizations include the very few existing National Youth Councils, which are composed solely of nongovernmental organizations (Nicaragua, Panama), national youth forums and networks, and other international nongovernmental organizations.

NONGOVERNMENTAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Youth organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are characterized by high turnover and an absence of support. As a result, the role of organized civil society in the field of youth is relatively weak. Due to the lack of financial resources, youth NGOs have come to be influenced by political forces (often leftist in orientation) and dependent on development assistance and foreign aid (which is now slowly decreasing). Student movements are a specific feature of the youth NGO scene. Although they cannot be said to be highly representative (considering the overall numbers of students), they are the only organizations that benefit from sustainable working conditions. Although frequently allied with leftist parties, they are often the only political force capable of influencing political decision making in relation to youth. In the context of a largely politicized civil society, the concept of national youth councils, as a democratically legitimated counterpart to the government on youth policy issues (e.g., on the historical West European model) does not really exist. Youth councils in the LAC region, with the exception of a few special cases, have more often than not been co-opted by government. In addition, there is an increasing tendency toward professionalization and service provision mainly in the field of youth information, training, and youth participation, with the historically voluntary character of the youth NGO sector becoming weaker.³⁹

³⁹ Interesting examples of good practice include Portal de la Juventud, Peru, www.portaldelajuventud.org, offering youth information services; Universidade da Juventude, Brazil, www.universidadedajuventude.org.br, offering capacity building workshops and training for civil servants and youth leaders in youth policy, and Aracati, Brazil, www.aracati.org.br/portal, contributing to the development of a youth participation culture in Brazil.

InLATINA Iniciativa Latinoamericana

www.inlatina.org

InLATINA is a nonprofit organization based in Uruguay aimed at developing strategies for youth poverty reduction, community empowerment, and the strengthening of democracy. It is an open forum for initiatives of social innovation and citizen participation focusing on areas of social entrepreneurship, sexual and reproductive health, and cultural and environmental policies.

Red Latinoamericana de Juventudes Rurales (RELAJUR)

www.relajur.org

RELAJUR is a youth network based in Uruguay targeting rural young people in the region. It aims at collecting information on and for rural young people and providing a platform for sharing and exchange of information and services across the region.

Youth Portal for Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAJU)

www.youthlac.org

Developed in cooperation with UNESCO, CELAJU is the most visited youth portal in the region. It offers information on youth policy issues, on young people, and on institutions and resources for young people.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUTH POLICY

Comparative studies on some specific issues related to young people and youth policies are mainly undertaken by international agencies such as UNESCO, the United Nations Development Program; the United Nations Population Fund; the World Bank; the International Labour Organization, the Ibero-American Organization of Youth, and the Latin American Information Technology Network (RITLA), and recently by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Latin American Faculty in Social Sciences (FLACSO)

www.flacso.org

FLACSO is an independent international and regional organization created in 1957 on the initiative of UNESCO and some regional governments. Its principle objective is to promote the social sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2008, it had 15 member states. The secretariat general is in Costa Rica.

FLACSO conducts research and engages in technical cooperation in the field of social science. It publishes regularly on youth-related themes.

**University Institute of Public Opinion at the Central American University
José Simeón Cañas (IUDOP)**

www.uca.edu.sv/publica/iudop/principal.htm

IUDOP has developed specific studies focusing on youth gangs, political youth culture, youth inclusion in the labor market, and youth-directed youth policies. These studies remain relatively small scale and do not offer systematic and methodological comparisons across the region.

Key International and Regional Legislation and Documents Pertaining to Youth

Introduction

There is very little international legislation on youth that is binding on states. Probably the most important pieces of legislation are the general human rights conventions that establish rights especially important to young people; e.g., the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which protects children and young people up to the age of 18, taking into account the vulnerabilities that particularly affect them because of their age, or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which in establishing the rights to health and information, has established the basis for the promotion of the sexual and reproductive health of young people. While these establish rights and protection for certain aspects of young people's lives and while international institutions have been able to use these documents as a mandate and legitimation for establishing programs relevant to young people and their development, they are not youth-specific pieces of legislation.

Nevertheless, a long list of international political declarations, recommendations, resolutions, and other documents has been elaborated on youth and youth-relevant themes. Even if these do not constitute legally binding legisla-

tion, which governments must adopt, they play an important role in establishing standards and good practice in relation to youth policy development and implementation at the national level. On the one hand, these documents provide the nongovernmental sector with benchmarks to legitimate their advocacy. On the other hand, their provisions can be transformed into program objectives and concrete interventions.

This can be a lengthy and unsatisfactory process, given the institutional logics in force. This is best exemplified by the World Program of Action on Youth, which is in effect a set of targets or principles toward which governments have agreed to work in support of young people. But it has no enforcement mechanism, and even the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, which adopted it, has not been sufficiently institutionalized for regular reviews of progress to take place. Enforcement mechanisms are least developed and there is no international consensus about the need or justification for a legally binding “international youth policy” approach that should be followed by all member states of the United Nations, for example. In fact, there is very little support for such a unilateral “one size fits all” approach, which for many smacks of social engineering.

At the regional level, some importance has been given to charters, which provide a common multilateral (regional) basis for individual state implementation. These are agreements to which individual states commit, through a process of adoption and ratification, after which they are somehow morally bound to implement the provisions. These provide real advocacy tools to the nongovernmental youth sector. The African Youth Charter and the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life are good examples, although there has been a lot of foot-dragging on ratification, especially concerning the African Youth Charter. In addition, certain kinds of political declaration, while having no legislative implication or value, have had significant influence on the political will and awareness of youth policy-related issues and concerns. This is certainly the case of the European Youth Pact,

which since its declaration has accelerated the action of the European Union in the youth field. It acts as a statement of principle, and the fact that it was made by several heads of state, gives it political weight, both with other heads of state and in terms of chances for implementation.

It should also be recognized that the chances for implementation and for enforcement of some kind are significantly influenced by processes of regional integration. Europe is, of course, the best example. With successive waves of deeper and wider integration, the responsibility of the European Union and its regional partners (the Council of Europe, for example) for youth affairs has increased and become more accepted by member states, even considering the regularity with which national governments change.

Advocacy is certainly required to ensure that national governments implement existing legislation and respect the provisions of other nonbinding documents. There is a tendency in the face of a lack of progress to multiply declarations and documents rather than to resolve the barriers to the implementation of existing tools. In addition, strengthening the capacity of youth organizations and platforms to advocate by themselves and collectively at all levels from local through international for the implementation and respect of the various key documents is also urgent, especially in those regions where resources for the functioning of youth organizations are not available.

In the following tables, we present the most important international and regional documents for the international youth sector. In most cases, these are political declarations, although they can also be conventions, charters, recommendations, and so on. The presentation of these documents is organized according to

- the region the document addresses;
- the organization that has adopted them and, where appropriate, the decision-making body within the organization that has adopted them;
- the year of adoption;

We have included a link to the online full-text version of each document. We begin with the global level (i.e., the United Nations) and continue with the regions addressed in the directory. Documents within categories are listed in alpha order, unless otherwise noted.

United Nations

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Braga Youth Action Plan (World Youth Forum)	1998	www.un.org/events/youth98/yforum98/bragayap.htm
The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	1979	www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm
The Convention on the Rights of the Child	1979	www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm
Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy	2001	www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/dakar.doc
Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples	1965	www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/65.htm
The Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)	1996	www.un.org/esa/devagenda/habitat.html
ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work	1998	www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DeclarationWeb.IndexPage
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1966	www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/b3ccpr.htm

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1966	www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a_ceschr.htm
Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs	1998	www.unfpa.org/parliamentarians/documents/LisbonDeclarationENGFINALedited.pdf
Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women	1995	www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/declar.htm
Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action of the World Food Summit	1996	www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.htm
Special Session on Social Development (Copenhagen+5), Geneva	2000	www.un.org/esa/socdev/geneva2000/
United Nations Guidelines for Further Planning and Follow-Up in the Field of Youth	1985	www.un.org/documents/ga/res/44/a44r059.htm
United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules)	1985	www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/h_comp48.htm
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	1948	www.un.org/Overview/rights.html

Africa

African Union

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Addis Ababa Declaration of Youth	2006	www.africa-union.org/root/ua/Conferences/Mai/HRST/Draft%20Declaration%20of%20Pan%20African%20Youth.pdf
African Youth Charter	2006	www.uneca.org/adf/docs/African_Youth_Charter.pdf
Declaration of African Ministers in Charge of Youth for the Year of African Youth (YAY-2008)	2008	www.africa-union.org/root/ua/Conferences/Mai/HRST/Draft%20Declaration%20of%20Pan%20African%20Youth.pdf

Other

Document	Body	Year	Web address (full text)
African Youth Declaration on the Occasion of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Rwanda, August 19–23; South Africa August 26–September 7)	UN Conference	2001	www.icare.to/africanyouthdeclarationwcar.html
Declaration of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit	Youth NGOs/CoE	2007	www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Youth%5CYouth_Summit%5CFinal_Declaration_YouthSummit_en.pdf
Declaration of the Pan African Youth Union on African Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development of Africa	PYU	2003	www.panafricanyouth.org/index2.php?lien=windhoek
The Second Pan African Youth Leadership Summit, Ifrane Declaration	UN	2005	www.un.org/sport2005/a_year/payls_ifraneii_declaration.pdf

Asia-Pacific

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Beijing Declaration of the Ministers Responsible for Youth of the ASEAN and the People's Republic of China on ASEAN-China Cooperation on Youth, Beijing	2004	www.aseansec.org/16434.htm
Declaration of Principles to Strengthening ASEAN Collaboration on Youth, Bangkok	1983	www.aseansec.org/8695.htm
Declaration on Preparing ASEAN Youth for the Challenges of Globalization, Yangon	2000	www.aseansec.org/8699.htm
Kuala Lumpur Agenda on ASEAN Youth Development, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1997	www.aseansec.org/8696.htm

Manila Declaration on Strengthening Participation in Sustainable Youth Employment, Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY IV), Manila	2003	www.aseansec.org/15074.htm
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Pacific Community

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Bipartite Communiqué on Environment	2005	www.sidsnet.org/pacific/spc/AC/art_jme.htm
Koror Statement on Youth Empowerment	2005	www.spc.int/Youth/PDF/Koror%20Statement%20on%20Youth%20Empowerment%20for%20a%20Secure_F.pdf
Pacific Youth Charter	2006	www.spc.int/Youth/PDF/Pacific%20Youth%20Charter_cover_final_Dec2006.pdf
Pacific Youth MDGs Declaration	2005	www.unicef.org/voy/media/PacificMDGYouthDeclaration.pdf
Pacific Youth Statement on the Pacific Plan	2005	www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2005-1/pacific-youth-statement-on-pacific-plan.html
Youth Visioning for Island Living	2005	www.unesco.org/csi/smis/siv/yv/Youthdecl-commit.htm

Europe

European Union

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
General Framework		
Introduction		http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11182.htm
European Youth Pact	2005	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11081.htm

Promoting young people's full participation in education, employment, and society	2007	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11103.htm
Recognition of nonformal and informal learning	2006	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11096.htm
White Paper on Youth		
White Paper on Youth	2001	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11055.htm
White Paper Follow Up		
Common objectives for a better understanding and knowledge of youth	2003	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11100.htm
European policies concerning youth participation and information	2006	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11200.htm
Framework of European cooperation in the youth field	2002	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11059.htm
Participation by and information for young people	2002	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11075.htm
Youth voluntary work	2003	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11076.htm
Preparatory documents for the White Paper		
Mobility for students, persons undergoing training, young volunteers, teachers, and trainers	2000	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11015.htm
Promoting young people's initiative, enterprise and creativity	2001	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11051.htm
Social inclusion of young people	2000	http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11605.htm
Programs		
Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency		http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11080.htm
Youth in Action 2007–2013		http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11603.htm http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11070.htm
Previous Programs		http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11079.htm

COUNCIL OF EUROPE (BY DECISION-MAKING BODY)

Committee of Ministers' Recommendations [in chronological order]:

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Rec(79)3E 07 February concerning the integration of young people into the world of work	1979	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=674571&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Rec(88)6E 18 April on social reactions to juvenile delinquency among young people coming from migrant families	1988	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=707505&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Rec(90)7E 21 February concerning information and counseling for young people in Europe	1990	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=600969&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Rec(92)7E 18 May concerning communication and cooperation in the field of youth research in Europe	1992	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=613663&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Rec(92)11E 22 June on social and vocational integration of young people	1992	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=614389&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Rec(95)18E 12 October on youth mobility	1995	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=539055&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Rec(97)3E 4 February on youth participation and the future of civil society	1997	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=570573&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Recommendation Rec(2004) 13 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the participation of young people in local and regional life (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on November 17, at the 904th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)	2004	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=791443&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864

Recommendation Rec(2006)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on citizenship and participation of young people in public life (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on October 25, at the 978th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)	2006	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1055689&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Recommendation Rec(2006) 1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the role of national youth councils in youth policy development (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on January 11, at the 952nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)	2006	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=955567&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864

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Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Resolution (98) 6 16 April on the youth policy of the Council of Europe	1998	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=475377&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Resolution (98) 31 of 25 November on the Statute of the European Youth Centre and the Statute of the European Youth Foundation (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on November 25, at the 650th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)	1998	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=512499&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Resolution 78 (1999)1 on "Europe 2000 youth participation: the role of young people as citizens"	1999	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=849097&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Resolution 152 (2003)1 on the revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life	2003	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=40133&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Resolution Res (2003)7 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on October 29, 2003, at the 859th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)	2003	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=82239&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864

Resolution 207 (2006)1 on young people and new information and communication technologies: a new opportunity for local democracy	2006	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=969833&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Resolution 221 (2006)1 on promoting an entrepreneurial spirit among young people in Europe's regions	2006	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=983449&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864
Resolution 259 (2008) May 27-29 Integration and participation of young people at local and regional level	2008	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1287381&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864

Parliamentary Assembly (by Thematic Focus Related to Young People)

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Human Rights Education		
Recommendation 1401 Education in the responsibilities of the individual	1999	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta99/EREC1401.htm
Recommendation 1346 Human rights education	1997	http://assembly.coe.int/Mainf.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta97/EREC1346.htm
Opinion 40 Teaching and research in the field of human rights	1963	http://assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta63/eopi40.htm
Nonformal Education		
Recommendation 1437 Non-formal education	2000	http://assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta00/erec1437.htm
Recommendation 1110 Distance teaching	1989	http://assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta89/erec1110.htm

Resolution 500 Present trends in educational reform and further prospects with a view to permanent education	1971	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta71/ERES500.htm
Resolution 477 Education and development	1971	http://assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta71/eres477.htm
Participation		
Rec1596(2003)E/31 January Recommendation 1596—Situation of young migrants in Europe	2003	https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=36681&Lang=en
Order 441 Assembly and young people in Europe	1988	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta88/EDIR441.htm
Recommendation 1019 on the participation of young people in political and institutional life	1985	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta85/EREC1019.htm
Recommendation 902 Youth cooperation in Europe	1980	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta80/EREC902.htm
Resolution 590 Group participation by young people	1975	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta75/ERES590.htm
Southeastern Europe		
Recommendation 1123 Practical educational assistance to Central and Eastern Europe	1990	http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta90/EREC1123.HTM
Recommendation 1191 Exchanges involving young workers after the revolutionary changes of 1989	1992	http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta92/EREC1191.HTM
Youth Exchanges		
Recommendation 1191 Exchange involving young workers after the revolutionary changes of 1989	1992	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=http%3A%2F%2Fassembly.coe.int%2FDocuments%2FAdoptedText%2Fta92%2FEREC1191.htm
Recommendation 897 (1980) Educational visits and pupil exchanges among European countries	1980	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta80/EREC897.htm

Recommendation 468 “Au pair” employment	1966	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta66/EREC468.htm
Recommendation 96 Measures to be taken by member states to encourage contacts among young people	1956	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta56/EREC96.htm
Recommendation 81 Possibilities of promoting foreign travel by citizens of the member states of the Council of Europe in the territory of other member states	1955	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta55/EREC81.htm
Youth Policy		
Recommendation 1585 Youth policies in the Council of Europe	2002	http://assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta02/erec1585.htm
Resolution 464 Creation of a European Youth Foundation	1970	http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta70/ERES464.htm
Youth Research		
Recommendation 590 Youth problems in Europe	1970	http://assembly.coe.int/mainf.asp?Link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta70/erec592.htm

Middle East and North Africa

ALECSO

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Barcelona Declaration	1995	http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/index_en.htm http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/r15001.htm
The Rabat Commitment-Conclusions and Recommendations of the Rabat Conference on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations through Concrete and Sustained Initiatives Rabat	2005	www.unaoc.org/repository/rabat_commitment.pdf

European Union

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Towards a Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education and Research Area (Cairo Declaration)	2007	http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/social/education_en.htm

ISESCO

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Rabat Declaration on Child's Issues in the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference	2005	www.isesco.org.ma/english/confSpec/MinistresEnfance/index.php?page=/Home/Specialized%20Conferences

League of Arab States

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Concluding document from the Arab High Level Conference on the Rights of the Child: An Arab World Fit for Children: Mechanisms for Joint Arab Action and an Arab Common Position	2001	www.unicef.org/specialsession/documentation/documents/arab-conference-2-4-july-01-eng.doc

Latin America and Caribbean

Ibero-American Organization for Youth (OIJ)

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Young People	2008	http://convencion.oij.org

Organization of American States (OAS)

Document	Year	Web address (full text)
Declaration of Medellin on Youth and Democratic Values	2008	www.oas.org/38AG/documents/declaracion_eng.doc www.youthlac.org/content/view/383/99/

Other

Document	Body	Web address (full text)
Declaration of Indigenous Peoples Youth (2001)	International Indian Treaty Council (Consejo Internacional de tratados indios)	www.treatycouncil.org/section_21183.htm

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