



YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



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CONTENTS

PREFACE	7
INTRODUCTION	9
PART I	11
1. Main Milestones in the Area of Youth	15
2. Lisboa+21	27
Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes	29
Lisboa+21 Declaration	34
<i>Human Rights</i>	38
<i>Participation</i>	52
<i>Sustainability</i>	58
<i>Monitoring and evaluation of the Lisboa+21 Declaration</i>	60
3. Relevant Spaces and Institutions	67
Youth in the Universe of the United Nations	67
<i>United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth</i>	68
<i>United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</i>	70
<i>United Nations Population Fund</i>	72
<i>International Labour Organization</i>	73
<i>United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization</i>	75
<i>United Nations Children's Fund</i>	76
<i>United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development</i>	78
<i>Resolutions presented by Portugal at the 3rd Commission of the United Nations</i>	
<i>General Assembly</i>	80
<i>Economic and Social Council Youth Forum</i>	81
Regional Organizations and their work for and with Youth	82
<i>Council of Europe</i>	82
<i>Advisory Council on Youth and Joint Council on Youth</i>	84
<i>European Union</i>	85
<i>Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries</i>	88
<i>International Youth Organization for Ibero-America</i>	89
<i>African Union</i>	91
<i>League of Arab States</i>	92
<i>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</i>	93
<i>Pacific Community</i>	94
Regional Representative Platforms of Youth	95
<i>International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations</i>	96

<i>European Youth Forum</i>	96
<i>CPLP Youth Forum</i>	98
<i>Pacific Youth Council</i>	99
<i>Asian Youth Council</i>	99
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean Youth Forum</i>	100
<i>Panafrican Youth Union</i>	101
4. Awareness Raising on Youth Policies and Programmes in the Global Context	103
Training Plan	103
PART II	111
1. Lisboa+21 and National Policies	113
The National Plan for Youth	113
<i>The structure of the National Plan for Youth</i>	117
<i>The Sustainable Development Goals and the NPY</i>	121
<i>Contribution to Lisboa+21</i>	123
<i>Concluding...</i>	128
Municipal Youth Policies and Lisboa+21	129
<i>From Global to Local: the role of municipalities in Youth policies</i>	129
<i>The role of municipalities in European Youth policies</i>	133
<i>The Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life</i>	134
<i>Brief Diagnosis of Youth Policies at Municipal Level</i>	136
BIBLIOGRAPHY	141

PREFACE

A JOURNEY CALLED LISBON

Lisboa was, more than half a millennium ago, the starting point for remarkable journeys for all humankind. Since then, Lisboa is the destiny of unrepeatable journeys which only this pandemic could interrupt, but never end.

Lisboa was, is, and will always be to the United Nations' Youth, to all Young people from the four corners of the globe, an equal memorable place. A place for holding hands and, united, move forward towards the transition to sustainability, which can only be our present.

Well, this publication is a sort of logbook, if not for all of this journey, certainly for the stop in Lisboa in 2019 (21 years after its beginning in Lisboa, in 1998) and the transition to the entire planet since then, forevermore.

Here are the voice and the face – so that you can ask us and ask them for explanations – of the key players who assumed as their own the policy instruments that ambition, with the corresponding responsibility, to shape Youth policies and programmes, starting with the Lisboa+21 Declaration, also presenting an analysis of the National Plan for Youth in the light of Lisboa+21.

The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the Youth Forum «Lisboa+21», which Lisboa hosted so well in 2019, in a joint organisation of the Portuguese Government and the Portuguese National Youth Council, represented a landmark, achieved with and for the Youth. With its guiding principle being the co-management between Governments and Youth representatives, we assumed, from the preparation of the events to the proclamation of the Lisboa+21 Declaration, the direct assistance by the young people of the dozens of governmental delegations, gathering around the same table to make an assessment of the last 21 years and to decide which commitments are the most important to them so that, all together, we can deal with the megatrends that shape the present and the future.

It is with shared pride with all nations united, that we can state with certainty and confidence, that the outcome of Lisboa+21 represents a decisive step forward for the integration of Youth in policies and programmes and an irreversible advance in the path to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, through three «flagships» we assume as beacons that can light our lines of action: the realization of Human Rights, Youth participation and a perspective of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Today we have the largest generation of young people in the Human History, meaning that we have the greatest concentration of transformative energy. To invest in Youth empowerment is, therefore, an imperative that all policy-makers should demand as their own in the governance of all sectors responsible for the implementation of public policies to serve our citizens, whether those policies are local, national or global.

Let us share this journey, with the eyes of Young people seeing everything that we do, with their voice demanding us to do even more, and with their energy and talent guiding us so that we can do it even better, even faster.

See you soon, in the future that will not forgive us if we don't make the present out of it, here and now.

TIAGO BRANDÃO RODRIGUES
Minister of Education
Portuguese Republic

INTRODUCTION

The publication we present here constitutes a relevant contribution of the Portuguese Institute of Sports and Youth in the consolidation of the research work that comprises and organizes all that has been accomplished in the area of the Youth Policies and Programmes, at an international level. From the political instruments to the importance of the institutions and their main players, Portugal's leading role, from a global and local perspective is hereby underlined. It is with personal enthusiasm that I find reflected in this publication, the impact of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21, organized by the Portuguese Government and the National Youth Council, with the endorsement of partners from the United Nations System. In this World Conference, an unprecedented space has been created, in which Ministers and Young Delegates had the opportunity to present their reflections, in a co-participation model. The Declaration Lisboa+21, adopted by acclamation, substantiates the result of what we consider to be a step forward towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the future of youth programmes and policies, by means of the 19 commitments that comprise it.

It is our expectation that this publication may contribute to support the work of all those who dedicate themselves to the youth sector, favoring the informed reflection and the design of solutions in which young people can effectively participate, in an inclusive system, with focus on their rights and in a way that enables the construction of sustainable and efficacious solutions to the challenges identified.

It is my hope that, in this joint effort, we can honor the opportunity to contribute to shaping the future and guaranteeing the well-being of future generations.

JOÃO PAULO REBELO
State Secretary for Youth and Sport
Portuguese Republic

PART I

Youth have seen, in recent decades, a recognition of their role, both at a national and global level, being today a pillar of development at an international level. Not only because future leaders are young people today, but also because of their recognized ability to dream, create and innovate. Combined with this capacity, young people's natural impatience serves as a gear for change, often working as the beginning of a new course, built together, an echo of their aspirations and concerns.

Furthermore, also demographic data reiterates the importance of this group in a very pragmatic way. We have today the most numerous of young generations in the history of humankind. 1.3 billion young people all over the world, 1.3 billion people¹ who, at their own pace and in their own way, will be the owners of their individual destination. Destination paths that will be as diverse as each one of those individuals, creating an impact across all areas of society.

Notwithstanding, much there is still to be done in order to guarantee youth access to rights and their effective participation in decision-making, ensuring the development of their full potential, both as a whole and as individuals, on behalf of sustainable development. Following this frame of thought, this publication assumes that young people should be part of the search for solutions and should actively participate in the construction of the world they want to live in today and in the future. For this reason, youth have been given total centrality in this work.

Therefore, after a long period of study, this publication appears with the objective of structuring and comprising all the research work and to making knowl-

1. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2019), *World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights*.

edge accessible to all. The knowledge here transcribed begins with the analysis of the main players in the Youth area today, as well as of the main political instruments – Strategies, Action Plans, Recommendations, Declarations, among others – that, in some way, shape or have the ambition to shape Policies and Youth Programmes.

Some of these documents are historical documents that continue to be relevant and up to date and other are recent documents such as the Lisbon+21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes 2019. We begin this publication with a historical analysis of the work carried out by the International Community in the area of Youth Policies and Programmes, highlighting Portugal's contribution to it. In this sense, we will analyse the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes of 1998 from a critical perspective regarding the celebrated commitments. We will then move on to the analysis of the most recent Lisbon+21 Declaration, focused on its pillars and commitments, proceeding to an introduction of the relevant players in the field of Youth and their working tools. Finally, we will conclude our analysis by identifying practical tools that facilitate the transversal scope required for the Lisbon+21 Declaration, promoting the sense of ownership for and from all those comprehended by the declaration in a way that will make Portugal proud of the implementation capacity of each party.

This publication is not intended to be an intensive study of each player or instrument, nor is it intended to exhaust all knowledge in an area as vast as that of Youth, being only a modest complement to the work of archiving and implementing Portuguese policy institutions and Youth Programmes at national and global levels.

1 | MAIN MILESTONES IN THE AREA OF YOUTH

Since its inception, the United Nations has been dedicated to issues that affect Youth, recognizing that the imagination, ideals and energy of young people are vital for the continuous development of the societies in which they live². In this sense, the work of the United Nations in this area has been guided by key moments in the affirmation of the importance of Youth for the prosperity of their societies. This path has also been important to add political support around the need to develop policies and programmes dedicated to Youth.

The identified milestones are of different natures, from the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions to the adoption of statements with political weight, to commemorative moments of Youth. Nevertheless, all these milestones have contributed to raise awareness to the specific problems and challenges affecting young people and to putting youth-related issues at the centre of national and international political agendas.

The first resolution of the United Nations General Assembly dedicated to Youth was signed in 1960. This first recognition of the importance of working with and for Youth comes at a time of great activism among young people. The 1960s witnessed a proliferation of youth-led movements against the conservatism of the societies in which they lived and in defence of freedom and social equality, gender equality, ethnic equality and sexual freedom. These movements, which had their epicentres in Universities all over the world, claimed values as freedom of expression, peace and social equality. In line with what was happening on the streets, the resolution *Measures designed to promote ideas of peace, mutual respect and understanding among peoples*³ was then adopted and would pave the way for the first major milestone in the work of the United Nations in the area of Youth.

2. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2010), *World Program of Action for Youth*.

3. United Nations General Assembly, *A/RES/1572 (XV): Measures designed to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples*, of 18 December 1960.

In 1965, the Member States of the United Nations adopted the *Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples*⁴.

The Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect, a United Nations resolution, adopted in 1965 by the General Assembly, is the first international political document in the field of Youth.

The Declaration defines six principles that affirm the importance of peace, justice, freedom, equality, mutual respect and understanding in the promotion of Human Rights as well as economic and social progress. For these values to be properly transmitted and assimilated by young people, the importance of education and intercultural interaction through exchanges of different natures is affirmed. The Declaration gives special relevance to youth associations that aim to promote the free exchange of ideas between young people in order to cement the values proclaimed by this Declaration and the United Nations Charter.

Even though its wording may be marked by its historical time and by the context of the Cold War, this Declaration clearly states the importance of youth participation in the social, economic and cultural progress of societies based on scientific and technological development which clearly benefits from the creativity and enthusiasm of Youth. This encouragement to participate in the development of societies is accompanied by a clear accountability of young people as future leaders. In this sense, the *Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples* establishes youth participation as a central theme in all future texts.

The principles and values defined in the 1965 Declaration were mirrored in several resolutions on the importance of educating young people for the respect of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms and on their participation in national development in the years that followed⁵. As already mentioned, a theme that has become central to United Nations youth policies and programmes was the encouragement and strengthening of the participation of young people in the

The principles and values defined in the 1965 Declaration were mirrored in several resolutions on the importance of educating young people for the respect of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms and on their participation in national development in the years that followed⁵. As already mentioned, a theme that has become central to United Nations youth policies and programmes was the encouragement and strengthening of the participation of young people in the

4. United Nations General Assembly (1965), *A/RES/2037 (XX): Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples*, of 7 December 1965.

5. United Nations General Assembly (1978a), *A/RES/33/193: Policies and Programmes Relating to Youth: Legislative history and programme activities of the United Nations in the field of youth, Report of the Secretary-General*, of 21 September 1978.

development of activities at international, regional and national level, with several resolutions adopted in this regard⁶.

Among those, we would highlight the Resolution 2460 (XXIII) of December 20, 1968 of the General Assembly that explores the feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development as a means to facilitate the participation of Youth in international development, an idea that would be consecrated with the institution of the United Nations Volunteer Program (known in its English acronym as UNV) in 1970.

Efforts were also made to establish channels of communication with Youth and their organizations, through the involvement of young people in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the United Nations Youth programmes. Recommendations were also approved for the involvement of young people in national development and for the use of their skills in the formulation and application of national development policies⁷.

It is in this context that the idea of celebrating the International Youth Year begins to develop in 1977⁸. This idea arises from the concern to improve the communication channels between Youth and their organizations and the United Nations, in order to guarantee the active participation of young people at all stages of development, both locally, nationally and internationally⁹.

Convinced that an international Youth year could help mobilize efforts at local, national, regional and international levels to promote better educational and professional conditions, as well as better conditions of life for young people while ensuring their active participation in the integrated development of society and encouraging the preparation of new local and national Youth policies and programmes¹⁰, 1985 was proclaimed the **International Youth Year**.

The International Youth Year was also celebrated with the aim of consolidating the efforts of all Member States to develop specific programmes for Youth, on

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples and the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Volunteer Program, the International Youth Year was celebrated in 1985 under the slogan Participation, Development, Peace.

6. *Ibid.*

7. *Ibid*

8. United Nations General Assembly (1977), *A/RES/32/134: Youth in the contemporary world*, of 16 December 1977.

9. United Nations General Assembly (1978b), *A/RES/33/7: International Youth Year*, of 3 November 1978.

10. *Ibid.*

the one hand, and to improve United Nations activities in the field of Youth, on the other hand. This celebration was also a unique opportunity to draw attention to the situation, needs and aspirations of Youth and to involve young people in the study and resolution of major international, regional and national problems¹¹.

The International Youth Year was celebrated worldwide in a joint effort between the United Nations System, its Member States and several Youth organizations that promoted activities at the local, national and, in some cases, international level. The International Youth Year materialized through activities of different types: programmes, events, competitions, conferences, meetings, exhibitions, seminars, projects and festivals, among others, which counted on the involvement and commitment of Youth, considered to be the most important success of the celebration¹².

The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1995 and it has been establishing the priorities for the Youth sector for a quarter of a century.

Among the different initiatives with relevance to Youth, developed by the United Nations System, the World Programme of Action for Youth until and beyond the year 2000 (known in its English acronym WPAY)¹³, established in 1995, is one of the more important milestones. It is the first

strategy adopted for Youth at an international level and it has served as a basis for the formulation of Youth policies at the global level since. The World Programme of Action provides a political framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support for improving the situation of young people. The Program focuses in particular on measures to strengthen national capacities in the field of Youth and to increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available for the full, effective and constructive participation of Youth in society¹⁴.

The adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth marks the ten years of the celebration of the *International Youth Year: Participation, Devel-*

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11. United Nations General Assembly (1979), *A/RES/34/151: International Youth Year, Participation, Development, Peace*, of 17 December 1979.
 12. United Nations General Assembly (1985), *A/40/701: Preparations and observance of the International Youth Year, Participation, Development, Peace*, Report of the Secretary-General, 11 of October 1985.
 13. United Nations General Assembly (1995), *A/RES/50/81: World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond*, of 14 December of 1995.
 14. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2010), *ibid*.

opment and Peace, aiming to be one more contribution to achieve its objectives and to promote mechanisms and conditions to improve well-being and livelihoods of young people, while responding to the challenges of the beginning of the millennium. Reiterated as fundamental is, once again, the issue of the participation of young people, who represent agents, beneficiaries and victims of major societal changes, and are generally confronted by the paradox: seeking to integrate into the existing order or to serve as a transforming force of that same order¹⁵.

The World Programme of Action for Youth has initially identified 10 priority youth domains to address, identifying the main concerns and objectives for each. The WPAY also presents specific plans of action that should guide the actions of the Member States and the United Nations. The domains first identified were: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and decision-making¹⁶.

To mark the tenth anniversary of the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, United Nations Member States have agreed to expand the areas of performance to 15, within the scope of a Supplement adopted in 2007¹⁷. This supplement gave renewed strength to the document and adapted the WPAY to the context of the Millennium Development Goals, which aimed, at the turn of the millennium, to create an environment that would lead to development and elimination of poverty, both nationally and globally. The five additional priorities for action are: Globalization, Information and Communication Technologies, HIV/AIDS, Armed Conflict and Intergenerational Issues.

The implementation of the Programme of Action requires the full enjoyment by young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also requires that Governments take effective action against violations of these rights and freedoms and promote non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, with full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and the philosophical convictions of its young people, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and participation of all young women and

15. United Nations General Assembly (1995), *ibid*.

16. *Ibid*.

17. United Nations General Assembly (2007), *A/RES/62/126: Policies and Programmes Involving Youth: Youth In The Global Economy – Promoting Youth Participation In Social And Economic Development*, of 18 December 2007.

The 1st World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth brought together representatives from 146 States that exchanged views on the World Program of Action, focusing discussions on the importance of developing national Youth policies; on the relevance of the themes of the 1985 International Youth Year and on priority issues such as education, employment, health and drug abuse.

men¹⁸. The World Program of Action is particularly relevant in the sense that it provides a cross-sectoral standard across sectors in terms of the design of programmes and policies in the area of Youth but also in terms of their implementation¹⁹.

The World Program of Action, as a central document in support of the definition of policies and programmes in the area of Youth, profoundly influenced the discus-

sions and results of the 1st World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, which took place in Lisbon in 1998²⁰. The Conference provided political support to the diverse efforts made to respond more effectively to the economic, social, educational, emotional and spiritual needs of young people, as well as to their problems²¹.

The outcome of the Conference was the adoption of the ***Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes***, the culmination of a decade-long effort to raise youth policy to a prominence level, on both national and international agendas and, thus, strengthened national and international in support of young people. By adopting the Lisbon Declaration, Governments agreed to develop national Youth policies and operational programmes, as well as to implement international commitments and Youth policy goals, namely the World Programme of Action for Youth. The different commitments of the Lisbon Declaration will be developed in the next chapter.

The following year, on the recommendation of the 1st World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, the United Nations designated the 12th of August as the International Youth Day, recommending the organization of public activities to celebrate the day and to promote the World Programme of Action for Youth, especially among young people²². International Youth Day is an annual celebration of the role that young people play as essential partners

18. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, «World Program of Action for Youth» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

19. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2010), *ibid*.

20. United Nations (1998), SOC/4472: *World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, Lisbon 8-12 August*, Lisbon, of 12 August 1998.

21. *Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes*, of 12 August 1998.

22. United Nations General Assembly (1999), A/RES/54/120: *Policies and Programmes Involving Youth*, of 17 December 1999.

in promoting human rights and development. It is also an opportunity to draw attention to the challenges and difficulties that affect Youth²³. In addition to organizing a celebration at United Nations Headquarters in New York, young people are encouraged to organize activities to raise awareness of the situation of youth in their countries²⁴.

The first International Youth Day was celebrated in 2000 and since then it is celebrated annually with a different theme, chosen by the United Nations with contributions from Youth Organizations and members of the United Nations Agency Network on Youth Development.

In order to reinforce this annual celebration and mark the 25th anniversary of the first **International Youth Year**, another year was again dedicated to Youth, under the theme **Dialogue and Mutual Understanding**²⁵. The celebration of a new International Year of Youth in 2010 renewed the commitment of United Nations Member States to ensure that young women and young men are at the heart of the Development Agenda. The proclamation of the International Year of Youth represented a strategic opportunity both to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities that Youth faces and to defend the rights of young people. In this context, the theme Dialogue and Mutual Understanding promoted communication between generations, cultures, religions and civilizations and promoted the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and solidarity. Once again, the United Nations System, its Member States and civil society groups have promoted activities to demonstrate young people's contributions to development, to promote mutual understanding and to underline the benefits of their participation in all aspects of society²⁶.

Two years later, in 2012, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, after his reappointment for the second term, placed Youth as a priority in his Agenda for Action for a five-year period. Ban Ki-moon pledged to address the needs of the largest generation of young people the world had ever known through deepening the perspective of Youth in the Organization's programmes, in terms of employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship and protection of

23. United Nations Population Fund, «International Youth Day» [website viewed 9 of September of 2019].

24. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, «International Youth Day» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

25. United Nations General Assembly (2009), *A/RES/64/134: Proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding*, 18 of December of 2009.

26. United Nations General-Secretary (2011), *International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding: report of the Secretary-General*.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations may, on matters that the General Assembly and the Security Council consider pertinent, appoint Special and Personal Representatives, Envoys and Advisers. These positions work in close collaboration with the Secretary-General, thus the current Envoy for Youth, Jayathma Wicramanayake, works in the area of Youth at the highest level with the guidance of the Secretary-General, António Guterres.

rights, and education, including reproductive health. In this regard, the Secretary-General committed himself to appoint a Special Youth Adviser²⁷, which would come to practice the following year with the appointment of the first Envoy on Youth, whose mission was to respond to the objectives set out in the Agenda for Action for the five years to follow. The appointment of the first Envoy on Youth marks another step in the effort to bring the United Nations system closer to young people,

their problems and aspirations, ensuring a constant permanence of issues related to Youth in the Organization's work.

In order to mark the 20th anniversary and reinforce the importance of the World Program of Action, the 1st Global Forum on Youth Policies was held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The objective of the Forum was to raise the political debate on Youth issues, with the particular purpose of stimulating the development of Youth policies and their effective implementation²⁸. The Forum was attended by members of Governments, representatives of the academia, young people, as well as experts and representatives of civil society.

The Baku Commitment is the document that summarizes the conclusions and results of the debates of the 1st Global Forum on Youth Policies. It was prepared based on contributions from Governments, international organizations, NGOs, representatives of academia, youth organizations and contains guiding principles for Youth policies, as well as commitments by and from participants.

The discussions contributed to shaping a common understanding on the fundamental principles for the development of integrated and inclusive Youth policies, from their formulation and implementation to their evaluation, which materialized in the **Baku Commitment on Youth Policies**. According to the document, Youth policies must be rights-based, inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive, comprehensive, knowledge-based and evidence-informed,

fully resourced and accountable²⁹. Once again, the issue of youth participation takes on a central role, with the Baku Commitment calling for increased citizen involvement by Youth and effective participation in political and decision-mak-

27. United Nations (2012), *The Secretary-General's Five-Year Action Agenda*.

28. *Baku Commitment to Youth Policies*, of 2014.

29. *Ibid.*

ing processes and in institutions in general, with special attention to the inclusion of young women³⁰.

The following year would mark another important moment in the work of the United Nations in the area of Youth with the adoption of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The United Nations General Assembly adopted, on September 25, 2015, the resolution *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*³¹, the United Nations plan of action to eradicate poverty and achieve economic, social and environmental development by 2030, on a global scale. The 2030 Agenda continued the collective development effort associated with the eight Millennium Development Goals that were to be achieved between 2000 and 2015.

The 2030 Agenda defined 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will guide the action of the United Nations until 2030, and its implementation requires an unprecedented pledged common action and endeavor on a global scale, bringing together States, the private sector and civil society in general.

Agenda 2030 is the global community's ambitious response to the challenges of sustainable development, another important milestone for the recognition of the importance of Youth for national and international development. It is in this document that the General Assembly recognizes for the first time that «children and young women and young men are critical agents of change and will find in the new Objectives a platform to channel their infinite capacities towards activism in the creation of a better world»³². Reiterating the role of children and young peo-

The 2030 Agenda is structured around **3 pillars**: economic, social and environmental;

5 areas of action (5Ps): people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships;

17 Sustainable Development Goals:

1. Eradicate poverty;
 2. Eradicate hunger;
 3. Quality healthcare;
 4. Quality education;
 5. Gender equality;
 6. Potable water and sanitation;
 7. Affordable, Sustainable energy;
 8. Decent work and economic growth;
 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure;
 10. Reduce inequality;
 11. Sustainable cities and communities;
 12. Sustainable production and consumption;
 13. Climate action;
 14. Protect marine life;
 15. Protect terrestrial ecosystems;
 16. Peace, justice and effective institutions;
 17. Partnerships to implement the objectives.
-

30. United Nations General-Secretary Envoy on Youth, «At UN-backed forum, countries pledge to develop, implement youth policies» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

31. United Nations General Assembly (2015), *A/RES/70/1: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, of 25 September 2015.

32. *Ibid.*

ple as critical agents of change³³, the Agenda 2030 recognizes the dual role of Youth within the scope of the SDGs: beneficiary and responsible for their implementation and concretization, in a logic of rights and duties.



Co-management, from the perspective of the Council of Europe, is an example of participatory democracy, which provides a space for joint reflection between Youth and public authorities. This space for dialogue, where each party participates on an equal footing, facilitates the exchange of opinions, ideas and experiences and the joint construction of solutions, with a spirit of mutual understanding and respect.

Council of Europe «Co-management»
[Website consulted on 9 September 2019].

Recognizing the importance and particularities of Youth, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, urged the Envoy on Youth, together with the United Nations System and young people, to develop the Youth 2030 strategy: **Youth 2030: The United Nations Strategy on Youth**, launched in September 2018. This strategy should guide the activities of the entire United Nations Youth System across its three pillars – peace and security, human rights and sustainable development – in all contexts. The strategy seeks to significantly

strengthen the United Nations «capacity to engage young people and therein benefit from their views, ensuring that the United Nations» work in the field of Youth is developed in a coordinated, coherent and holistic manner. The strategy also aims to promote the impact and importance of Youth at the global, regional and national level, aiming to respond to the needs of Youth, develop their

33. *Ibid.*, § 51.

THE SDGS AND YOUTH

The SDGs address the main challenges faced by Youth. Their implementation will have a transversal impact on improving the quality of life of young people and some of the Goals have a direct correlation with Youth, such as:

SDG 1 – Eradicate poverty and **SDG 2** – Eradicate hunger – in a world where 500 million young people live on less than \$2 a day*;

SDG 3 – Quality healthcare – fundamental goal in a world where traditional health challenges (vaccination, HIV, reproductive health, drug use...) are aggravated by new health problems, fostered by globalization, migration and climate changes;

SDG 4 – Quality education – crucial to achieve the personal development of young people and the collective development of societies;

SDG 5 – Gender equality – young women continue to be particularly affected by conditions of poverty, deprived of access to education and the target of sexual and domestic violence. In addition, women, and especially young women, remain underrepresented in the spheres of power, both political and economic;

SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth – creating more and better jobs as a means for social and economic inclusion is essential to face the marginalization of young people who do not study, work or attend training;

SDG 10 – Reducing inequalities – it is fundamental for Youth, which should not be seen as a homogeneous group. Inequalities based on factors such as sex, disabilities, ethnicity, religion and economic and social status, among others, mean that there are particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups among young people, so it must be ensured that no young person is left behind and that you reach the most disadvantaged first;

SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities, with around 50% of the world's population** living in urban centres, all efforts to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable spaces are essential to achieve a sustainable future;

SDG 13 – Climate action, essential for young people today and for future generations, who will bear the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation.

* Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, «#YouthStats: Hunger and Poverty» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

** United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs News, «68% of the world population projected to live in urban areas by 2050, says UN» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

agency and advance their rights in all their diversity, guaranteeing their involvement and participation in the implementation, revision and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. The document offers a strong perspective of co-management in its pursuit among young people and the various United Nations Agencies.

The document contextualizes the situation of Youth in the world according to the 2030 Agenda and identifies the role of the United Nations as a source of protection and support for young people, as well as acting as a platform to articulate their needs. The strategy's vision can be described as «a world in which the human rights of every young person are realized; that ensures every young person is empowered to achieve their full potential; and that recognizes young people's agency, resilience and their positive contributions as agents of change»³⁴.

The **PRIORITY AREAS OF THE YOUTH2030 STRATEGY** are:

1. Involvement, Participation and Advocacy: ensuring that Youth has an effective participation at global, regional and national levels;
2. Education and Health: support the general access of Youth to quality education and health services;
3. Economic autonomy through decent work: supporting access to employment;
4. Human Rights and the Rights of Young People: protect and promote access to rights and support their civic and political involvement;
5. Peace and Resilience Building: supporting Youth as a catalyst for Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action.



³⁴. United Nations (2018), *Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy. Working with and for Young People*.

2 | LISBOA+21

World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum



In 2019, for the second time, Lisbon hosted the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. Ministers, members of the Government and senior officials from the Youth field from around the world have gathered to discuss progress and ways to better ensure that the human rights of young people are realized. The Conference brought together one hundred delegations with the participation of fifty Ministers responsible for Youth and one hundred and twenty Youth Delegates who met to discuss guidelines for Youth policies and programmes. For the first time in the history of the Global Ministerial Conferences, Delegates and Youth Delegates, representatives of the Youth of their country, accompanied the formal Delegation of Governments and discussed, on an equal footing, the progress of the last 21 years and the commitments required to face the megatrends that shape the present and the future.

Both Lisbon Conferences culminated on a final declaration, a set of commitments that all Governments subscribe as the basis for Youth policies and pro-

grammes, both national and international. The Lisbon Declaration was signed by the Ministers present, but the Lisbon+21 Declaration was proclaimed not only by the government representatives of the countries present, by the Delegates and Youth Delegates as well. Co-decision between Governments and youth representatives is considered a good practice, successfully tested by the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisbon+21. With the success of the experience hardly will there be a going back on the matter. The event and its preparation were entirely co-managed and co-decided between the Portuguese Government and the Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ). For the first time in history, the representative structure of Youth in a country has prepared, together with its Government, an event of the highest importance that established global commitments in terms of Youth policies and programmes.

The United Nations, as the main international forum for policy coordination among the various countries of the globe, closely followed the Lisbon+21 process, endorsed the event and consequently so was the Declaration Lisbon+21, by the Secretary-General and the Secretariat, the Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Youth and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). In the universe of specialized agencies, the Conference was endorsed by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). UN DESA ensured, in accordance with its mandate and as permanent president of the Network of Agencies on Youth Development, the connection with the universe of the United Nations and its Member States. The specialized agencies brought their knowledge to the event and their endorsement also means they will use the Lisbon+21 Declaration as a guiding document for Youth policies and programmes.

The starting point for both the 1998 and the 2019 Conference (and all global initiatives in the field of Youth) was the international framework that continued to serve as the basis for national and international action in the field of Youth – the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted more than two decades ago, in 1995. Based on this World Program of Action, in 1998, Ministers proclaimed the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes that contains specific guidelines for key areas that had already been identified in the World Action Program. The recently proclaimed Lisbon+21 Declaration aims to make the necessary updates to the World Action Program and the Lisbon Declaration ensuring they can respond to new global challenges.



At first glance, the relevance of these two documents adopted more than 20 years ago for innovative public policies may be questioned. Both the World Program of Action and the Lisbon Declaration have established, for the first time, basic principles for Youth policies and programmes that remain valid regardless of the time frame, because they were founded on the basic principles of democracy, that is to say, human rights and citizen participation.

LISBON DECLARATION ON YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

The first World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the declaration that it gave birth to, was born from the challenge launched by the World Programme of Action to intensify mutual cooperation between Ministers responsible for Youth, which should materialize in regular meetings viewing the establishing of a global dialogue on youth-related issues.

The dialogue carried out in Lisbon gave rise to the set of commitments enshrined in the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes of 1998. The final document, organized in a sectorial frame, presents specific commitments for

eight areas of activity: the three themes of the Year 1985 Youth International (participation, development and peace), four priorities of the World Program of Action (education, employment, health and drug abuse) and Youth policies and programmes.

The text of the Lisbon Declaration initiates with the recognition of Youth as a positive force in society with enormous potential to contribute to the development and progress of societies. However, it is recognized that this potential is limited by the numerous problems that affect young people, including conditions of poverty, unemployment, drug and other substance abuse, violence, including sex-based violence, neglect, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

The Lisbon Declaration makes the important recognition that these problems do not affect all young people in the same way and that within the category of «young person» there are particularly vulnerable groups, for example, young people involved in armed conflicts or refugees, migrants, displaced and orphaned, disabled, indigenous, belonging to ethnic and cultural minorities, delinquents, pregnant teenagers, and other young people in disadvantaged and marginalized situations.

The non-categorization of Youth as a monolithic whole is an important feature of the Lisbon Declaration, as it recognizes that different problems affect different groups of young people in different ways and therefore solutions must be adjusted. The fact that the list is not closed and includes «other young people of both disadvantaged and marginalized genders» is also relevant, giving other groups of young people the power to use the Lisbon Declaration to defend their rights, namely LGBTI young people, to which the declaration makes no direct reference.

In this introductory section, also worth mentioning are the difficulties and obstacles that still close off the full participation of women in all sectors of society, in particular girls and young women. However, gender inequality is addressed in a very timid way throughout the Lisbon Declaration, with mere sporadic references to gender treatment differences, limiting inequalities to biological issues and not addressing gender as a social construction. The importance of ensuring that the commitments made in the Lisbon Declaration benefit young women and young men equally is always affirmed through the expression «young men and women». Gender equality has been gaining attention in the United Nations since the mid-1970s, and in the 1990s the situation of women began to be officially understood as a human rights issue. This new paradigm has allowed the situation of women and the violation of their rights

to be included and closely associated with the major problems of the world, namely issues of Youth³⁵.

The Lisbon Declaration frames its text in a series of documents of affirmation of rights, namely the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Agreements on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and other human rights standards implemented by some Member States, namely the Declaration on the Right to Development, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In doing so, the Lisbon Declaration states the importance of respect for Human Rights in the formulation of policies and programmes for Youth and in the solving of its problems. However, the need to respect the human rights of young people is not clearly stated.

The most innovative factor of the Lisbon Declaration is the commitment to the need to formulate Youth policies and programmes, which must be monitored at the highest level and must have adequate resources. These policies and programmes must be intersectoral and participatory, constructed through processes of consultation of young people, who must be involved in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies. The commitment to establishing objectives and measurable indicators is a powerful instrument of accountability of States as they allow monitoring the progress actually made in this field.

The states present made, as mentioned above, commitments related to the themes of the International Year of Youth 1985. Besides the incentive to the active **participation** of Youth in all spheres of society and decision-making processes through anti-discriminatory measures to ensure equality of access for all young people, the States present undertook the compromise to facilitate the access of young people to the sovereignty organs so that they are involved in the «execution, monitoring, supervision and evaluation of youth activities and programmes, thus guaranteeing their participation in development³⁶». To this end, policies to support young people's associations, based on the principles of independence and democracy, should be strengthened. Also, channels of communication with young people should be created. The process of bringing young people closer to political decision-making centres should give priority to

35. The Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (2013), *International Strategy for Gender Equality – Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995-2005)*. Lisbon: Commission for citizenship and gender.

36. Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, *ibid.*, §12.

the most marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged people, thus guaranteeing equal opportunities.

Youth seen as a positive force in society is a sign that States are committed to involving young people not only in policies that directly concern them, but also in national development plans and programmes. Sustainable development, at an economic, social and environmental level, was already an objective to be achieved with the contribution of young people and through international cooperation. States have pledged to guarantee the right to development of all young people by emphasizing the role of Youth in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national development plans and programmes³⁷. The creation of policies to combat poverty must focus on economic development, guaranteeing the rights to decent housing and ensuring safe, healthy and stable living, environmental and working conditions, including their protection. The concerns of young people must be integrated into all relevant national and local policies and programmes.

States have committed on the prevention of the participation and involvement of young people in all types of violence, on the one hand, and on the other hand, on the reinforcement of the role of young people and their organizations towards **peace**, conflict prevention and resolution. To this end, they have committed themselves to building an effective culture of peace and tolerance, putting into practice a universal system of education and peace training. The section on peace is undoubtedly a reflection of the historical period in which the Lisbon Declaration was approved, in a post-cold war context in which several civil conflicts were triggered. Youth is urged to constitute a force for peace and for the reconciliation between peoples, ensuring that young people can live in an environment free from threats, conflicts, all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.

In the field of **education**, commitments were made to promote formal and non-formal education, functional literacy and lifelong learning, to guarantee equal access and the continuation of good quality basic education, as well as to allocate resources to vocational training to facilitate the integration of young people in the labour market. States have also committed themselves to defining national objectives for extending equal access to other levels of education, as well as to guarantee the improvement of education. These measures must not forget young people in situations of particular vulnerability and social exclusion.

37. *Ibid.*, § 20.

The section on education has maintained its relevance to this day. Education is regarded from a holistic perspective, going beyond the sole objective of acquiring skills and entering the job market. In addition to guaranteeing access to the various levels of formal education, the Lisbon Declaration affirms the importance of non-formal education in acquiring skills for the future life, as well as for the job market. However, education must fulfil roles other than access to work. It must contribute to the knowledge of rights; it must contribute to balanced physical, intellectual, artistic, moral, emotional and spiritual development, as well as to social integration. Education also plays a role in family life by promoting reproductive health and preventing abuse of drugs and other substances.

A central concern of young people is access to the **job market** and the lack of work opportunities. Also, on this topic, the Lisbon Declaration maintains its relevance, as the objective of full employment affirmed by the States remains to be achieved. Equal opportunities are a central concern of the Lisbon Declaration and, in this respect, a commitment is made to approve laws against discrimination based on sex regarding the job market access and to promote protection against salary discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin, nationality, sexual orientation, disabilities, political options, creed or religion, or even social, cultural or economic strata, promoting legislation that guarantees equal salaries for equal functions, or functions of equal value. The concept of decent work is not clearly stated, but it emerges as a principle, both in the commitment to take action with regard to the unequal treatment when applying for a job and in the commitments on development that state the right to living conditions, safe environment, and stable and healthy working conditions.

The correlation between education and employment, once more, is reflected in the commitment of the States to improve partnerships between public authorities, the private sector and educational establishments in order to respond to market demands, ensuring the permanent adaptation of the education sector to social and economic environment changes, including the work market demands.

In the **health** sector, the present States have committed themselves to creating the necessary political, legal, social and material conditions to provide access to basic health care that include services addressing young people's special needs; awareness programmes for the prevention of tobacco and alcohol consumption; reproductive health care services and awareness for the existence of sexually transmitted diseases; access to legal methods of family planning, to ensure the physical, mental and social well-being of young people in an environment of safety and protection.

The abuse of drugs and other substances is the last topic addressed in the Lisbon Declaration, with a commitment to raise young people's awareness for the dangers for the abuse of drugs and other substances and to promote alternatives that enable young people to follow healthy lifestyles. States have also committed themselves to collaborate with young people on strategies for the prevention and combat of drug abuse and trafficking; for reducing demand and promoting support for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts viewing their reintegration into society.

Finally, States invite the United Nations System to give greater support to national Youth policies and programmes. States have agreed on promoting research, on collecting information and statistics on Youth, as well as on the wide dissemination of results. In light of all the above-mentioned commitments, Governments have committed themselves to implement the measures and promote the continued enacting of the World Programme of Action with the active participation of young people, thus ensuring that Youth's own perspective is reflected in policies and national programmes.

LISBOA+21 DECLARATION

The Lisboa+21 Declaration is the result of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum Lisboa+21. Although it does not bind States legally, nor can it be invoked in individual cases before national courts and/or the International Court of Justice, it is a strong document, in which the various Governments present commit themselves to comply with certain basic principles when designing, implementing and evaluating their Youth policies and programmes. The document was proclaimed both by the

Ministers responsible for Youth and by the Youth Delegates present at the event and incorporates the vision of Governments and Youth on an equal footing. Before dissecting the text of the Lisboa+21 Declaration, it should be noted that the document does not introduce a definition of Youth, *per se*. It acknowledges that Youth is not a static phase and that young people of different ages have different needs. It recognizes that young people are affected by national and regional differences. The phase highlighted

At the global level, there is no consensual and exact definition of Youth. The definition of Youth used at the United Nations level determines that Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence. For statistical purposes, it defines those persons between the ages of 15 and 24. However, the age at which the person becomes independent is a variable factor, so it is very difficult to define a fixed range.

the most is adolescence that requires specific attention from Youth policies and programmes.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration is an integral part of the global heritage in terms of Youth policies and programmes. It is a document that should not be read and interpreted in an isolated perspective. The Ministers Responsible for Youth and Youth Delegates reiterated the relevance of several other international documents and affirmed the basis upon which Youth policies and programmes should be built. The referred documents should be considered from an integrated perspective and the Lisboa+21 Declaration should be understood as a response to the new challenges emerging in the 21st century, within the framework of the 20th century.

The most important document that serves as guidance to the commitments of the Lisboa+21 Declaration is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which ensures that the approach to Youth policies and programmes is based on Human Rights. After the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Community developed documents that deepen certain areas, certain rights or the rights of certain specific groups of society. The Lisboa+21 Declaration states that Youth policies and programmes must take into account, in addition to the UDHR, all other relevant instruments for the protection, promotion and realization of the human rights of young people. This reference establishes the implementation of Human Rights in a comprehensive understanding as a starting point. There is no reference to specific documents, so it is understood that these are all international instruments, on both civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights, as well as instruments that establish the rights of vulnerable groups (such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Conven-

The commitments of the Lisboa+21 Declaration address the following areas:

1. Human rights and democracy.
 2. Sustainable development.
 3. Gender equality and inclusion.
 4. Combating violence against youth.
 5. Environmental sustainability.
 6. Participation and associations.
 7. Empowerment and non-discrimination based on age.
 8. Free time, mobility and international participation.
 9. Structured participation in the United Nations System.
 10. Health and social protection.
 11. Comprehensive sexual education.
 12. Quality inclusive education.
 13. Decent work and economic empowerment.
 14. Protection of Youth rights in conflict situations.
 15. Access to information and technology.
 16. Evidence and knowledge-based youth policies and programmes.
 17. Lisboa+21 multilevel and multisectoral implementation and monitoring.
 18. Integrated evaluation of Lisboa+21.
 19. Cooperation and co-management in the implementation of Lisboa+21.
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tion on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women or the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, among others).

The Lisboa+21 Declaration also refers to regional instruments that recognize Youth as a specific and vulnerable group that needs special protection for the realization of their rights and, thus, establish a specific framework for Human Rights. To this day, the two regional instruments are the Ibero-American Convention on Rights of Youth and the African Youth Charter. At the global level, there is no specific legal instrument on the rights of youth. However, the report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Youth³⁸ prepared in 2018 recognizes that young people face difficulties in exercising their rights due to being young and recognizes that there are, in fact, gaps in the protection of their Human Rights³⁹. Thus, it recommends the Human Rights Council to consider the possibility of creating a global instrument. The Lisboa+21 Declaration can be considered one more step taken by the International Community in that direction.

The World Programme of Action for Youth continues to be the most relevant global document in the field of Youth, establishing the framework for all international and national action in the field of Youth. At the same time, the Agenda 2030, as an ambitious commitment by the International Community to promote fair and supportive global development, sets specific goals for Youth and recognizes it not only as an addressee but also as an active agent in the global efforts for sustainable development.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration also reinforces the importance of the Lisbon Declaration, recognizing not only its pioneering role in Youth policies and programmes at the global level, but also the relevance of the priority areas of action and the commitments of that document. However, in 21 years the world has changed radically. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has been warning about the importance of understanding the megatrends that impact our world. Megatrends are multiple changes in constant evolution that reinforce each other. These are dynamics of a geopolitical, demographic, climatic, technological, social and economic nature that raise the level of threats on an unprecedented scale, on the one hand, and the opportunities⁴⁰, on the other hand.

38. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Youth (2018), *Youth And Human Rights*.

39. *Ibid.*, § 89 c).

40. António Guterres (2016), *Challenges and Opportunities for the United Nations*.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration lists some megatrends that impact Humanity, Youth in particular, and that have caused changes that led to the need to change some approaches and policies. Youth issues are transversal to all sectors of public policies, and, above all, Youth will inherit the impact of today's actions. The Lisboa+21 Declaration highlights the importance of the political action of the present time and establishes basic principles for all types of policies, activities and programmes to be developed for Youth and together with Youth.

In order to provide adequate responses to the challenges and opportunities posed by the megatrends, the Lisboa+21 Declaration is based on three main axes that serve as basic principles for policies and programmes in the Youth area. Firstly, the Lisboa+21 Declaration recognizes that the human rights of young people are not fully realized and establishes that policies and programmes must be based on human rights, namely the realization of human rights for young people. The second fundamental element is the participation of Youth in the planning, execution and evaluation of policies and programmes. And, thirdly, the long-term principle that should shape policies and programmes is sustainability in its three aspects: economic, social and environmental.



These three principles are transversal to all actions in the Youth area and are part of the integrated perspective of the Lisboa+21 Declaration. In all sectoral areas, these are the three principles that should define the lines of action of Youth policies and programmes. The three principles are to be considered together and not to be considered separately. All actions must aim at the realization of Human Rights, should count on the participation of Youth and have a perspective on sustainability.

Over the next three chapters, we will analyse in depth each one of the three components of this approach keeping in mind that they form an inseparable set, working as the backbone of the Lisboa+21 Declaration commitments and an integrated perspective for Youth policies and programmes.

Human rights are inherent rights for all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status.

International human rights law establishes the obligations of governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts in order to promote and protect human rights and the fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups. One of the great achievements of the United Nations is the creation of a comprehensive set of human rights standards, a universal and internationally protected code, which all nations subscribe to and all people aspire to. The United Nations has defined a wide range of internationally accepted rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. They also established mechanisms to promote and protect these rights and assist States in fulfilling their responsibilities.

United Nations, «Human Rights» [Site consulted 9 September 2019].

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Lisboa+21 Declaration states that the main objective of Youth policies and programmes should be to promote, protect and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all young people. This is the first topic of the Lisboa+21 Declaration, and also the first of the commitments. It is critical to place Human Rights at the heart of all political action in the area of Youth.

Human rights are the normative framework recognized by all the countries in the world; they are part of the international law and supported by international conventions, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Human rights are action-oriented, requiring a specific approach in the policies and programmes definition. An effective approach to Human Rights, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, has in its essence a non-discrimination action and the adoption of an

intersectoral perspective to reach most marginalized people first. With regard to the human rights of young people, it is necessary to accomplish what remains to be done in the area of traditional challenges and human rights violations faced by young women, on the one hand. On the other hand, it is urgent to face new and emerging issues, such as the right to a safe environment and online security. When evaluating the implementation of the Universal Declaration

and other international conventions, it is necessary to articulate emerging issues, such as the situation of climate refugees, the privacy of personal data, artificial intelligence, among others.

In Portugal, the rights-based approach has traditionally had a strong presence in public policies for Youth, due to the special protection that the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic gives to that specific group. Article 70 – «Youth» of the Constitution is located under Title III, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Duties and lists specific rights of Youth that have been serving as a basis for public policies in that area.

All international human rights instruments are valid for young people and, although there is no international legal instrument that lists the specific Human Rights of Youth, we can subtract them from the various documents, interpreting them from a life cycle

perspective. The life cycle perspective means attending the specifics of the stage of life the person is undergoing and ensuring that, regardless of the specific needs their age dictates, all people are guaranteed equal dignity and equal access to Human Rights.

The situation of Youth concerning rights and freedoms is of special context because it deals with the transition age from childhood to adulthood, the transition from a dependence situation to independence. Youth is the stage of life when the child's growth in physical and cognitive terms is complete, but the material, psychological, social and relational independence is not yet accomplished. In order to contribute to the development of young people in personal, social and civic terms, it is necessary to provide them with specific protection.

Even though it is not a legally binding document for countries, the Lisboa+21 Declaration establishes concrete parameters that serve as a basis for the systematic mainstreaming of Youth in all areas, ensuring the realization of the Human Rights of young people.

GENDER EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INTERSECTIONALITY

The Lisboa+21 Declaration states that the realization of Human Rights must consider the specific needs of each young person in an intersectional approach and give priority to the young people who are left behind, as foreseen in the 2030 Agenda. With this formulation, the Lisboa+21 Declaration not only recognizes the diversity of Humanity, but it also affirms equality within these diversities as a Human Right.

Diversity has a special place in the Lisboa+21 Declaration. It is affirmed as one of the basic transversal principles for Youth policies and programmes and it is also introduced in the various commitments in a prominent and transversal way. The specific groups of young people most important to Youth policies and programmes at the global level are highlighted by the Lisboa+21 Declaration but the list is not a closed one. Youth policies and programmes should take into account the inclusion and integration of girls and young women, as well as

Mainstreaming of Youth means the integration of the Youth perspective in the planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of public policies. It is the process of assessing the implications for young people of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes. It is a strategy to make young people's concerns an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political spheres.

Adapted definition of the conclusions agreed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (1997), UN Economic and Social Council Resolution 1997/2: Agreed Conclusions, of 18 July 1997.

young people from marginalized, vulnerable groups or in vulnerable situations, such as young people with disabilities, young migrants, young people from rural origins, indigenous or belonging to ethnic minorities, as well as young people who face discrimination based on any other factor, or several factors.

Girls and young women have a prominent place among all vulnerable groups that need special attention from policies and programmes. The Lisboa+21 Declaration follows and develops the path traced by the Lisbon Declaration and defines Gender Equality and the gender perspective as a fundamental element of policies and programmes with Human Rights based approach. It is recognized that adolescent girls and young women face, in their free development and access to rights, legal, cultural, social and economic barriers, based on stereotypes and sexism. Age and gender are factors that intercede and create a situation of increased vulnerability reinforcing the weight of discrimination based on other characteristics. Globally, girls and young women are often the target of harmful institutions, attitudes and practices that hinder their development on an equal footing with their male and young male peers.

Intersectionality is a concept that has its roots in the feminist thinking that sought to introduce a matrix of analysis regarding the situation of women who face various factors of discrimination, such as ethnicity and economic situation, among others. It applies however to factors of discrimination other than gender inequality. The starting point for understanding intersectionality is that each person is multidimensional and defined by multiple characteristics, such as sex, skin colour, the place where they live, personal assets, sexual orientation, etc. Within all these dimensions, each person may have one or more characteristics that give grounds for discrimination or put the person at risk of marginalization.

These characteristics are not separate blocks. Rather, they influence the person's life in an interconnected dynamic, creating specific contexts, which can reinforce or mitigate the impact of each characteristic within that context.

In order to deconstruct complex situations and understand what factors constitute barriers to the realization of human rights of young people in situations of vulnerability or marginalization, the Lisboa+21 Declaration introduces the concept of **intersectionality**. The introduction of this concept means that Youth policies and programmes should not look at young people as a bloc, but when designing measures aimed at specific groups, they should consider the various characteristics that may cause a particular person or group to be left behind.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration calls on countries to ensure all necessary measures to abolish all forms of discrimination and violence against all young people in order to fully realize their human rights. Public youth policies should be exempt from discrimination and discriminatory practice must be addressed with a view to their abolition.



In terms of the realization of Human Rights by all young people, boys and girls, on an equal footing, the Lisboa+21 Declaration goes beyond the sphere of public policies and programmes and calls for revision, amendment or abolition all discriminatory laws or regulations. In this way, the legislator is pressured to think of Youth in a holistic and intersectional way.

These commitments are reinforced concerning girls and young women, giving specific attention to adolescent girls, aiming their empowerment and equal opportunities. The Lisboa+21 Declaration calls once again on the legislator of each country to ensure that the legal system follows international human rights law and that all obstacles to gender equality are removed.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration, in order to ensure the empowerment of girls and young women proposes policies and programmes based on affirmative action strategies. Affirmative action or positive action means developing temporary measures directed at a group that is at a disadvantage compared to other groups in society, correcting that disadvantage. By introducing affirmative action as a tool for Youth policies and programmes, the Lisboa+21 Declaration goes beyond the mere formal approach to equality and evolves to a substantive approach.

Formal equality means treating all people equally, regardless of their differences. An example of formal equality is equality before the law, which treats all people equally regardless of their specific characteristics. This approach is

important as a starting point but, at the same time, treating people subject to structural discrimination equally may perpetuate their disadvantage and not contribute to their equality. Formal equality between young people in a situation of vulnerability and in a situation without vulnerability gives privileges to the latter group, rather than balancing opportunities.

Thus, to complete equal treatment, the concept of **substantive equality** was introduced, which aims to correct situations of inequality and contribute to material equality. This perspective starts from the Aristotelian principle of treating the same as equal and the different as different, always focusing on the person who is in the worst situation and intending to balance his/her opportunities. The substantive equality approach looks carefully at situations of discrimination, analyses what are the roots of disadvantages and intends to adapt existing structures to accommodate diversity. It does not expect people in situations of vulnerability to be able to adapt to the structures that perpetuate discrimination. It adapts the structures so that they can serve a wider diversity of people. While it may appear to violate the principle of equal treatment, affirmative action actually promotes substantive equality by taking steps to correct those disadvantages⁴¹.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration, in addition to affirming the principles of diversity and Gender Equality, also addresses specific rights that Youth policies and programmes should promote. According to Governments and Youth, the listed rights are the most relevant for young people. The Lisboa+21 Declaration also offers guidelines for the specificities that must be taken into account in order to ensure that all young people have access to a certain right and, furthermore, that policies address the most urgent issues aiming sustainable development that mitigates the negative impacts of current megatrends and make the most of their positive impacts.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND DECENT WORK

One of the issues that most concern Youth and Governments in 2019 is access to decent work and quality employment. The Lisboa+21 Declaration firmly emphasises the economic empowerment of Youth, intrinsically linked to decent employment. It also highlights the challenges that exist in this area due to gender stereotypes, such as the segregation of the labour market, salary differ-

41. Fredman, Sandra (2016), «Substantive equality revisited» *International Journal of Constitutional Law*. 14-3, 712-738.

ences; also, the differences in treatment that boys and girls face from a young age and that strongly contribute to the fact that young women are at greater risk of poverty than their male counterparts.

The present world of work faces new challenges, while, at the same time, some problems of the past persist. The challenge of equal economic empowerment, as well as youth employment, has been addressed over the decades, but remains a fundamental concern. Youth unemployment has been on the rise and the ILO estimates that 21,8% of young people are not in employment, education or training (young NEET), mostly young women⁴². Young people, when it comes to types of work, are less secure and less protected when compared to people of other ages (temporary jobs, jobs without a written contract or jobs without social protection) and often they do not receive equal pay for work of equal value. The Lisboa+21 Declaration is concerned not only with the quantity of employment, that is, with the access of all people to a job, but also with the quality of the jobs. It is essential to ensure that Youth have access to decent employment, both in terms of wages, as well as in terms of sustainability and life project. Unpaid internships, first jobs without a contract or with salaries below the minimum wage mean that there is a large discrepancy between the young and non-young population in terms of remuneration. The Lisboa+21 Declaration, when talking about sustainability, supports a model where young people are paid with dignity in jobs that contribute to their career. It is equally important that these jobs and the legal system give equal access to social protection and Social Security benefits. Young people looking for their first job, or on unpaid internships, rarely have access to Social Security benefits, since support is mostly linked to prior discounts.

Among the work-related commitments, the Lisboa+21 Declaration refers to international labour standards and the importance of their application. It is essential to promote systems of control and accountability both in the public and private sectors on equal pay for equal work concerning Youth in order to reduce the precariousness of youth employment.

The concept of decent work, as defined by the ILO, means having «opportunities to do productive work with fair pay; workplace safety and social protection for families; better prospects for personal development and social integration; freedom to express their concerns; organization and participation in decisions that affect their lives; and equal opportunities and treatment».

International Labour Organization, «Decent Work» [Website consulted on 9 September 2019]

42. International Labour Organization (2017), *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2017: Paths to a better working future*.

There is investment in youth entrepreneurship worldwide and Portugal is no exception. Both globally and in Europe and especially in Portugal, small and medium-sized companies concentrate the majority of jobs. This business framework, with its flexibility and creativity, can adapt to changes in the economy quickly. In order to support youth creativity, the Lisboa+21 Declaration proposes to support self-employment and youth entrepreneurship, based on the new opportunities that emerge from structural changes in the economy.

Entrepreneurship support programmes have been successful in supporting young people's ideas and creativity, but at the same time, not all young people have entrepreneurial aspirations. Many young people aspire to traditional forms of employment with access to rights linked to work and employment, as well as their traditional guarantees, such as the employment contract, social security and a clear separation between personal and professional life.

Digitalization and automation have been restructuring the labour market and gave origin to new demands on human resources. Most young people in the education system today will have jobs that do not yet exist. In order to maximize the gains of the transformative potential of the 4th industrial revolution, countries must understand clearly the changes it brings to the labour market in order to invest proactively in the preparation, training and lifelong education of people, namely of young people⁴³. The Lisboa+21 Declaration draws attention to the importance for Governments to invest significantly in studying the labour market trends, preparing and adapting their economic and legal system, social protection institutions and, above all, social security policies; promoting the skills of young people, as well as their opportunities for lifelong education, not disregarding the protection of a strong social security system. The skills that young people need to gain for the flexibility that the job market of the future requires are inherently human skills such as critical thinking, creativity, empathy and emotional intelligence. It is essential to invest in the employability of Youth, in view of the challenges that bring about changes in the structure of the labour market. Young people need to be prepared to integrate the labour market and face daily challenges. The inadequacy of the education and training system, as well as the lack of information about their rights, puts Youth at disadvantage. It is necessary to provide opportunities through a quality education, training and a lifelong learning system, both formal and non-formal.

43. The World Economic Forum (2018), *The Future of Jobs 2018*.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION: HUMAN COMPETENCES AND DIGITAL COMPETENCES

In recent decades, largely due to the efforts of the World Programme of Action, the commitments of the Lisbon Declaration and the Millennium Goals, there has been a breakthrough in the area of education. In the 1990s, the biggest challenge in the area of education was illiteracy and the general lack of access to primary education. In 2019, most children attend primary school. Of concern for Governments and Youth is, on the one hand, secondary and higher education and, on the other hand, the quality of education and the quality of teaching that schools and institutions offer to young people. However, there are still about 263 million children and young people not attending school and there are still high rates of illiteracy and school dropout, especially among girls, young people with disabilities and young people living in rural areas⁴⁴. So, there are still many young people, especially from the specific groups referred to when speaking about diversity and gender equality, who do not have access to the right to education, which is fundamental, for the full development of their personality and, on the other hand, for their full participation in society and in the labour market. The Lisboa+21 Declaration is concerned with the access of all young people to formal, technical, non-formal, informal and vocational education and training, including learning not only in terms of traditional literacy, but also life skills, soft skills and has a special focus on digital and media literacy.

The proliferation of information and communication technologies (ICT) associated with digitalization has been developing a very strong impact in all areas of human activities. Technology has great potential to improve the lives of young people, but at the same time differences in access can reinforce inequalities. We live in an increasingly digital and increasingly global world where people find it very easy to communicate, share knowledge, collaborate and connect via the internet. On the one hand, ICT facilitates the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and reinforces the importance of Youth in this process, taking into account that this age group represents 71% of Internet users worldwide⁴⁵.

The digital divide is the difference and inequality between people who have the means to access and skills to use information and communication technologies (ICT) and people who do not have the means and / or skills.

44. Hujo, Katja; Carter, Maggie (2019), «Transformative Change for Children and Youth in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development» *Innocenti Working Paper*. UNICEF Office of Research.

45. United Nations Children's Fund (2017), *The State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World*.

But, access to new technologies is uneven across countries and social groups. This digital divide creates imbalances in the opportunities for participation and affects the most marginalized groups in the first place, thus reinforcing the risk of perpetuation of that marginalization. In addition, ICT has also opened new doors for human trafficking, sexual exploitation, bullying, isolation and exclusion, affecting security and mental health, especially for young people. The issues of online privacy and the sharing of data and personal information also pose new challenges for societies.

In the face of these challenges, Governments and Youth are committed to promoting inclusive digital and media literacy policies and programmes that addresses the access of all young people to technology and information. Access to clear, understandable and accurate information is a requirement that has been gaining prominence. Access to reliable and comprehensible information for young people can only be ensured if, on the one hand, there is access to the information and communication technology itself and, on the other hand, if there is an effort from society and from the State, to provide understandable and accurate information; also if the young person has the necessary skills to distinguish false information from reliable information. To combat the digital divide and inequalities, including, but not limited to, geography, gender, economic status and language, it is essential to ensure access to tools such as computers, mobile phones or tablets and to provide training on their use. Public and private entities must also ensure that the information they make available online is clear, easy to understand and does not mislead the reader. notwithstanding it is equally important to provide young people training in skills related to logic and critical thinking, in order to capacitate them to distinguish true from false information, relevant from irrelevant. It is also necessary to develop and promote educational programmes and specific *curricula* on Human Rights, Gender Equality, gender violence, culture of peace and non-violence and global citizenship, with a view to both personal and social development and integration in the labour market. Digitalization and technological development bring new challenges to the quality of education. In the era of the fourth industrial revolution, the technical skills acquired in schools and training institutions are becoming obsolete, more and more rapidly, because *curricula* are having difficulty keeping up with the rapid technological development and structural changes in the economy.

Soft skills intrinsic to human nature and life in society, such as critical thinking, creativity or empathy, are becoming increasingly important. These are the skills that contribute to the responsible use of science and technology, to a coopera-

tive and peaceful society, as well as to the versatility of the skills related to work in the 21st century. Human skills are those that never become obsolete, because they are fundamental for personal and community development, for life in society, in general. It is necessary to promote these skills through formal and non-formal education in order to support the full participation of young people in society. Education systems face the new challenge of simultaneously offering training in work-related skills and human skills and, furthermore, promoting digital literacy. The commitment that stands out from the Lisboa+21 Declaration is to work specifically on social and gender disparities with regard to skills and to ensure, within the scope of Youth policies and programmes, a particular focus on young people in situations of vulnerability. The only way to ensure that no one is left behind in this constantly changing world is to create an inclusive lifelong learning environment where young people can develop both their technical skills, and their human skills, which make them flexible and resilient.

Soft skills are transversal skills related to personal skills (critical thinking, discipline, creativity) and social skills (teamwork, communication, emotional intelligence). They are different from hard skills, specific skills of professions because they reinforce flexibility and resilience both at a personal and professional level.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Sexual education has been a priority of Youth policies and programmes in recent decades. Both the World Programme of Action and the Lisbon Declaration highlight its importance. Sexual education plays a very important role concerning access to sexual and reproductive rights and sexual and reproductive health. The Lisboa+21 Declaration goes beyond the traditional approach that is concerned solely with sexual and reproductive health and adopts an approach towards rights in this area as well.

Sexual rights are the rights that guarantee that young people can live their sex life with pleasure and free from discrimination, while reproductive rights include the right to decide, freely and responsibly, about having children, as well as having information and means to decide, enjoying the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health.

Association for Family Planning, «Sexuality»
[Website consulted on 9 September 2019]

Sexual and reproductive rights are related to multiple human rights, including the right to life, the right to be free from torture, the right to health, the right to privacy, the right to education and the prohibition of discrimination.

Human sexuality, as well as reproduction, are spheres of life where traditions, cultures and religions have a strong influence, often tending to be contrary to

human rights. Violations of sexual and reproductive rights, especially of young women and, also, of young LGBTI people, are based on the values of society associated to the limitation of sexuality for reproductive purposes and, above all, patriarchal concepts about the role of women and men in the family and in society.

For the fulfilment of the sexual and reproductive rights of young people, information and awareness through sexual education is essential. Sexuality is a very important part of human life; however, young people have difficult access to duly substantiated, scientifically correct and human rights-based information. Youth policies and programmes must ensure that young people see their rights respected by peers, in their intimate relationships; that the institutions that provide services, respect the rights of young people, and that those services are sufficient in number and in quality. The Lisboa+21 Declaration recognizes the need for sexual education on a continuous basis throughout school, always age-appropriate and consistent with evolving capacities, addressing the various issues related to sexual and reproductive rights as they arise, combined with personal and sexual development. It is also essential that all young people, regardless of their school situation, have access to sexual education based on substantiated information, scientifically correct and based on Human Rights, in collaboration with young people, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health professionals, in line with United Nations guidelines.

In order to ensure the full realization of sexual and reproductive rights, the Lisboa+21 Declaration foresees, in addition to information on sexuality and reproductive health, the physical aspects of puberty and sexuality development, raising awareness of issues related to the psychological aspects of relationships, in order to ensure that young people can live their sexuality with pleasure and free from discrimination. Knowing one's rights and respecting the human rights of peers is essential in all interpersonal relationships. In order to promote egalitarian love relationships and prevent physical and emotional violence in intimate relationships, sexual education should include awareness of gender equality and power equality in relationships between girls and boys. Bearing in mind the traditional dynamics of intimate relationships, it is very important to take measures aimed at empowering girls and young women so that they can demand respect for their rights. It is essential to promote self-esteem and informed decision, communication and risk reduction skills in order to empower young people to develop relationships based on respect.

RIGHT TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The UN DESA and several United Nations specialized agencies, namely the World Health Organization and UNICEF, have been warning about the various health risks inherent in rapid urbanization, climate change, globalization and great mobility. Developing countries face more acute challenges in all fields of health, but Europe, and Portugal too, are under the impact of global trends.

The determining factor with the greatest influence on the health and well-being of young people is the economic factor. Poverty has a radical impact on the nutrition and health of young people. Hunger is a serious problem especially in developing countries and is responsible for more health problems than any other cause. At the same time, in developed countries, due to the poor quality of affordable food, overweight and obesity are at record levels⁴⁶. In addition to poor diet, there is a lack of physical activity that puts young people at risk for obesity. According to the World Health Organization, the lack of physical activity is one of the main causes of death in the world. More than 80% of teenagers in the world are not physically active, girls being less active than boys. There is an inverse correlation between economic development and the level of physical activity in a country, mainly due to the sedentary lifestyle, passive modes of transportation and leisure inactivity⁴⁷.

In the Lisboa+21 Declaration, Governments and Youth are committed to addressing the social determinants of health and well-being of young people and providing universal access to social protection, social services and health services. Leisure activities adapted to the needs of Youth, as well as the work of Youth professionals is essential to provide a healthy environment and an integrated personal development for young people. A very important aspect of youth health is sexuality and reproductive health. The existence of sexuality and reproductive health services adapted to the needs of youth, as well as family planning services, education information services are fundamental to the well-being of young people. In order to guarantee the youth perspective, the Lisbon Declaration proposes that sexuality and reproductive health, as well as sexual and reproductive rights, is integrated into Youth policies and programmes. The mental health of young people and adolescents has been a concern for Governments and Youth worldwide. Mental health conditions have a

46. Global Nutrition Report (2018), *2018 Global Nutrition Report: Shining a light to spur action on nutrition*.

47. World Health Organization, «Physical Activity» [webpage accessed on September 9, 2019].

significant impact on the development of more than one billion young people and their social and economic integration, including employability. Mental health problems can have different roots, but a strong investment in prevention and timely treatment is essential to prevent marginalization. Within the scope of the Lisboa+21 Declaration, world leaders and Youth representatives pledged to promote awareness actions on youth mental health, promoting access to mental health services tailored to the needs of young people, including drug abuse prevention and treatment services.

VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUTH

Domestic violence is a serious form of violation of human rights, especially for women, young people and children, which compromises the physical integrity, psychological integrity and fundamental freedoms of the victims.

Domestic violence results from an individual's domination and control over another individual(s) in intimate or family relationships (or former relationships).

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Development in all its aspects. It impacts the person in the sense of disruption in terms of mental health, it contributes to marginalization and it seriously damages health and well-being. Girls and young women are at an increased risk of violence due to gender inequalities and gender-based violence. In this sense, the Lisboa+21 Declaration highlights the eradication of harmful traditional practices

Violence has a profound impact on the lives of youth, whether in situations of conflict or war, or due to specific dynamics such as gender violence, organized crime or other specific types.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration highlights the prevention and fight against violence against young people as one of the most critical and urgent points of solution. Violence has a highly negative impact on personality development

as urgent, including female genital mutilation as well as early and forced marriage.

Sexual violence is any sexual act committed against someone's will. It can be committed by anyone, regardless of their relationship with the victim, in any environment.

It includes, but is not limited to, rape, attempted rape and sexual slavery, as well as unwanted touching, threat of sexual violence and verbal sexual harassment.

World Health Organization; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Strengthening the Medico-Legal Response to Sexual Violence.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration highlights prevention and combat to violence against young people as one of the most critical and urgent points to attend. It is the first time that these issues are addressed at a global level in the context of Youth policies and programmes. The last few years have registered great social progress in this area, formerly covered by the fear of the victims and by the silence of the testimonies. The perspective

of the Lisboa+21 Declaration focuses on victims of violence and on the prevention towards aggressive behaviour. Therefore, it is directed to young people who are victims of this type of violence, young people who witness acts of violence within family in the domestic context, or among peers in the social context. When there is violence in the family, there are always psychological marks that affect the person in the long run.

Youth policies and programmes must focus on prevention on the one hand and, on the other hand, on providing specific services for victims paying special attention to the needs of Youth across the range of services associated to those crimes, including physical health and well-being. It is essential to reduce the risk of re-victimization or perpetuation of violence. Violent attitudes are learned through education and socialization, so children and young people who witness violence have a strong tendency to resort to violence, too. At the same time, exposure to violence as victims leaves a very strong mark on the mental health of young people and contributes to their marginalization. A child or young victim of violence such as domestic violence, sexual violence or bullying is at risk of being severely impaired in their self-esteem and in their perception of the limits and normality of interpersonal relationships and, therefore, is at risk of revictimization.

Violence in armed conflicts and war scenarios disproportionately affects Youth. The Lisboa+21 Declaration recognizes, as do several other documents that precede it, the importance of Youth as agents of change in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Two United Nations Security Council Resolutions gained specific prominence in the Lisboa+21 Declaration, n.º 2250 (2015) and n.º 2419 (2018). Governments and Youth representatives have also pledged to continue to support Youth in situations of armed conflict. The Lisboa+21 Declaration recognizes the contribution of young people to the processes of peace and conflict prevention and resolution and, therefore, Youth policies and programmes should encourage the involvement of Youth, when appropriate, in activities relating to the protection of children and young people affected by situations of armed conflict. The importance of protecting schools and universities from military use is recognized, as foreseen in the international humanitarian law.

According to the preamble of the Revised European Charter for the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life: «Participation in the democratic life of any community is more than being able to elect representatives and be eligible, although these are important elements. Participation and active citizenship are about having the opportunity, the means, the space, the right and, whenever necessary, the support, to participate and influence decisions and get involved in actions and activities in order to contribute to the building of a better society».

Council of Europe – Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe (2013). *Revised European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life*.

PARTICIPATION

Youth, like all society, wants political decisions to be made with their participation. The oldest democratic premise is that of people's participation in decisions, namely those that have a direct impact on their lives.

Youth participation in democratic processes, as well as in the elaboration, execution and evaluation of public policies, was already of fundamental importance in the 1990s, but with the development of political reflection in this area, it has been gaining increasing strength. Over the years, in various countries at the global level and in the institutions of international organizations, Youth has been gaining strength and, in institutional terms, the power to influence actions

that concern it. Institutionalized examples such as the Council of Europe's Youth Consultative Council, or others, more *ad hoc*, such as the consultation process with youth associations in the construction of the National Plan for Youth, in Portugal, are examples of institutionalized participation.

In recent decades, Youth has been gaining formal recognition as an active agent of modern societies, whose civic and political participation is a great asset for public policies. Some regional organizations have been developing specific frameworks for Youth and youth participation. The African Union adopted, in 2008, the African Youth Charter; the Council of Europe established the Youth Advisory Council and the co-management system for ministerial conferences.

The ways of organizing, participating and connecting have been multiplying and horizontal mobilization – peer intervention among youngsters – is increasingly present between young people and institutions, along with more vertical methods of involvement and participation (from top to bottom, or bottom to top). Youth associations become more organized and structured. Associations have been forming formal youth representation structures, national youth councils have been organized into international regional platforms and all these structures have been consolidating the formal role of youth participation in political decision-making.

Over the past 35 years, youth participation has become transversal and has emerged as a key priority on international agendas. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes Youth as a driving force for sustainable development that contributes to peace and security. It also recognizes that youth-led organizations, networks and structures need support and training to participate in the implementation of Agenda 2030 at the local, regional and national level. Youth has actively contributed to the construction of the 2030 Agenda and has also been contributing to its implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration continues this path of deepening and increasing the importance of young people's participation and draws attention to new forms of participation. It reaffirms the importance of effective participation by Youth, through their involvement and empowerment and underlines that new online and offline forms of political, economic, cultural and civic participation have emerged and, therefore, innovation in this matter is fundamental. In the case of youth participation, institutions must be proactive and ensure an innovative way of involving Youth and adapting to their needs. It is up to the institutions to seek the participation of Youth and not to leave this burden on young people and their associations.

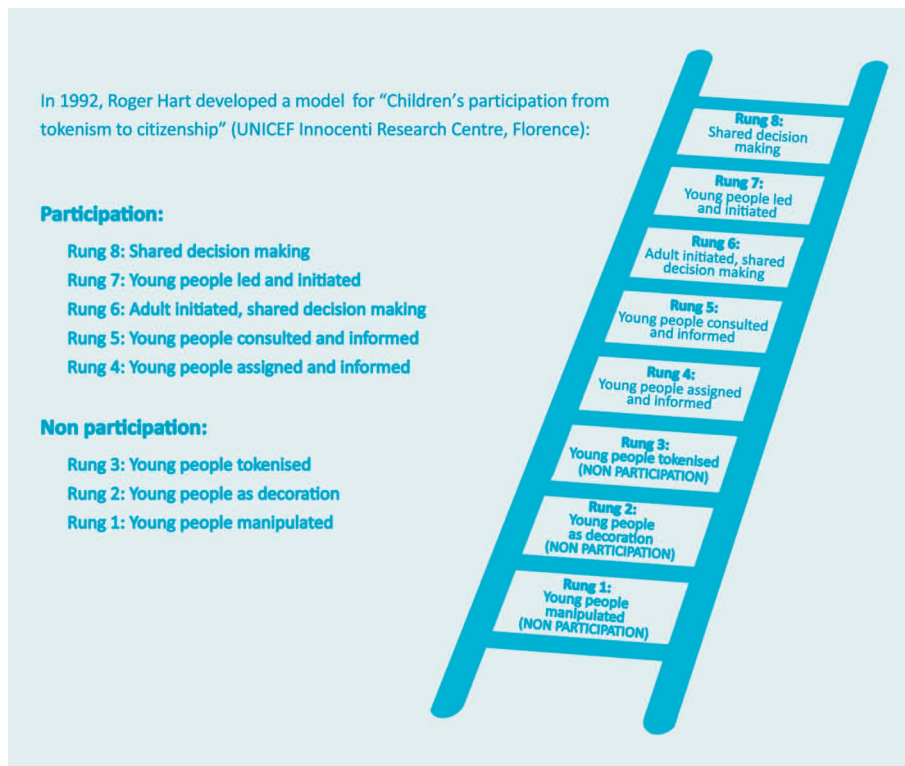
The Lisboa+21 Declaration looks at youth participation in an integrated perspective. Governments and the youth associative movement, together, also appealing to the other sovereign bodies of their countries, pledged to work on all legal, administrative, social, economic, digital and cultural barriers that limit participation and representation of all young people.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration states that participation is a right that assists all young people and highlights the role of youth associations in the realization of this right. Associations led by young people and those working with young people should be included in all phases of decision making and implementation of all public policies that directly or indirectly affect their lives. It is the responsibility of the institutions to guarantee a Youth-friendly context, respectful of democratic freedoms where young people can express themselves freely as full-fledged citizens. The groups traditionally underrepresented in the participation structures and the importance of reinforcing their presence, through targeted policies and programmes, gained a stronger emphasis.

In order to support the inclusion of Youth in decision making, it is essential to promote intergenerationally in all spheres of life. However, alongside intergenerational partnerships that rely on both young people and adults, spaces especially dedicated to youth are equally important. Age in the community and in

interpersonal relationships, in most cultures in the world, is a factor that contributes to the establishment of hierarchies. With age, we gain more experience and security in all types of situations. Not only have we more material stability allowing us a more stable intervention, but we also have more spaces for participation. In addition to these internal factors, there is a cultural factor, which in the name of good education requires special respect for older people. In this way, the participation of young people is conditioned *a priori* in mixed spaces. Without the introduction of conscious reflection and attitudes or specific systems of positive action, the voice of young people is rarely heard in institutionalized democratic participation forums.

Compass, the Council of Europe publication that has been guiding human rights education in the field of youth, as well as the mobilization of youth for participation, refers to the model of Roger Hart when working with youth participation.



Source: Council of Europe (2002), *Compass: Manual for Human Rights Education with Young people*, Portuguese Edition Dínamo (2016)

This model illustrates the different levels of participation and provides a framework for the qualitative assessment of Youth involvement. The presence of young people in a process does not automatically mean their full and effective participation. We must also analyse the level of involvement in the decision, execution and evaluation of the activities in question. Hart's model defines eight degrees of youth involvement, by which, each degree you climb represent a deeper and more effective level of participation⁴⁸.

Step 1: Young people manipulated

Manipulation happens when young people are invited to participate in a project where adults use their presence to achieve another goal, or to create a better impression of an institution. In these cases, young people are led to integrate a process on which they have no influence, and which is entirely decided, designed and executed by adults and considers the benefit of the interests of those adults.

Step 2: Young people as decoration

In this step, the presence of young people is no longer just an option that aims at a gain for adult people. They are necessary in the project to represent Youth. However, the young people who participate in it, have no significant role and are placed in a visible position as decoration.

Step 3: Symbolic presence of young people

Young people have a specific role in the activity or project, but without any influence on decisions. An illusion of participation is created when, in fact, they have no choice as to what they do and how.

Step 4: Young people nominated and informed

Projects or activities are initiated and managed by adults who involve young people inviting them to take on specific roles or tasks in the project. The role of young people is entirely defined by adults, but the former is aware and informed about the conditions, their role and the influence they have in reality.

Step 5: Young people consulted and informed

Projects or activities are initiated and managed by adults, but young people play an advisory role, make suggestions and are informed about how these suggestions contribute to the decisions or final outcomes.

48. Dínamo – Associação de Dinamização Sócio-Cultural (2016), *Compass: Manual de Educação para os Direitos Humanos com Jovens*. p. 239, 441.

Step 6: Started by adults, shared decision making

Adult people start projects or activities, but young people are invited to share the power of decision-making and responsibilities as equal partners.

Step 7: Initiated and led by young people

Projects or ideas are initiated and directed by young people. Adult people may be invited to provide the necessary support, but a project can continue without their intervention.

Step 8: Shared decision making

Projects or ideas are initiated by young people, who invite adults to be part of the decision-making process as partners.

It is fundamental to encourage and support the construction of councils, organizations, movements and networks led by young people and, at the same time, promoting democratic principles of participation at the internal level, with special attention to gender equality. Within these organizations and groups, young people can debate and analyse the most important issues

affecting Youth and have themselves represented in government structures or other intergenerational forums. Both the 2030 Agenda and the Lisboa+21 Declaration recognize young people as agents of change and a fundamental partnership for the global sustainable development efforts. For Youth to contribute with all their energy, creativity and innovative strength, it is necessary to invest in their empowerment as active agents of change in society and in the political framework.

Empowerment means a process of capacity building of people that aims to increase control over their lives, meaning to gain control over the factors and decisions that shape their lives, to increase their resources and qualities and to build means to gain access, partnerships, networks and voice.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013), *Empowerment: What does it mean to you?*

The empowerment of the youth associative movement entails the empowerment of young people as agents of change. However, within the youth associative movement, all social dynamics of power and exclusion are reproduced. For example, girls and young women are underrepresented in the leadership positions of party youth and national youth councils in the same way as women are underrepresented in senior political positions. Young people of minority ethnicities, as in the adult world, rarely see their life experiences represented in the leadership of the associations. Disabilities are an exclusion factor because people are deprived of access to physical spaces and debate. If there is no inter-

pretation, a young person who is deaf or dumb cannot communicate his ideas to his peers. Or, even without adapted spaces, a person in a wheelchair cannot access an event or meeting. There are also several other factors that contribute to the exclusion of groups of young people, such as the economic and geographical factor. Participation becomes complicated if the person does not have the financial means to secure any expenses or if he/she has to work to support himself/herself. In addition to these factors, there is also the issue of geographical centralization that provides participation opportunities for people in urban centres, especially capital cities, but it limits the access for rural youth.

In order to include young people in a vulnerable situation or in a situation of marginalization, it is necessary to ensure positive action measures. This issue, unlike most of the commitments proclaimed by Governments and Youth under the Lisboa+21 Declaration, is largely up to youth associations and their members. Diversity is a value of democracy and participation is a right for people of all social groups. In order to ensure diversity and representativeness, both Governments and young people have committed themselves under the Lisboa+21 Declaration, to include young people from vulnerable and marginalized groups on an equal footing in the youth association movement in their activities at all levels. The Lisboa+21 Declaration highlights voluntary activities in this area and commits Governments and the youth associative movement to provide volunteer opportunities for all young people, particularly people with disabilities. Another area of activity highlighted by the Lisboa+21 Declaration is international youth exchange. These programmes have a history with decades, which has come to stand out as the most enriching form of intercultural learning and of promotion of peace.

For the functioning of youth organizations, as well as other forms of active and effective participation of free, independent and systematic Youth, and in order to provide conditions to implement their commitments, Governments have committed themselves to providing support at both the material level, such as financial resources, technology, physical spaces, among others, and also at the immaterial level, such as training, information and space for intervention.

In order to ensure that young people have an influence on decision-making at the global level, it is essential to promote and deepen their participation at the United Nations level. The Lisboa+21 Declaration highlights, on the one hand, the decision-making processes within that international organization and, on the other hand, the monitoring mechanisms within the United Nations system. Strategic decision making within the United Nations is primarily a matter for the Member States and executive decisions are for the Secretary-General,

the Secretariat and specialized agencies. The presence of the youth perspective in these decisions is essential to ensure their empowerment and participation. The monitoring mechanisms within the United Nations system are the periodic reports associated to the various international human rights instruments, the work in the various Commissions of the General Assembly, the reports of the Secretary-General and, also, of the specialized agencies.

In order to guarantee the transversal participation of Youth, it is necessary to promote the existing ways and to establish new ways of including young voices, consistently considering the principles of gender equality, geographical balance and non-discrimination. The Lisboa+21 Declaration highlights the inclusion of young representatives in National Delegations to United Nations bodies such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Report, the Political Forum of High Level and other relevant United Nations conferences, as well as commemorative events. At the level of international relations, the Lisboa+21 Declaration underlines the highly important role of Youth in conflict resolution and humanitarian action.

Sustainability is a long-term objective (that is, a more sustainable World), while sustainable development refers to the many processes and ways to achieve it (for example, sustainable agriculture and forestry, sustainable production and consumption, good governance, research and technology, education and training, etc).

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, «Sustainable Development» [Website consulted 9 September 2019].

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable development is the United Nations' comprehensive paradigm for global development efforts. The concept of sustainable development was defined in 1987 by the Brundtland Report as follows: «Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need»⁴⁹.

In the sense of this definition, sustainable development has a dual importance for Youth. Young people are both a generation of the present and a generation of the future. They need, on the one hand, to meet their needs in the present, but at the same time, they are the ones who will have to respond to their needs in the future. It is the young people of the present and the adult people of the

⁴⁹ World Commission on Environment and Development (1987), *Our Common Future, From One Earth to One World*.

future who will inherit all the wealth and problems of the present. In this way, the Declaration Lisboa+21 highlights as fundamental to base Youth policies and programmes on a holistic approach that includes environmental, economic and social sustainability for present and future generations, seeking the balance between these three dimensions in order to ensure a better quality of life.

Youth development has a holistic nature and is transversal to all sectors of development. Thus, Youth policies and programmes must be aligned, on the one hand, in a transversal way, with the global sustainability framework and, on the other hand, with the sectoral development objectives. In the same logic, sustainability must be seen from a broad perspective, as it is closely linked to several other issues and objectives such as good governance, biodiversity, climate and population and development.

The three dimensions of sustainability (social, economic and environmental) are equally important for Youth and are part of the comprehensive and holistic approach to looking at public policies in this area. The environmental dimension has been gaining prominence in part due to Youth's concern for the planet, student climate strikes and the action of young activists. The environment is today at a very high risk of destruction by human activity and, therefore, requires concerted action by all countries of the globe. The Lisboa+21 Declaration provides for the promotion of environmental policies and initiatives aimed at developing the capacity of young people as a driving force for the actions necessary to face the challenges posed by climate change.

It is essential to promote the effective participation and involvement of Youth in climate action, with the aim of mitigating climate-related disasters, supporting solutions, prevention and awareness. To this end, it is necessary to establish partnerships between Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and youth associations and, thus, to make Youth participation and involvement in climate action effective.

It is also necessary, with the participation of Youth, to integrate the sustainable management of natural resources and human security in local, national, regional and international development strategies and to promote a healthy environment for current and future generations.

However, sustainability is not limited to the environmental dimension. The social dimension of sustainability means that development should be inclusive and should guarantee respect for human rights in all areas. Only then will it be possible to maintain social cohesion and work towards the same goals together, without fragmentation. Thus, eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimen-

sions, including extreme poverty, and fighting inequalities are among the greatest global challenges, in general, and are of particular importance in the area of Youth. It is therefore necessary to combat exclusion and inequality among young people. The Agenda 2030 aims to build a world where no one is left out and, for that, action must start targeting the most marginalized people. This component of social Sustainability is present in the Lisboa+21 Declaration inseparable from Human Rights and Diversity, as described throughout the previous chapters.

These two dimensions of sustainability are inseparable from the third dimension, sustainable economic development. Sustainability in the economy means economic growth, that is to say, financially viable development that does not compromise the economic growth of the future and that ensures environmental and social sustainability. Thus, only an economy that does not exhaust natural resources and ensure individual needs and human rights can ensure sustainable development.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration highlights the areas of employment and education as fundamental to a sustainable economic development. It aims to promote the acceleration of the transition to green and climate-friendly economies and to invest in learning and employability results, in order to guarantee social, economic and environmental sustainability.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE LISBOA+21 DECLARATION

The Lisboa+21 Declaration reinforces the relevance of the World Programme of Action and the Lisbon Declaration by providing a renewed and updated perspective regarding Youth policies and programmes. The Lisboa+21 Declaration provides substantial innovation in the methodology and approach adopted in the planning, designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies in the area of Youth.

The approach, in any of the 5 phases listed above, must comply with 10 criteria. All action must:

1. Be based on Human Rights

Youth policies and programmes must be based on the parameters established by the international normative framework for Human Rights and aim at the realization of those rights, with special attention to the specificities of age, in a

life cycle perspective. The primary objective of Youth policies and programmes should be to promote, protect and enforce the human rights of young people. Human rights are indivisible, so only an integrated view of all human rights of all people involved in the process can result in the full realization of rights.

2. Count with the participation of Youth and, also, with Youth in the leadership

Participation is a right of all young people and youth associations have a fundamental role in the realization of this right. Young people, youth-led associations and those working with young people should be included in all stages of decision making and implementation of all public policies that directly or indirectly affect their lives. Co-decision and co-management between young and non-young people are important mechanisms to be highlighted as to ensure space to work between peers and the participation and leadership of young people. It is the responsibility of the institutions to guarantee an accessible context, respecting democratic freedoms, where young people can express themselves freely as full-fledged citizens.

3. Be youth-centred

Youth policies and programmes must invest in Youth with the aim of impacting Youth and must maintain this focus throughout all the phases mentioned above. Young people must be central and not merely instrumental in these policies and programmes that must seek, at all stages and in all actions, to ensure that they meet the real needs of young people and have an effective impact.

4. Be non-partisan

Non-partisan, in this context, means free from interest and partisan sectarianism. Naturally, all policies and programmes have an ideological content formed by the majority political forces, organized into parties. Ruling parties must formulate policies according to their ideology and political programme that gave rise to their democratic election. However, policies and programmes must be impartial, independent and a long-term concern, exempt from the political cycles.

5. Be inclusive

Youth policies and programmes must be free from discrimination, and discriminatory practices must be worked on to be abolished. Policies and programmes should consider the specific needs of all young people in an intersectional way and reach the furthest behind first, as stated in the 2030 Agenda. Youth policies and programmes should take into account the inclusion and integration of young women and girls, as well as young people from marginalized or vulnera-

ble groups, such as young people with disabilities, young migrants, rural youth, indigenous youth, young people belonging to ethnic minorities, as well as young people who face discrimination based on any other reason or various reasons.

6. Be sensitive to the gender dimension

In their free development and access to rights, girls and young women face legal, cultural, social and economic barriers, based on stereotypes and sexism. Age and gender are factors that create a situation of increased vulnerability and reinforce the weight of discrimination based on other characteristics. Girls and young women are entitled to their development on an equal footing with their male and young male peers. In this sense, policies and programmes must aim at equality between boys and girls and rely on a gender mainstreaming strategy as to ensure that the needs of all young people get due response on an equal basis and exempt from stereotypes.

7. Be comprehensive

Youth policies and programmes must be developed in all areas that impact the lives of young people. Policies and programmes must be transversal to all sectorial areas and coordinated in order to guarantee a holistic view on the development of young people, sensitive to their context and different elements of their life. At the same time, in order to ensure a multilevel governance approach, policies and programmes must count on the participation of public entities at various levels, both in terms of geographical decentralization and subsidiarity, as well as in terms of hierarchies of central and peripheral public administration. They must establish partnerships not only with the public sector, but also with the private and third sectors.

8. Be evidence and knowledge based

Decisions at all stages of Youth policies and programmes must be based on reliable information and credible, relevant, independent and up-to-date research, so as to reflect the real needs and opportunities of young people. Policies and programmes must use data and science, but they must also produce data and science as to ensure that weaknesses can be corrected, and the good practices disseminated and repeated.

9. Be endowed with adequate resources

State resources must be appropriately allocated, both at a material and an immaterial level. Financial resources, equipment, facilities and infrastructures must conform to the proposal, must aim at environmental sustainability and

must be used in a way that satisfies the principles of good management. Human resources must be competent in the area and have access to continuous training and learning opportunities throughout life, with a view to renewing knowledge and preparing to implement high quality policies and programmes. The necessary resources should be allocated most effectively and among all policy and programme partners, including the public sector, and with special attention to youth associations and other close partner organizations.

10. Be transparent and accountable

Policies and programmes must be developed in order to satisfy the various dimensions of accountability, a complex concept that has a progressive character and that includes the mechanisms of control, inspection and accountability of the public power, whether institutional or non-institutional, in order to guarantee not mere compliance with current rules, but, mainly, the fulfilment of the institution's mission. In horizontal terms, there should be mechanisms and networks of public institutions to monitor, evaluate and hold peers accountable for their actions and omissions. In vertical terms, there must be mechanisms for control and accountability by the Youth. As the latter presupposes an unequal relationship, public institutions must put in place mechanisms with the potential to reduce information asymmetry, that is, to ensure transparency in all phases of Youth policies and programmes. To involve young people in these processes, it is necessary not only to inform and create specific mechanisms, but also to empower Youth for citizenship, Human Rights and political participation.

Youth policies and programmes, in order to fully obey these 10 principles, must be implemented in a multisectoral and multilateral way. They must have, at all stages, the active participation and collaboration of Youth, ensuring that the unique perspectives and contributions of young people are effectively incorporated. Wide partnerships between Governments, public and private institutions and youth associations ensure better results, greater participation and coverage; and cooperation between the various sectors contributes to the mainstreaming of Youth policies and programmes. Coordination between all players is essential to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of resources and investment.

In order to reinforce planning and evaluation and to comply with the criteria of scientific data and knowledge, it is essential to strengthen the capacity of national institutes of statistics. All countries must collect, analyse and disseminate data on Youth, including adolescents, in order to fill critical data gaps and serve as a basis for effective policy making on this specific group.



To develop inclusive and gender-sensitive policies, it is necessary to promote, research, collect and analyse data disaggregated by sex and age in all sectors. Based on the data collected, it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment regarding Youth in general and the various specific groups of young people in particular. The results of this assessment should help revise policies and programmes that impact the lives of young people and, if necessary, change them. The Lisboa+21 Declaration recognizes and reiterates the importance of

national, regional and international references and norms for Youth policies in order to better understand the complex and multifaceted challenges that young people face.

In order to contribute to the mainstreaming of Youth, the Lisboa+21 Declaration proposes to promote synergies between Youth policies and broader national development policies, programmes and structures, including all sectors of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In order to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Lisboa+21 Declaration at international and national level, it will be necessary to implement monitoring systems involving international, regional and national players, as well as youth-led organizations. The Lisboa+21 Declaration does not specifically provide monitoring tools regarding its implementation, but commits to developing comprehensive national, regional and international assessment mechanisms as well as to using or integrating existing revision mechanisms, where appropriate, with the full and meaningful participation of young people and with the objective to monitor and evaluate its operation and guide the way forward.



3

RELEVANT SPACES AND INSTITUTIONS

Youth policies and programmes are transversal to all areas and sectors. Still, there are institutions with a specific focus on Youth that ensure that mainstreaming takes place in view of the commitments and principles described in the previous chapters. In this chapter, we provide information on institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which have work developed in the area of Youth and which have placed Youth in each institution of international importance.

YOUTH IN THE UNIVERSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is the most important international organization of States and the only one that has an almost total global scope, with 193 Member States and two observer States. The United Nations aims to promote international peace, not only as a matter of security, but also of cooperation between different countries and joint development «solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion»⁵⁰ and proposes to «be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends⁵¹». The United Nations is at the heart of all initiatives with a global scope in the area of Youth, as well as the two World Conferences of Ministers Responsible for Youth and all the global heritage already mentioned.

The United Nations has a complex structure that aims to respond to international challenges, such as maintaining peace and security or global development. The United Nations Charter, the document that established the organi-

50. United Nations (1945), *Charter of the United Nations*. Art. 1, no. 3.

51. *Ibid.*, Art. 1, no. 4.

zation and that defines the way it works, comprises five organs that define the life of organization. The most important of those organs is the General Assembly where all countries participate equally, where major debates on international politics take place and which manages the organization's internal life. The Security Council is the central political decision-making body, responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The Security Council has permanent members⁵², as a result of the post-World War II international context, and non-permanent members, and its functioning reflects Global power and strength relations. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has the function to promote social and economic development in the world and to be the link with specialized organizations. Until 2006, the Human Rights Commission functioned with ECOSOC, which, from that year on, was replaced by a Human Rights Council that works with the General Assembly. The International Court of Justice is the court that decides in case of disputes between States. The United Nations Charter also establishes specific powers for the Secretariat that are ensured by the Secretary-General⁵³.

Those bodies – the General Assembly, the Security Council, ECOSOC, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat – are the main organs of the United Nations, and there are also subsidiary bodies, such as the aforementioned Human Rights Council or the High Commissioner for Refugees and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The so-called «United Nations Family» has specialized agencies and organizations, in principle independent from the United Nations, which are not an integral part of its bodies, constituted under different international treaties and which may have different Member States than those of the United Nations, but who work closely with ECOSOC and thus with the Organization⁵⁴.

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ENVOY ON YOUTH

In 1998, the Lisbon Declaration expresses the desire of the Ministers Responsible for Youth to express a greater involvement of the United Nations in the area of Youth, inviting the «Secretary-General to reinforce the Department of Youth of the United Nations Secretariat to present to the fiftieth-fourth ses-

52. United States of America, United Kingdom, France, People's Republic of China and Russian Federation.

53. Miranda, Jorge (2016), *Curso de Direito Internacional Público*, Cascais: Princípa, 6th edn., p. 273.

54. *Ibid.*, p. 274.

sion of the General Assembly proposals on ways and means of achieving this reinforcement»⁵⁵.

In 2013, this will be materialized through the creation of the figure of United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Youth. The Youth Envoy is responsible for bringing the perspective of young people to UN agencies and Member States and to ensuring that they are taken into account when making political decisions and developing programmes. In this way, the Envoy works with all agencies and all Member States with the ultimate goal of strengthening the voice of Youth and ensuring that there is consistency in policies and programmes with regard to this target audience.

On the other hand, it is also part of the Envoy's role to «advocate for the empowerment and meaningful participation of young people, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable youth»⁵⁶ and also the work of representation and establishment of agendas with agencies and Member States to «Recognize the positive contributions made by young people to advance sustainable development, peace building and upholding human rights and facilitate the maximization of the impact of those contributions»⁵⁷.

The term of office of the Special Envoy on Youth of the Secretary-General of the United Nations is five years, whose function depends on the direct appointment of the Secretary-General. The actions that take place during the mandate are guided by a work plan available on the Envoy's website⁵⁸. The first young man to take office was Ahmad Alhendawi, a Jordanian national, who, at the time of his appointment by Ban Ki-moon, was 27 years old. Ahmad played an important role in the preparations for the 2030 Agenda and contributed very actively to consolidating peace efforts in Jordan and other countries in the Middle East, that led to the adoption of the Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security⁵⁹.

In 2017, the current United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, appointed Jayathma Wickramanayake to his Special Envoy on Youth. Jayathma is a young woman from Sri Lanka who, before taking up this role, worked in the youth sector in her country, having obtained significant results in the partici-

55. *Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes* (1998), *ibid.*, § 80.

56. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary of State for Youth, «Envoy's Workplan» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

57. *Ibid.*

58. *Ibid.*

59. *Amman Youth Declaration On Youth, Peace And Security* (2015).

pation of young people through the «Hashtag Generation» movement she created. She was also Sri Lanka's first Youth Delegate to the United Nations and became the youngest woman to assume, at the age of 27, a leadership position in the United Nations.

As a Special Envoy on Youth, the three priorities of her mandate are:

- «1) Increasing Youth participation in the inter-governmental sphere, promoting the presence and participation of young people in the different forums, bodies and moments of discussion and decision of the United Nations such as General Assembly and the Security Council, the High Level Political Forum, the United Nations Social and Economic Council Forum, among others;*
- 2) Realizing the potential of young people within the United Nations system through the Youth 2030 strategy; and*
- 3) Engagement and mobilization of young people in the three pillars of the United Nations' work – Peace and Security, Human Rights and Sustainable Development – and also in Humanitarian Action through awareness and advocacy campaigns, youth participation, partnerships and coordination efforts»⁶⁰.*

The role of the Special Envoy on Youth of the Secretary-General of the United Nations thus assumes a preponderant relevance in working with and for Youth worldwide through the definition of objectives and goals for the Youth area at United Nations level and its cooperation work with Member States. By bringing up-to-date current issues for world youth and the voice of young people at the heart of political decision, it reinforces the need for involvement.

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is part of the United Nations Secretariat and is responsible for providing support to the United Nations summits and conferences, to the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to the work of the United Nations General Assembly. The UN DESA is headed by the Deputy Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs who works closely with the United Nations Secretary-General.

60. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary of State for Youth, «Envoy's Workplan» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

The UN DESA compiles and analyses statistical data from the area of Youth (among others) and compiles databases and publications to facilitate the development of duly sustained policies and programmes. Countries that request it can count on UN DESA's technical support in the formulation of their policies in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. UN DESA also supports the organization of international summits and conferences and facilitates negotiations between States and the various international organizations⁶¹.

In this way, UN DESA has been following all relevant milestones in the Youth sector, closer to the centre of the decision, both through the support provided to international conferences and in the preparation of specific reports and documents in support of the various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, and also within the scope of the work carried out with the General Assembly's Committee on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs.

UN DESA is neither an organ nor an agency, it is «just» a department of the Secretariat, but it plays a central role in monitoring and evaluating Youth policies and programmes at both the international and national levels.

Periodically, UN DESA publishes one of the most important documents on the situation of global youth, the World Youth Report, which presents a different theme every year⁶².

UN DESA is a department considerably distant from youth associations and professionals, since it only contacts with States and the United Nations System. At the same time, the publications, both the World Youth Report as well as other specific thematic publications, constitute a unique source of information about Youth in a global context. The UN DESA website also contains all documents produced by United Nations statutory bodies (reports by the Secretary-General, resolutions of the General Assembly and its commissions, among others) in the area of Youth. It can also be consulted to obtain reliable and up-to-date information and data on Youth in the various countries and regions of the Globe, as well as innovative analysis and reflections on socio-political phenomena that impact Youth⁶³.

61. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2019), *Towards Sustainable Development for All*.

62. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, «United Nations – World Youth Report (WYR)» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

63. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, «Youth» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the United Nations agency dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and its mission is to deliver a world where «every pregnancy is wanted; every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled»⁶⁴. The work of the UNFPA pursues the fulfilment of its mission, based on the analysis of the populational dynamics, Human Rights and Cultural sensitivities. «The work of UNFPA is based on the premise that all human beings are entitled to equal rights and protections. We focus on women and young people because these are groups whose ability to exercise their right to sexual and reproductive health is often compromised»⁶⁵.

UNFPA action is guided by the Program of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). «The Conference adopted the Programme of Action by consensus, which emphasized the fundamental role of women's interests in population matters and introduced the concepts of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. A new definition of population policy was advanced, giving prominence to reproductive health and the empowerment of women»⁶⁶. The resulting Action Plan establishes «three quantitative objectives to be achieved by 2015: the reduction of maternal and child mortality; the provision of universal access to education, in particular for girls; and the provision of universal access to a wide range of reproductive health services, including family planning»⁶⁷. In addition to these objectives, the Action Program also brings together 13 principles on access to sexual and reproductive rights⁶⁸.

In 2018, the UNFPA, in its Strategic Plan (2018-2021), renewed its aspirations and set out to achieve three major objectives by 2030: 1) Creating conditions for the existence of family planning worldwide; 2) Ending preventable maternal death and 3) Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices⁶⁹. To achieve these objectives, the Fund works in four distinct areas: Sexual and Reproductive Health – which includes programmes to eradicate HIV/AIDS, family planning and maternal and child health and care; Human Rights and Gender Equality –

64. United Nations Population Fund, «About us» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

65. *Ibid.*

66. United Nations Population Fund, «International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019]

67. United Nations Population Fund (2014), *Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition*.

68. *Ibid.*, pp. 8-11.

69. United Nations Population Fund, «About us», *ibid.*

involvement of men and boys in issues of access to sexual and reproductive health, gender violence and harmful practices such as the case of female genital mutilation and gender identity; Population – population aging, demographic dividend, climate change, migration, urbanization and population trends; and finally, Youth – where she works with a focus on teenage pregnancy, child marriage, comprehensive sexual education and youth leadership and participation.

Thus, in the Youth area, UNFPA constitutes an important partner worldwide. In 2019, the Fund launched its Global Strategy for Adolescence and Youth: «My Body, My Life, My World»⁷⁰, which «puts young people – their talents, hopes, perspectives and unique needs – at the very centre of sustainable development. In doing so, it supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and aligns with the new United Nations Strategy on Youth as well as UNFPA's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan»⁷¹. The Global Strategy for Adolescence and Youth: «My Body, My Life, My World» «embraces all adolescents (aged 10 to 19) and Youth (aged 15 to 24), celebrating their diversity. It recognizes the heterogeneity of their needs and desires and is fully committed to ending the inequities many still face. It accounts for gender, sexual orientation and sees sexuality as an important dimension of personality. It also considers other intersections such as ethnicity, social status and religion»⁷². The Strategy is based on the knowledge and data collected by the agency and partners and was designed with a view to creating comprehensive strategies for access to the rights and choice of young people and adolescents in the areas of development, humanitarian and peace and security.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

The International Labour Organization is the United Nations Agency that works for social justice through the promotion of human rights and internationally recognized rights in the sphere of work, thus contributing to universal and lasting peace⁷³. The ILO is the oldest agency of the United Nations, it is older than the United Nations itself. It was founded in 1919, as an integral part of the Society of Nations (predecessor of the United Nations) and the Treaty of Versailles, the peace treaty that ended the First World War. It was due to its

70. United Nations Population Fund (2019), *My Body, My Life, My World! Rights and choices for all adolescents and youth: a UNFPA global strategy*.

71. *Ibid.*

72. *Ibid.* p. 10

73. International Labour Organization, «Mission and impact of the ILO» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

relevance and its special structure that it survived the extinction of the Society of Nations, transitioning to the United Nations in 1946 as the first specialized agency and has been developing its work continuously for more than 100 years.

The ILO has 187 Member States and operates with a tripartite structure, that is, with representation from both Governments, employers and workers, who work together within the ILO to define international labour standards, develop policies and design programmes promoting decent work for all people.

Employment is one of the issues that most concern Youth today and in historical terms. The area of employment, namely decent employment, is an area that is highlighted in all documents and strategies related to Youth or, more broadly, to sustainable development. As work for others provides the livelihood of a large part of humanity, conditions at work and employment are fundamental to human dignity and the realization of human rights. Employment ensures the economic conditions for the lives of people, families and communities and also contributes to personal fulfilment.

Decent employment is, thus, one of the foundations of human well-being in general and the well-being of Youth in particular. The ILO is particularly concerned with youth employment for two reasons: on the one hand, the organization is concerned with ensuring that access to the labour market happens in a dignified manner, that all children and young people are protected in their personal development and, at the same time, that when they reach the age of informed decision, they have access to decent employment. Hence, the ILO was a pioneer in eradicating child labour and establishing minimum working ages. Additionally, the ILO is concerned with the quality of employment of young people who are already in the labour market, particularly in what concerns age-based discrimination.

The most important area of the ILO's work is the adoption of international labour standards, conventions (documents that bind States parties) and recommendations (documents that do not bind but serve to guide national policies) that govern the world of work globally. There are several conventions that include mandatory rules and recommendations that include guidelines for public policies in the area of youth employment, on the minimum age of work, non-discrimination, equal pay, social protection, etc.

The ILO also produces knowledge about the area of employment, compiles and analyses data, as well as publishes studies on the most diverse areas related to youth employment. It has specific attention to child labour, age-based discrimination and current and future labour market challenges to provide informa-

tion for duly substantiated public policy development. The ILO develops practical tools for the promotion of decent work, as well as it works through projects that it develops in partnership with Governments and social partners and where it supports the application of conventions, recommendations and the various tools.

The ILO has an Office in Lisbon with the purpose of disseminating information and knowledge in the field of work to Portuguese-speaking countries and has a Documentation and Information Centre that brings together a vast collection of books and publications related to the ILO's technical area of work and also to international relations. For more information on ILO's work, international labour standards or youth employment globally, we advise you to visit the ILO Lisbon Office Documentation and Information Centre, visit its page for translated information for Portuguese language at www.ilo.org/lisbon or, for more general information, visit the ILO website at www.ilo.org/global/topics/youth-employment.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded in 1946 and is one of the agencies of the United Nations. Having a humanistic view of issues and societies, it works for peace through international cooperation in education, science and culture. UNESCO headquarters are in Paris, France, and the organization is present in all 197 Member States of the United Nations through National Commissions. UNESCO's view is that political and economic agreements and governmental policies are not enough to ensure peace and lasting support for people and that peace must be founded through dialogue and mutual understanding, built on the moral and intellectual solidarity of Humanity. In this sense, UNESCO develops educational tools and supports projects in the area of science and culture that help citizens to live in an environment free from hatred and intolerance, and in doing so it promotes the dignity of all cultures and strengthens ties between countries⁷⁴. UNESCO's work thus focuses on educational programmes and on guaranteeing access to educational and learning opportunities, and on the defence of cultural and scientific heritage, centering its attention on freedom of expression, fundamental rights, democracy and the development. Based on the assumption of equality between people and countries, UNESCO works

74. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, «UNESCO in brief – Mission and Mandate» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

towards the adoption of international standards and promotes the exchange and sharing of knowledge at both levels.

UNESCO brings together different areas of activity, namely: education – where, through specific support and framed in the cultural context, it works on the access of all young people to formal and non-formal education with a view to enjoying full global citizenship; culture – in the protection of the material and immaterial heritage of Humanity; natural sciences – creating scientific knowledge and understanding for a better cognizance of social, economic and environmental problems with a view to sustainable development; social sciences – promoting the perception of cultural diversity with a view to world peace; and in communication and technology – seeking the promotion of freedom of expression, the development of the media and access to information and knowledge.

UNESCO, having no specific target audience, has a holistic view of the development of societies of which young people are necessarily part as agents of positive change. In the Youth area, it embraces a view of respect for diversity and struggles to understand the whole process of transition to adulthood, recognizing the specific needs of this phase of life, which is Youth.

Portugal joined UNESCO in 1965, and then withdrew for a few years (1972-1974). In 1979, the UNESCO National Commission was created, associated and based in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this sense, UNESCO celebrates the Portuguese Language and Culture Day in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) on 22 May.

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is one of the United Nations agencies whose work is partly dedicated to young people. This agency was created in 1946 with the mission of «promoting the well-being of all children and adolescents and guaranteeing their rights, with special attention to the most vulnerable»⁷⁵. Its headquarters are in New York, USA, where the strategic guidelines are defined, for a network of 190⁷⁶ national representations around the world, whose work varies from country to country. Nevertheless, it follows a holistic view of the individual's development. In this sense, it works from early childhood until the transition to adulthood, covering the age group from 0 to 18

75. United Nations Children's Fund, «About UNICEF» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

76. *Ibid.*

years old, but its action focuses primarily on the universe of children and adolescents and not specifically in the area of Youth.

Assuming in the different contexts in which it is present different focuses of action, UNICEF's areas of activity are: 1) protection and inclusion; 2) health care and survival; 3) education; 4) support in a humanitarian emergency scenario; 5) gender equality; 6) innovation; 7) research and analysis; and 8) logistics. All of these areas and their action on the ground have been guided by the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015)⁷⁷ and, currently, by the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030)⁷⁸ and also by the international framework for children's and young people's rights, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)⁷⁹. UNICEF does not replace, however, the action of civil society or governmental institutions in the different countries where it is present, but it seeks to bring competences to the different local and national players and to support their actions and decisions. Therefore, it is not to UNICEF to define Youth policies or action plans at the national level, but it provides technical support in their formulation and prosecution.

UNICEF produces an annual report, focused on its areas of activity and covering all countries where the agency has been directly active during that year. Through this report it is possible not only to have access to the work of the organization, but also to the state of the world concerning the rights of children and young people. In addition to this report, UNICEF also launches periodical publications, based on empirical knowledge and data analysis, on topics relevant to the Youth area, such as globalization and digitalization, access to health care and basic sanitation and even on the problems of the school universe, such as school dropout and teaching conditions where they are linked with access to rights, participation and sustainability in its three aspects.

Through these reports and its action on the ground, UNICEF constitutes an important agent in the field of Youth, collecting data and information on the priorities and challenges that young people face that often serve to define national and global strategies, public policies and programmes in the area. Furthermore, the technical support it provides to its partners, be they civil society organizations or governmental institutions, makes UNICEF a relevant partner also at an operational level.

77. United Nations Library, «UN Documentation: Development» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

78. United Nations General Assembly (2015), *ibid*.

79. United Nations Children's Fund (2019), *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

In Portugal, the Portuguese Committee for UNICEF works primarily to create awareness of the rights and challenges that impact children and young people. In this sense, in 2013 it launched a study on the impact of the Economic Crisis on young Portuguese people, entitled «As crianças e a crise em Portugal – Vozes das Crianças, Políticas Públicas e Indicadores Sociais [Children and the crisis in Portugal – Children’s Voices, Public Policies and Social Indicators]⁸⁰», which highlights the difficult reality of this age group that faced the highest risk of poverty in society since 2008. Together with Eurochild, it also promoted a study entitled «The Europe Kids want», presented to the European Parliament in order to allow young people «to make their voices heard on the issues that affect them⁸¹». UNICEF has also played an active role in Portugal in defending children and young people against violence, bringing different perspectives through a study whose motto is #PôrFIMàviolência [#ENDViolence]⁸². This study worked on areas such as physical and emotional violence between peers and between adult-child/young people in different media and contexts with special relevance for the digital environment, resulting, consequently, in awareness campaigns for the digital rights of children and young people, such as promoting the Safer Internet Day⁸³. The Portuguese Committee for UNICEF has also focused its activities on promoting the rights of children and young people to the local authorities through the programme «Uma Cidade Amiga das Crianças [a child friendly city]⁸⁴», whose objective is to promote the adoption of policies and programmes at the local level with a view to the well-being of children and young people and to promote the articulation and establishment of partnerships between local actors.

UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY NETWORK ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations Inter-Agency Network of Agencies on Youth Development (IANYD) is an internal platform of the United Nations system that serves as a link between its agencies and the departments that develop work in the field of

80. United Nations Children’s Fund – Portugal, «UNICEF and Eurochild consultam crianças e jovens» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

81. *Ibid.*

82. United Nations Children’s Fund – Portugal, «#PôrFIMàViolência» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

83. United Nations Children’s Fund – Portugal, «Dia da Internet Segura» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

84. United Nations Children’s Fund – Portugal, «Cidades Amigas das Crianças» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

Youth. IANYD's goal is to strengthen the United Nations' intervention in the area of Youth and increase its effectiveness by strengthening the collaboration of the various entities active in this area. This network supports and monitors the implementation of international Resolutions and Conventions, as well as other development objectives in the area of Youth.

IANYD was created in 2010, as part of the preparations for the 2011 International Year of Youth, on the initiative of the agencies themselves, and also as a response to contributions from representative youth structures at the global level, such as ICMYO⁸⁵ and UN MGCY⁸⁶. Throughout the preparations for the International Year, the various agencies and entities met regularly to coordinate the work. These meetings allowed contacts and exchange of views between the various entities that decided to institutionalize the process, in order to ensure its continuous operation.

This network works with representatives from the various agencies appointed by the top manager of each entity, thus ensuring that they are able to contact the entire structure and bring and carry information to and from all levels within the body. IANYD has a two-headed leadership, always with two co-chairs, one permanent and one rotating. This structure is important in order, on the one hand, to ensure continuity of work through the institution that is permanent president and, at the same time, to make room for a rotation of perspectives and points of view through the rotating co-presidency.

The permanent presidency of IANYD, the factor of continuity and constant monitoring of the work is ensured by UN DESA, which, in view of its transversal work, has the ideal characteristics to assume this position. Even before IANYD was formalized, UN DESA, when compiling data, writing the World Youth Report and providing support to UN statutory bodies, assumed a central role in the youth area ecosystem.

At the same time, keeping in mind that UN DESA does not have any sectoral area and does not have specific land responsibilities, it does not, in itself, bring any direct experience and does not represent any concrete cause. To ensure that the different areas of work and the different development objectives receive the same degree of attention, the entities that are part of the network ensure that the co-presidency of IANYD rotates annually.

85. International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations.

86. United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth.

In 2019, UNESCO took over as co-chair and introduced the theme of youth participation with great emphasis in the work of IANYD. An example of this was the creation of a Youth Committee (Youth Caucus) composed of organizations, groups and networks representing young people who have been working with IANYD throughout over the years, which elects a representative to occupy one of IANYD's co-presidential positions.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED BY PORTUGAL
AT THE 3RD COMMISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The United Nations General Assembly works with functional commissions, including the Commission for Social Development (Third Commission), which addresses global issues relating to social change, humanitarian issues and human rights. The Commission collects information through special rapporteurs, independent experts and working groups and is closely linked to the Human Rights Council. In this sense, issues of the rights of girls and women, protection of children, refugees, promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination and the right to self-determination of peoples are included. The Commission also addresses important issues of social development, such as those related to Youth, family, aging, people with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice and international drug control⁸⁷.

After the First World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998, Portugal, through its Permanent Mission to the United Nations, began to propose the adoption of a Resolution on «Policies and Programmes involving Youth» every two years. The Resolutions have deepened the work on access to the rights of young people in order to ensure that everyone can reach their maximum potential anywhere in the globe and contribute to the creation of a more egalitarian, fair and peaceful world.

Throughout the various Resolutions presented, we can notice the centrality of the issue of youth participation, the need for young people to be involved in the creation and development of policies and programmes, but also the need to hold different players in the Youth field accountable for their monitoring and evaluation, often placed in the background. Another focal point of the Resolutions is the issue of access to rights, including access to education, health care and sexual and reproductive health, but also to employment. However, the

⁸⁷ United Nations General Assembly, «Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee)» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

issue of access to rights is not limited to these generic areas, but it is directed also to issues such as gender equality, fundamental freedoms, issues of faith and culture and the role of young people in conflict settings as mediators and agents for peace.

It is expected that, in the future, efforts are made also at the level of proposed resolutions in the Third Committee, in order to emphasize the Lisboa+21 Declaration, particularly the issue of sustainability and access to rights, including marginalized audiences such as young people with disabilities.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL YOUTH FORUM

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been, since 1945, the United Nations organ that coordinates the organization's action in the economic and social areas. ECOSOC is responsible for promoting the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – through the creation of a platform where Member States and United Nations agencies debate and innovate to forge consensus on ways to the future. ECOSOC is also the organ in charge of coordinating and monitoring efforts at the global level to fulfil the strategic plans of the United Nations General Assembly, such as the 2030 Agenda.

In an effort by ECOSOC to involve young people in its work, since 2012, the ECOSOC Youth Forum has been developed annually, where young people and representatives of Member States and United Nations agencies can think and discuss together and co-create solutions to current phenomena. As the main platform for Youth to share their ideas globally, the Forum allows representatives of youth organizations and organizations dedicated to Youth and their networks, spokespersons for young people and other partners, to dialogue and get involved⁸⁸. The Forum and the work of the entire ECOSOC is closely linked to the 2030 Agenda, as young people play an important role monitoring, reviewing and implementing the Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, the Youth Forum offers a unique opportunity for young people to voice their concerns, share ideas and reflect together on what can be done to fulfil the 2030 Agenda, as well as on how to respond to the specific challenges that young people face and achieve the youth-specific SDGs⁸⁹.

88. United Nations Economic and Social Council, «ECOSOC Youth Forum» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

89. *Ibid.*

Accentuating the relevance of this Youth Forum, a High-Level Political Forum takes place as well to approach the proposals of the Youth Forum, during which the same stakeholders debate the topics with the representatives of the Member States, and other political players.

Regarding Portugal's participation in the Forum, Portuguese Youth is represented by the National Youth Council and the Government official for the area. In 2018, for the first time, the representatives of Portugal shared the intervention time given to the country equally, as a means to symbolically mark the importance of the participation of young people and the co-decision and co-management mechanisms within the scope of policies and programmes of Youth. This inspired other countries to adopt this good practice, which was later used during the joint session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR WORK FOR AND WITH YOUTH

Regional intergovernmental organizations are organizations that incorporate countries as members in conformity to the Region they belong. These regions are defined according to geographical criteria that combine with cultural, ethnic, linguistic, social and historical criteria. There are countless regional organizations, many of which specialized in particular themes that the countries together intend to deepen; other exist, of a more general scope, that work towards regional cooperation and integration transversally. In this chapter, information is provided on some of the most relevant regional organizations and their work in the youth field.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Council of Europe is based in Strasbourg, was founded in 1949 and is an independent intergovernmental institution, composed of 47 members – 28 of whom are members of the European Union – and three observer members⁹⁰. Although it is often confused with the Council of the European Union or the European Union⁹¹ itself, the Council of Europe is an autonomous organization whose mis-

90. Europe Council, «Our member States» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

91. Europe Council, «Do not get confused» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

sion is to guarantee respect for human rights, as conveyed by the European Convention on Human Rights and in more 200 other international conventions, and its pillars of action are Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law⁹². As an intergovernmental organization, it defends freedom of expression and the media, freedom of association, equality, the protection of national minorities and the fight against corruption and terrorism. The Council of Europe monitors developments in its pillars of action in all Member States, thus ensuring the consistency of national actions in the different areas of activity.

At the organizational level the Council of Europe is divided between several structures: Parliamentary Assembly – composed of delegates from each Member State who urge their Governments to take action in the three areas and report to the Council of Europe; The Secretary-General – elected by the Assembly, leads the organization and is responsible for the strategic planning; Committee of Ministers – where Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States meet and take political and budgetary decisions based on the recommendations and information provided by the Parliamentary Assembly. There are also other independent bodies such as the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the European Court of Human Rights, the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Conference of INGOs.

The Secretary-General's Office is divided into six General Directorates (DG), one of which is the Directorate General of Democracy. Within the DG Democracy, there is also the Directorate of Democratic Participation where the Youth department is located. The two bodies that regulate and lead the Council of Europe's Youth Department are the Advisory Council on Youth and the European Steering Committee for Youth, which meet in the Joint Council on Youth and the Youth Programming Committee, both co-decision bodies.

This department is responsible for working with and for young people within the Council of Europe through the development of guidelines, programmes and legal instruments seeking to develop coherent and effective Youth policies at local, national and European level⁹³. It is also responsible for financing and educational support for international activities that promote youth citizenship, mobility and the values of Human Rights, democracy and cultural pluralism and aims to disseminate knowledge (academic and operational) about people's life situation, young people in Europe, their aspirations and forms of expression⁹⁴.

92. Europe Council, «Values» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

93. Europe Council, «About us» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

94. *Ibid.*

In this regard, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe created a series of recommendations aimed at accessing rights and regulating work with young people (Recommendation CM/REC (2015) 3 on Access by Young People from Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods to Social Rights⁹⁵; Recommendation CM/REC (2016) 7 on Young People's Access to Rights⁹⁶ and Recommendation CM/REC (2017) 4 on Youth Work⁹⁷). In these recommendations, the Council of Europe draws up concrete measures to be developed at national level on these topics. On the other hand, the Council of Europe also has permanent structures such as the European Youth Centres, located in Strasbourg and Budapest, which serve as structures for the implementation of Youth policies, and also the European Youth Foundation which provides technical and financial support to Youth activities. The Council of Europe has an important role in efforts to include young people in political decision-making through co-management mechanisms, being a pioneer in this area at the level of European and global organizations.

Portugal, as a member of the Council of Europe, seeks to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers. These recommendations are implemented throughout different state programmes in partnership with civil society organizations. An important effort has been made to provide young people with access to the rights. The Campaign «70JÁ!» is an example.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH AND JOINT COUNCIL ON YOUTH

The Advisory Council on Youth is the non-governmental partner in the co-management framework that establishes the principles and priorities for the Youth sector of the Council of Europe⁹⁸, through recommendations on future priorities, programmes and budgets. It consists of 30 representatives of civil society organizations and a network of organizations working in Europe: seven representatives of the National Youth Councils of the Member States of the European Cultural Convention and other States participating in the activities of the Youth Department Program, designated by the Committee of Ministers on a proposal

95. Europe Council (2015), *Recommendation CM/Rec (2015)3: The access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights*, of 21 January 2015.

96. Europe Council (2016), *Recommendation CM/Rec (2016)7 and explanatory memorandum: Young People's Access to Rights*, of 28 September 2016.

97. Europe Council (2017), *Recommendation CM/REC (2017)4 and explanatory memorandum: Youth Work*, of 31 May 2017.

98. Europe Council, «Advisory Council on Youth» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

from the European Youth Forum; 13 representatives of international non-governmental youth organizations (INGYOs) appointed by the Committee of Ministers on a proposal from the European Youth Forum; and 10 representatives of non-governmental Youth organizations or networks, who are not members of the European Youth Forum, designated by the Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the Secretary-General⁹⁹.

Its main function is to advise the Committee of Ministers on issues that impact young people. The Advisory Council on Youth has also an important role in ensuring that Youth policies are disseminated and integrated into the Council of Europe's programmes, through recommendations made to all organs of the organization.

This organ of the Youth Department, as a co-management body, is struggling for the greater participation of young people at all levels of institutions and democratic life and is a good practice of inclusion of young people recognized at regional and global level.

Portugal is represented on the European Steering Committee for Youth – which brings together ministerial representatives and/or representatives of the public sector in the Youth area¹⁰⁰; young people are represented in several organizations they integrate, such as EFIL – European Federation for Intercultural Learning.

The Joint Council on Youth is the body that brings together representatives of the Youth Advisory Council and the European Youth Steering Committee setting an example of good practice recognized worldwide, where representatives of young people together with Government representatives, unanimously and under equal circumstances, jointly establish the priorities, objectives and budget of the Youth area¹⁰¹.

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union (EU) is, as stated by the name itself, a union of European countries that, by joining, commit themselves to respect and implement certain objectives, values and principles thus guaranteeing freedom, human dignity, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights¹⁰². Its institutional

99. Europe Council (2017), *Terms of Reference for the 2018-19 Advisory Council on Youth*, of 23 November 2017.

100. Europe Council, «European Steering Committee for Youth» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

101. Europe Council, «Joint Council on Youth» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

102. European Union, «The EU in brief» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

architecture is quite complex and we intend to highlight here only four of the bodies that comprise it and that have a direct impact on the lives of young people in Europe: European Council, European Parliament, Council of the European Union and the European Commission. The European Council has a strategic role. It defines the Union's general political guidelines, and it is composed by the Heads of State and Government of the Member States and the President of the Commission¹⁰³. The European Parliament is elected by direct universal suffrage and is the body that most directly represents EU citizens. It is one of the deliberative bodies of the European Union and is based in Strasbourg, but it also works in Brussels and Luxembourg. The work of the European Parliament is divided into several committees with specific focuses, including the Culture and Education Commission (CULT)¹⁰⁴ that develops work in the field of Youth. The Council of the European Union, which represents national Governments and whose presidency is rotated by the Member States¹⁰⁵, also participates in the legislative process. Finally, the European Commission, whose mission is to defend the interests of the EU as a whole¹⁰⁶.

In what concerns the work with and for Youth, «Articles 165 and 166 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) are the basis for EU action in the youth field»¹⁰⁷. Legislation in this area is a matter for the Member States. Legislative and political decisions on Youth are taken at the national level and not at the level of the European Union, however, the Council of the European Union can adopt recommendations in this area.

Certain that Youth is the future of the European Union and believing in the positive transformative power of young people, the European institutions have always supported, in close collaboration with the Member States, strong cooperation in the field of Youth policy. In this sense, the European Union Youth Strategy (2019-2027)¹⁰⁸ is a key document to understand the vision of the organization and its Member States with regard to Youth and it aims: «1) Fostering young people's participation in civic and democratic life; 2) Connecting young people across the European Union and beyond to foster voluntary engagement, learn-

103. European Union, «EU Institutions and bodies» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

104. European Parliament, «Commissions: CULT – Culture and Education» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

105. European Union, «EU Institutions and other bodies», *ibid.*

106. *Ibid.*

107. European Parliament, «Fact sheets on the European Union-Youth» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

108. *Ibid.*

ing mobility, solidarity and intercultural understanding; and 3) Supporting youth empowerment through quality, innovation and recognition of youth work»¹⁰⁹.

In this sense, the strategy covers several areas of action and proposes the adoption of several programmes, including the Erasmus + Program (2014-2020 and 2021-2027) – ensuring funding for academic and humanitarian mobility programmes specific to Youth, offering greater protection and inclusion of young people in their academic, work and volunteer activities – and The Youth Guarantee¹¹⁰ – a historic commitment to ensure that young people benefit from a good job offer and opportunities to continue their studies, or receive training in the four months following the loss of a job or after the abandonment of formal education. The European Solidarity Corps¹¹¹ is another programme covered by the Strategy – which gives young people the possibility of volunteering or working on projects in their own country or abroad. Recognizing the importance of technology in the lives of young people, the EU created the European Youth Portal¹¹² – a website for young people across Europe, with the aim of guiding them among the many opportunities that the EU provides in different areas of interest, such as volunteering, work, learning, culture and creativity, among many others¹¹³.

In Portugal, the representation of the European Parliament's Office organizes sessions with schools to present the Parliament and promotes half-yearly internships for young graduates. In cooperation with the *Universidade Católica* (Catholic University of Portugal), it develops the Euroscola program: Summit of Democracies, a competition that invites young people from secondary schools and their teachers to discuss relevant European issues. The Portuguese Sport and Youth Institute (IPDJ, I.P.), follows the example and promotes an annual Euroscola contest that invites young people from secondary schools to submit a paper on a relevant topic. The winning group is invited to visit Parliament's facilities in Strasbourg.

109. *Ibid.*

110. European Commission, «Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion: The Youth Guarantee» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

111. European Youth Portal, «European Solidarity Corps» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

112. European Youth Portal, «Home» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

113. European Parliament, «Fact sheets on the European Union-Youth», *ibid.*

COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE SPEAKING COUNTRIES

The Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) brings together «nations united by a historical heritage, a common language and a shared vision of development and democracy»¹¹⁴, namely Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and East Timor, which are full members. It also has 19 associate observer members (countries and intergovernmental organizations) and more than 100 consultative observers (civil society organizations), demonstrating the relevance that the organization and the member countries have acquired in recent years. It was founded, as we know it today, in 1997, after a process of more than a decade of efforts, being the multilateral forum a privileged environment for the deepening of mutual friendship and cooperation. Its objectives are «the political and diplomatic coordination among its Member States, especially towards the strengthening of its presence on the international scene; cooperation in all areas [...]; and the materialization of projects to promote and disseminate the Portuguese language»¹¹⁵.

The CPLP Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and Sport was created by the members of the Government who oversee that sectoral area in the various CPLP countries, as a space for cooperation, consultation, definition and implementation of joint actions, with a deliberative nature. The Conference aims to regularly debate issues of common interest in the scope of Youth and Sport, as well as to promote cooperation and solidarity actions in these areas¹¹⁶.

Conference bodies are the Conference Meeting, the Presidency, the General Secretariat, the Youth Commission and the Sport Commission. The Presidency is currently held by São Tomé and Príncipe. The General Secretariat is the executive body of the Conference and the Conference Meeting is the highest decision-making body. Conference meetings are held on an annual basis in each country on a rotating basis. The annual meeting is a privileged moment of political dialogue and consultation resulting in resolutions that seek the well-being and development of young people, in the different areas of their life. The Conference meets in plenary and, by deliberation, it can create specialized commissions.

114. Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, «Histórico – Como Surgiu?» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

115. Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, «Objetivos» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

116. Cooperation Agreement in the Field of Youth and Sports approved in the V Meeting of the CPLP Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth and Sport.

The Youth Commission is composed of the Directors and General Directors responsible for the Youth area of each member country. The Youth Commission meets when the Conference Meetings take place and is responsible for analysing and debating on all matters related to interventions, projects and multilateral programmes in the field of Youth and, furthermore, for proposing the realization of concrete actions to the Meeting of the Conference.

The most important regular activity of the Conference in the Youth area is the Biennial of Young Creators, a gathering of young people from the artistic field, associations' leaders and active NGOs in the promotion of the values of Portuguese-speaking countries, who take the cultural exhibition of young CPLP artists as a pretext to come together and reflect, debate and present proposals. The Biennial takes place every two years, always in a different country and aims the identification of artistic talents, giving young people an opportunity to exhibit their work among peers and to the community¹¹⁷.

Portugal, as the seat of the CPLP Executive Secretariat, has supported the training of young CPLP people through short-term training programmes, as well as university exchanges.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION FOR IBERO-AMERICA

International Youth Organism for Ibero-America (OIJ) is «an international organization formed by 21 Ibero-American countries, which articulates cooperation in the field of Youth»¹¹⁸. The OIJ works for Youth in the Ibero-American space with the aim of making youth a priority on political agendas and thus guaranteeing the rights of young people. Its objectives are:

- Promotion of efforts by Member States to improve the quality of life of young people in the region;
- Promotion of institutional strengthening of government youth structures, as well as coordination between institutions and sectors involved in youth policies;
- Encouraging cooperation between States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, youth associations and all other entities working on matters related to Youth;

¹¹⁷ Regulation of the Biennial of Young Creators of CPLP

¹¹⁸ Organismo Internacional de Juventude para a Ibero-América, «Somos» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

- Formulation and implementation of plans, programmes, projects and activities according to the needs of the Member States, with the aim of contributing to development policies in favour of Youth;
- Provide advice to national and international entities regarding the execution and management of programmes and projects in the youth sector.

The work developed by the OIJ materialises in different ways. At the operational level, through the National Youth Fora and the International Alliance for Youth Cooperation and at the political level, through the 2030 Youth Pact and the Ibero-American Convention on Youth Rights.

The National Youth Fora take place every two years and constitute a space to learn and share between young people and civil society organizations and the private and public sectors. They aim to exchange practices and listen to young people regarding their desires and aspirations. Likewise, the International Alliance for Youth Cooperation is a platform that aims at the participation of young people and at the collaboration among all the players in the field of Youth.

The Ibero-American Youth Pact is a social pact, an instrument in matters of Youth for the coming years that allows the joint construction of priorities for action, signed on October 29, 2016, by Heads of State and Government in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. It seeks to connect political, institutional, social and economic opportunities for young people¹¹⁹. This document, composed of 24 agreements, aims to promote the integral development of young people as subjects of rights, strategic development agents, political players, interconnected and with an innovative capacity to transform their immediate environment, based on a global approach¹²⁰. Of the 24 agreements and in the context of the Lisboa+21 Declaration, we would draw special attention to the interconnection with the 2030 Agenda (Agreement 1); to the commitment to promote youth participation in all spheres of society (Agreements 7, 8, 9, 10, 19, 21 and 24); to the transversal nature and pluralism of Youth (Agreement 3); to the principles that Youth policies must abide, such as, to be knowledge based (Agreements 4, 5, 6 and 13) and to foster youth access to rights – education, sexual and reproductive health, employment, among others – (Agreements 2, 3, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23 and 24).

The Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth – the only international treaty that specifically focuses on the civil, political, economic, social and cul-

119. Organismo Internacional de Juventud para a Ibero-América (2018), *Pacto Iberoamericano de Juventud [The Ibero-American Youth Pact]*.

120. *Ibidem*.

tural rights of young people¹²¹ – was signed in Badajoz, Spain in October 2005 by the Heads of State and Government, and came to fact in 2008. As an international treaty, after ratification, it commits States to respect, recognize and guarantee the rights affirmed, therefore guiding Youth policies in matters of rights. This Convention covers rights already set out in other documents, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but directed to young people as a specific group. Although its content may not be exactly innovative, it is important because it is the first legal instrument to bind different States to acknowledge youth rights in their transversal nature and complementarity.

Portugal is a member of the OIJ, currently co-president (2018-2020), having signed but not yet ratified the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Young People. The Portuguese Government has been working towards guaranteeing the Youth access to rights, of which the 70JÁ! is an example.

AFRICAN UNION

The African Union (AU), founded in 2002 as a successor to the African Union Organization (1963-1999), is a pan-African intergovernmental organization covering all 54 countries on the African continent. Its mission is «to promote Africa's economic growth and development through the inclusion of citizens and cooperation between African States [free translation]»¹²² with a view to achieving «An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena»¹²³.

The African Union has several committees working on priority areas. One of the priority areas is Youth Development. In this area, the AU has developed a series of Youth development policies and programmes to ensure that the continent benefits from its demographic dividend. Efforts made include the African Youth Charter¹²⁴ and the Youth Decade Plan of Action¹²⁵, which are interconnected with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its programmes.

121. Organismo Internacional de Juventude para a Ibero-América, *Tratado Internacional de Derechos de la Juventud. Convención Iberoamericana de los Derechos de los Jóvenes + Protocolo Adicional*.

122. African Union, «About the African Union» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019; free translation].

123. *Ibid.*

124. African Union (2006), *Carta Africana da Juventude*, of 2 July 2006.

125. African Union (2011), *Plan d'Action de la Décennie Africaine de la Jeunesse 2009-2018: Accélérer l'Autonomisation des Jeunes en Vue du Développement Durable – Feuille de Route pour la Mise en Oeuvre de la Charte Africaine de la Jeunesse*.

The African Youth Charter (2006) is an extremely important document for African Youth and is binding on all States Parties. The Charter recognizes «that youth are partners, assets and a prerequisite for sustainable development and for the peace and prosperity of Africa with a unique contribution to make to the present and to future development»¹²⁶, and protects the rights of young people, guaranteeing their freedom of movement, association, religion and education, access to health and employment, among others, without discouraging the youth participation in all areas of society and the creation of inclusive and transversal national Youth policies.

The Youth Decade Action Plan, which came into effect between 2009 and 2018, aimed to create the conditions for a transversal involvement and concerted cooperation in the implementation of the African Youth Charter through five priority areas: education and skills development; employment and entrepreneurship, governance, peace and security; sexual and reproductive health and health rights; and agriculture, climate change and the environment.

The Agenda 2063 is also a relevant instrument of the African Union for Youth. Despite covering the entire economic and social development of the entire African population, Agenda 2063 and its Sustainable Development Goals, as a «plan to transform Africa into a global power of the future» has some specific concerns for Youth present in its programmes¹²⁷ and implementation plan¹²⁸.

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

The League of Arab States, informally referred to as the Arab League, is an international regional organization with members from the Middle East and the North Africa region, namely states with Arab populations. The organization was founded in 1945 and currently has 22 Member States that collaborate in order to tighten their relations, coordinate their policies and represent the Arab interests in the world.

The North Africa and Middle East region has a very high proportion of young people. People aged 15 to 29 are about 30% of the population, about 105 million

126. African Union (2006), *ibid*.

127. African Union, «Flagship Projects of Agenda 2063» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

128. African Union, «The First Ten-Year Implementation Plan» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

people¹²⁹. Despite the clear differences between the various countries in this region, countries also face many common challenges, such as population growth, an increase in the youth population and youth unemployment, rapid urbanization and large migratory flows¹³⁰.

The Arab League Member States coordinate their cooperation in the Youth sector within the framework of the Council of Ministers for Youth and Sports, which elects the city that will receive the honour of being the Arab Capital of Youth for one year and that will promote the main activities of the region in the area of Youth.

The Arab League highlights education, culture and science as priority areas and has established ALECSO, Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, to foster them. ALECSO also works on the promotion and preservation of the Arab culture as well as to foment relations between Member States in the area of education and science. Taking its attributions, ALECSO has a special focus on Youth, through the sectorial areas of culture, education and science.

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is an international regional organization with 10 Member States. The organization's central focus is economic cooperation, but it also promotes the cooperation of Member States in the areas of security and in different areas of socio-cultural nature.

ASEAN's cooperation in the field of Youth is guided at the ministerial level, namely the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth – AMMY, which meets once every two years. The implementation of programmes and activities in the Youth area is carried out by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY), who report to AMMY.

The ASEAN Youth Work Plan was adopted in 2016 and is valid for 5 years, until 2020. The Plan is based on the ASEAN Vision 2020, adopted in 1997 and the 2012 Cebu Declaration, which establishes the ASEAN principles to centre the organization's focus on people. The Plan has five priority areas, namely youth entrepreneurship, youth employment, youth awareness, youth volunteering and

129. United Nations Development Program (2016), *Arab Human Development Report 2016: Youth and the Prospects for Human Development in a Changing Reality*.

130. Mirkin, Barry (2010), *Population Levels, Trends and Policies in the Arab Region: Challenges and Opportunities*. Arab Human Development Report Research Paper Series. United Nations Development Program – Regional Office for the Arab States.

youth resilience. These areas are worked on both at the organization level, namely by SOMY, as well as by the Member States. As the current plan comes to an end, AMMY has already outlined the strategic areas of the post-2020 plan that will be based on the five domains of the ASEAN youth development index, namely: education, health and well-being, participation, employment and opportunities, and awareness of ASEAN, its values and identity. ASEAN Youth Ministers intend, from 2020, to strengthen cooperation in the sector and increase the frequency of their meetings to annual, instead of the current biennial.

PACIFIC COMMUNITY

The Pacific Community (formerly called the South Pacific Commission or the South Pacific Commission that gave rise to the acronym used today – SPC) is a regional international organization that was founded in 1947 and has the countries and territories of the Pacific region as members. More than half of the region's 10 million inhabitants (22 countries and territories) are under 25 years of age. This segment of the population is growing rapidly, thus posing challenges to public resources and services. Average youth unemployment rates in the Pacific are 23% compared to an overall average of 12.6%. This issue is a focal point for the SPC, which also highlights sexual and reproductive health as a priority area.

SPC's main focus is to provide technical, statistical and informational support to member countries and territories, particularly in areas where small island states do not have the means to maintain national services, or in areas where regional cooperation or interaction is needed.

The Pacific Community works on Youth issues within the framework of its Social Development Program, in parallel with the area of Gender Equality and cultural diversity. These areas of work are cross-sectional and have a strong impact on all programmes and operations and are an integral component of SPC's multisectoral work¹³¹.

SPC provides technical support in the area of Youth and Youth Development policies and programmes to member countries and territories. The intervention areas are defined at the political level and currently are youth employment, information production, promotion of youth participation and support for the development of national and regional policies in the area of Youth.

131. Pacific Community, «Social Development Programme» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

The Pacific Community works in partnership with the Pacific Youth Council, supporting the development of its advocacy work and also supporting networks of young women, young people with disabilities, young LGBTI and others to ensure the representation of those particular groups¹³².

The document that guides the action of the Pacific Community in the area of Youth is the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF), valid for 10 years between 2014-2023, which aims to support the design and implementation of national and regional policies. The PYDF was developed in collaboration with regional and national development agencies, networks of young people, Governments and public institutions and received the endorsement of Ministers responsible for Youth throughout the various stages of elaboration, thus integrating the perspectives of young people and the multiple players in the field and at the political level¹³³.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE PLATFORMS OF YOUTH

The effective participation of young people is often done through local, national and regional organizations. Many of these organizations then create Regional Representative Platforms – associating according to geographical area, interests or core of activity. These platforms exist to guarantee the representation of young people at different levels and in different organizations. Through them, young people can bring their aspirations and concerns to policy makers and act as agents for positive change. The platforms, representing the interests of young people in their wide-ranging scope and diversity, guarantee access to the rights of youth and above all, their involvement in decision-making moments and in the design of Youth policies and programmes. In this chapter we explore the most relevant Youth Representative Regional Platforms to Portugal and Portuguese young people, that participated in the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and in the Youth Forum Lisboa+21 and guarantee the inclusion of the voice of young people in the commitments made in the Lisboa+21 Declaration.

132. Pacific Community, «Social Development Programme – Youth» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

133. Pacific Community Secretariat (2015), *The Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014-2023: A coordinated approach to youth-centred development in the Pacific*.

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION MEETING OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

The International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO), founded in 2000, is a platform that aims to unite and represent the different voices of youth organizations globally, through coordination and cooperation efforts. The main objectives of the organization are, to represent the diverse voices of youth organizations globally; facilitate cooperation between youth organizations at regional and global level; and strengthen the coordination of contributions to Youth policies at the global level. It currently has 34 member organizations, including regional youth platforms and international non-governmental youth organizations.

As a platform, it brings together organizations with different perspectives, thus representing the different voices of Youth and their plurality at the global level, being the closest thing that exists to a worldwide representative of Youth in civil society.

ICMYO's work is especially relevant in the area of advocacy next to global inter-governmental organizations such as the United Nations, which has used the Organization over the years to be present at high-level meetings, to integrate Youth strategy coordination teams, among others. ICMYO has also been present and supported host countries in the construction of World Youth Conferences programmes, as happened with the World Youth Conference in Baku (2014), the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21, having belonged to the Steering Committee of Lisboa+21, for example.

Young people from Portugal are represented in ICMYO through the CPLP Youth Forum and the European Youth Forum and different organizations such as AIESEC, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

The European Youth Forum is a platform that brings together the National Youth Councils of European countries (41) and international non-governmental youth organizations (65). The Forum works to support and encourage the active participation of young people in society through its representation and advocacy work at European and international level, with a view to a Europe where young people exercise their rights and use their voice to ensure the development of its maximum potential.

The European Youth Forum is currently supported by the Council of Europe and by the European Youth Foundation and its objectives are to increase youth participation, strengthen youth organizations and reinforce youth inclusion and autonomy. In this sense, it has developed a remarkable work on Youth positioning at European level and supporting its members in fulfilling the agenda at national and regional level in five areas: youth participation, social and economic inclusion, strengthening Youth organizations, sustainable development and Youth rights. These areas of activity demonstrate the transversal and inter-sectoral essence of the Forum's work.

The participation area¹³⁴ is focused, on the one hand, on promoting proximity between youth and European political institutions and, on the other hand, in taking young people's voice, wishes and aspirations to European leaders. The several campaigns, debates and positioning documents of youth on European measures are an example of that.

In the area of sustainable development¹³⁵, involving social and economic inclusion, the Forum's vision is that the economy and society should work for the environment, and not the other way around. In this sense, efforts are set towards recognizing Europe's responsibility for poverty in Europe, but also in other parts of the world and in changing the mentalities and necessary policies to stop and reverse the consequences of climate change. The Forum has written several open letters to European leaders, encouraged demonstrations, created resolutions – such as the «Resolution in support of youth demanding urgent climate action»¹³⁶, written positioning documents and has been present in numerous conferences as to ensure that the voice of Youth is regarded when it comes to present and future sustainable development.

In the area of Youth Rights¹³⁷, the Forum has been working towards the existence of legally binding documents that guarantee the rights of young people specifically, by creating online tools¹³⁸, promoting training sessions and street actions and by raising youth awareness for their rights. In addition, the Forum also works with European organizations to reinforce the necessity for such

134. European Youth Forum, «Youth participation» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

135. European Youth Forum, «Sustainable development» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

136. European Youth Forum (2019), *COMEM 0052-19-FINAL: Resolution in support of youth demanding urgent climate action*.

137. European Youth Forum, «#YouthRights» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

138. European Youth Forum, «PROMOTING YOUTH RIGHTS: How to harness the power of human rights instruments» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

instruments and the recognition of young people as a group of society that needs stronger guarantees regarding the protection of their rights.

The European Youth Forum has performed a unique work in the area of Youth policies, not only by representing Youth in discussions and moments of decision, but also by defining the quality, analysis and evaluation of the policies that are being created. In this sense, the Forum created a guide on Quality Standards for Youth Policy¹³⁹ so that everyone can evaluate a specific policy. The eight principles assessed in this practical guide are: 1) Rights based approach to Youth policy; 2) knowledge and evidence based; 3) Participatory; 4) Multi-level; 5) Strategic thinking; 6) Availability of resources; 7) Political commitment involved and accountability mechanisms for implementation; 8) Cross-sectorial. Each of these principles can then be assessed by different indicators that ensure a Youth policy compliant with the European quality standards. These standards are used by the Portuguese public sector in the creation of public policies in the area.

CPLP YOUTH FORUM

The CPLP Youth Forum is a platform that brings together all representatives of the National Youth Councils or representatives of young people from different countries in the Community. The Forum is a consultative observer of CPLP, and its foundation precedes the foundation of the CPLP itself.

The Forum has played an important role in ensuring that the aspirations of young people are considered when defining national strategies and Youth policies by the Ministers responsible for the Youth area in the different countries and also in the Conferences of Responsible Ministers by CPLP Youth, where, since the 2018 Resolution 8/2018, the participation of representatives of the National Youth Councils in the Conferences¹⁴⁰ is ensured.

The Portuguese CNJ has been working at the CPLP Forum with its counterparts in the fulfilment of activity plans, focused on access to youth rights, particularly with regard to mobility and access to participation at all levels, namely in the definition of National Youth Strategies and in the development and implementation of Youth policies. The Forum was also instrumental in defining 2019 as the Year of the CPLP for Youth, which «aims to strengthen the effective participation of young people of the community in the planning, implementation, moni-

139. European Youth Forum, «8 Standards for a quality youth policy» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

140. Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (2019), *Declaração Final: XII Reunião*, 24 de Julho de 2019.

toring and evaluation of CPLP development policies, particularly in the context of the successful implementation of SDGs»¹⁴¹.

PACIFIC YOUTH COUNCIL

The Pacific Youth Council (PYC) is a regional non-governmental organization. It was founded in 1996 by the Youth Councils of 10 Pacific countries: Cook Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, and works as an umbrella organization, a platform that represents those organizations in international fora and contributes to the strengthening of the interests of Youth in the region.

PYC's mission is to serve as a platform that represents the interests and needs of youth and support the development of young people in the Pacific; and aims to empower young people to leadership and live an active citizenship¹⁴². The vision of young people in the region is a sustainable Pacific where all young people are safe, respected, empowered and resilient¹⁴³.

Due to the particular characteristics of island states, the issue of environmental sustainability aggravates the Pacific Youth, as global warming and rising sea levels threaten the very existence of the territories. PYC has developed several projects and activities in order to give visibility to the innovative vision of young people, both professionals and future professionals, as well as activists in the areas of sustainability, oceans and climate action.

The Pacific region extends over a wide territory, but the inhabited territories – the small islands – are very distant from each other. Distances and lack of economic resources make face-to-face meetings difficult. The PYC General Assembly meets every three years and elects the Executive Board of the organization, among young people representing the different countries. For the next three years, it is up to this Executive Council to hold responsibility on the execution of the work plan approved by the General Assembly.

ASIAN YOUTH COUNCIL

The Asian Youth Council (AYC) is a regional non-governmental organization representing Youth from Asia, namely from Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia,

141. Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, «2019 – CPLP Year for Youth» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

142. Pacific Youth Council, «About Us» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

143. Pacific Community Secretariat (2015), *ibid.*

China, Cambodia, Singapore, Yemen, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Mongolia, India, Maldives, Brunei, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and also from Brunei, Fiji, Samoa.

AYC was founded in 1972, with the aim of promoting solidarity and family spirit among young people in various countries in Asia, as well as strengthening national youth organizations in the region. Any National Youth Council of an Asian country that is recognized by the respective government can apply for membership in the AYC.

AYC serves as a forum to share information between its members and other international players in the region, including interregional agencies. The organization works closely with several regional and international partners to promote youth volunteering and the development of youth leadership¹⁴⁴.

AYC's main decision-making body is the General Assembly, held every three years, which elects the Executive Committee and defines the organization's objectives. The Executive Committee meets once a year and defines priority areas and future programmes. AYC has a Secretariat based in Malaysia which is led by a Secretary-General. It also has an Executive Secretary reporting to the President and to the Secretary-General and who is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Secretariat.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN YOUTH FORUM

The Latin American and Caribbean Youth Forum is a non-governmental organization that aims «strengthen youth in Latin America and the Caribbean, giving visibility to the struggles and development initiatives in their territories [free translation]»¹⁴⁵. It functions as a regional Youth Council where all Youth Councils and other organizations representing youth are represented at national and regional level.

Considering also the context of the countries where it operates, the Forum has a great concern with the physical and psychological violence to which the young people of the region are subject and, therefore, an agenda very marked by the themes of peace and safety. The issue of access to rights and youth participation is also present in the Forum's speech, which aims to ensure respect

144. Asian Youth Council, «Asian Youth Council at a Glance» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

145. Latin America and the Caribbean Youth Forum, «Sobre [About]» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

for the rights of young people in their area of action through contact with Governments and intergovernmental bodies. The issue of youth participation, focused on the access of young people to decision-making places in a democratic and transparent manner, is also one of the Forum's flags.

PANAFRICAN YOUTH UNION

The Panafrican Youth Union (PYU) is a coordination platform for different Youth organizations at national, regional and continental levels in Africa, founded in 2008 with headquarters in Khartoum, Sudan. Its main function is to ensure that young people's aspirations and challenges are taken into account in decision-making at the regional level and to promote the development and implementation of the African Union's Decade of Action Plan that took effect between 2009 and 2018.

As a spokesperson for the national Youth organizations and networks of the 54 members of the African Union, it is also the responsibility of the PYU to advise the African Union Youth Commission and to promote the implementation of the African Youth Charter, Agenda 2063 and all other instruments that put Youth at the centre of the political priorities of institutions in the region.

PYU, in its mandate for Youth, has as its ultimate objective «to ensure that young people live better [free translation]»¹⁴⁶, which requires recognition of the transversal nature of Youth and thus the need of multisectoral public policies. Its focus covers the areas of education, employment, culture and health and recognizes the National Youth Strategies as an important tool to guarantee access to the rights of young people and their participation in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Youth policies and programmes.

146. Panafrican Youth Union, «About Us» [webpage accessed on 9 September 2019].

4

AWARENESS RAISING ON YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21 are two key moments in the international landscape regarding Youth policies and programmes and the pursuit of access to rights by young people; the promotion of youth participation in moments of decision and the search for sustainability in its three branches (economic, social and environmental). It is important now, that all those who work in the area of Youth in Portugal take ownership of the result of the Lisboa+21 and work together to materialize the letter of the Lisboa+21 Declaration.

Therefore, in order to promote the event and disseminate its final result – the Lisboa+21 Declaration – we share an awareness-raising session, with the duration of one day (6 contact hours) suitable for public, central and local administration professionals, young people and civil society organizations working in the Youth field.

TRAINING PLAN

Time (suggestion): 10:00 am-1:00 pm and 2.30 pm-4:30 pm

Necessary human resources: 1 trainer per 10 participants

Minimum/maximum number of participants per session: 12/24

Training Objectives:

- Explore the instruments of Youth Policies and Programmes at national and international level through the frameworks of the Youth area;
- Promote and disseminate the result of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21;
- Foster the appropriation of the results of the Lisboa+21 event (co-creation mechanism and the Lisboa+21 Declaration);
- Encourage the materialization of the Lisboa+21 commitments in the different sectoral areas.

Programme content:

- Process and milestones of the Youth Sector from the World Youth Action Program (1995) to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21;
- Lisboa+21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes 2019 and its thematic areas (access to rights, participation and sustainability);
- Megatrends that impact young people in the 21st century;
- Practical application of the contents of the Lisboa+21 Declaration in different sectorial areas.

Pedagogical Methods and Techniques: you should use three methods during the training sessions:

- *Interrogative method:* This method will be used throughout the session using the question formulation technique, with the aim of encouraging the sharing of ideas and experiences among the participants;
- *Expository method:* Brief theoretical exposition using audio-visual media (presentation in power point format);
- *Active method:* To use through non-formal dynamics in order to promote the group's learning and cohesion process.

Teaching Resources:

Computer, projector, flipchart, markers; ballpoint pens; scratch sheets; printed copies of the Lisbon Declaration + 21; printed sheets.

Training Plan:

SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE
10:00 am 10:05 am	Introduction	- Welcome; - Training Objectives.
10:05 am 10:20 am	Presentation dynamics: «Speed dating» Division by groups	- Introducing trainers and participants; - Forming the groups.
10:20 am 10:50 am	Quizz: Past and Present of the Youth Area	- Situate Youth milestones in time; - Talk about the documents.
10:50 am 11:20 am	Declaration Lisboa+21	- Familiarize participants with the Lisboa+21 Declaration; - Promote reflection on its content.
11:20 am 11:35 am	Break	—

11:35 am 01:00 pm	Forming Groups (by area of interest) Future: The State of the World and Commitments	– Joint reflection on the megatrends that impact Youth; – Materialize the recommendations of the Lisboa+21 Declaration through concrete actions at international and national level.
01:00 pm 02:30 pm	Lunch	—
02:30 pm 04:00 pm	Activity by area of action (education, employment, health, migration, gender equality)	– Apply the contents of the Lisboa+21 Declaration to different areas of activity.
04:00 pm 04:30 pm	Participated conversation on the essential points to retain from the training Evaluation Dynamics: «Hand»	– Take stock of the training content and points to be retained; – Evaluate the session.
04:30 pm	End of work	—

Plan by activity:

PRESENTATION DYNAMICS: «SPEED DATING» AND FORMING THE GROUPS			
DURATION	ACTIVITY STEP BY STEP	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	NECESSARY MATERIAL
1 min.	Explain objectives and activities	Participants should form two rows and given 2 minutes (1 per person) to answer the questions posed by the facilitator. When the time expires, the facilitator gives a signal; people in the left row take a step left, thus changing pairs. Once the participants form the 2 rows, the facilitator will start the activity by asking the first question and proceed as explained.	—
2 min.	Ask participants to form two rows	Rows should have the same number of participants aligned facing one another.	—
2 min.	First Question	Question 1: Who am I outside my workplace?	—
3 min.	Switch pairs to second question	Question 2: What moves me in the youth field?	—
3 min.	Switch pairs to third question	Question 3: If I were a young person today, what would I do to change the world?	—
4 min.	Group division	The facilitator assigns a number (1, 2, 3, 4) to each participant and asks participants to form groups according to their number (everyone with number 1 together; everyone with number 2 together and so on). A sheet with a number (1, 2, 3, 4) should be placed at the end of the room so that groups can organize themselves in the appropriate space. <i>NOTE: the facilitator should pay attention to the number of participants and adjust the size of the groups in the way that he / she thinks most convenient for the next activity.</i>	Display numbered sheets across the room – one sheet with each number

QUIZZ: PAST AND PRESENT IN THE YOUTH AREA

DURATION	ACTIVITY STEP BY STEP	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	NECESSARY MATERIAL
1 min.	Explain activity and objectives	<p>This activity is based on a dynamic of questions and answers. The questions are asked by the facilitator and projected on the wall. Groups have one minute to answer each question simultaneously. After the groups answer, the facilitator reveals the right answer and gives a brief explanation about the question.</p> <p>After each round, the facilitator should write down the answer of each group on the classification chart and briefly discuss each correct question.</p> <p><i>NOTE: multiple choice questions are recommended as to encourage people who do not feel at ease, to participate.</i></p>	
4 min.	First Question	<p>Question 1: What is the most striking historical document in the area of Youth?</p> <p>a) World Youth Action Program, 1995; b) Lisbon Declaration, 1998; c) Youth 2030 Strategy, 2018 d) Millennium Development Goals, 2000.</p> <p>Reflection after collecting the answers: Present the documents chronologically with a brief explanation.</p> <p>Correct answer: a)</p> <p><i>NOTE: read chapter 1 for preparation and mastery of concepts and documents.</i></p>	
4 min.	Second Question	<p>Question 2: What document resulted from the 1998 World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth?</p> <p>a) Lisbon Resolution on Youth, 1998 b) Declaration of Youth Programmes 1998; c) Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, 1998; d) Youth Policy Statement, 1998.</p> <p>Reflection after collecting the answers: address the difference between resolution and declaration; address the Lisbon Declaration in comparison with other declarations; explain the difference between the Lisbon Declaration (1998) and the Baku Declaration (2014).</p> <p>Correct answer: c)</p> <p><i>NOTE: read chapters 1 and 2 to prepare and master the concepts and documents.</i></p>	<p>Computer; Power point presentation; Video-projector; Chart to write classifications</p>
4 min.	Third Question	<p>Question 3: How many people in this room were working in the Youth area in 1998?</p> <p>a) 0-5 b) 5-10 c) 10-15 d) <15</p> <p>Reflection after collecting the answers: encourage a small conversation about what has been done since 1998 in the area of Youth in Portugal.</p> <p>Correct answer: [necessary to previously analyse the group]</p> <p><i>NOTE: ask participants to talk about their experience in the Youth area; read chapter 2 for preparation.</i></p>	
4 min.	Fourth Question	<p>Question 4: What currently the Global Strategy for Sustainable Development?</p> <p>a) Agenda 2063; b) Agenda 2030; c) Youth2030; d) Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>Reflection after collecting the answers: talk about Agenda 2030 and relate it to the SDGs; transversality of Youth in the 2030 Agenda and Youth2030 strategy; talk about regional agendas (Agenda 2063 – Africa)</p> <p>Correct answer: b)</p> <p><i>NOTE: read chapters 1 and 4 for preparation.</i></p>	

4 min.	Fifth Question	<p>Question 5: The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21 was organized in co-management between which entities?</p> <p>a) Government of Portugal and the Government of Senegal; b) CNJ and United Nations; c) President of the Republic and CNJ; d) CNJ and Government of Portugal.</p> <p>Reflection after collecting the answers: address the co-creation and co-management mechanism and its importance for Youth; address the efforts of the host entities of the event in the area of Youth.</p> <p>Correct answer: d) NOTE: read chapters 1 and 2 for preparation.</p>
4 min	Sixth Question	<p>Question 6: What are the focus areas of the Lisboa+21 Declaration?</p> <p>a) Access to rights; gender equality; participation; b) peace, security and participation; c) access to rights, participation and sustainability; d) social, economic and environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Reflection after collecting the answers: address the three focuses of the Declaration and its transversality to other areas (education, health...) and connection to the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Correct answer: c) NOTE: read chapter 2 for preparation.</p>
5 min.	Contents summary and winner announcement	<p>Reflect on the increase in quantity and quality of concerns about Youth and their inclusion on the global agenda.</p> <p>Announce the winner.</p>

DECLARATION LISBOA+21			
DURATION	ACTIVITY STEP BY STEP	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	NECESSARY MATERIAL
5 min.	Reading of the commitments of the Lisboa+21 Declaration	<p>The facilitator projects the commitments titles on the wall (or, on a flipchart previously prepared), as shown below, after this table, and asks the group to read them individually and in silence.</p> <p>Ask participants to choose what they think is the most relevant commitment. Each participant must choose one single commitment, the most important in his/her personal/professional perspective. The group does not have access to the content of each commitment, only the title.</p>	
15 min.	Facilitate a short debate among participants	<p>The facilitator should promote a debate among all, encouraging the sharing of the commitment they have chosen and an explanation of why they chose it. The question to guide the debate: What was the most important commitment you chose? Why?</p> <p>After 5 minutes, the facilitator gives each participant a copy of the Lisboa+21 Declaration and asks each participant to read the appointment they have chosen.</p> <p>The debate continues with the following question: Does the compromise in question satisfy your expectations? Was that what you were waiting for? Is it comprehensive?</p>	<p>PC; power point; video projector; copies of the Declaration Lisboa+21</p>
10 min.	Presentation of the essence of the Declaration Lisboa+21	<p>Using a ppt presentation, the facilitator briefly presents the spirit of the Lisboa+21 Declaration and the commitments signed.</p> <p>To prepare the presentation, we recommend reading the chapter «Declaration Lisboa+21».</p>	

Lisboa+21 commitments list:

1. Human Rights and Democracy
2. Sustainable Development
3. Gender Equality and Inclusion
4. Combat violence against Youth
5. Environmental Sustainability
6. Participation and Creation of Youth-led Organizations
7. Empowerment and non-discrimination based on age
8. Mobility and International Participation
9. Structured Participation in the United Nations System
10. Health and Social Protection
11. Comprehensive Sexual Education
12. Education
13. Decent Work and Economic Empowerment
14. Protection of Youth Rights in Conflict Situations.
15. Access to Information and Technology.
16. Evidence-based and knowledge-based Youth Policies and Programmes
17. Implementation and multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder Monitoring of the Lisboa+21
18. Integrated Evaluation of Lisboa+21
19. Cooperation and Co-management on the implementation of Lisboa+21

FORMING GROUPS (BY AREA OF INTEREST). THE STATE OF THE WORLD			
DURATION	ACTIVITY STEP BY STEP	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	NECESSARY MATERIAL
5 min.	Division by groups	The facilitator places papers at each side of the room, each identified with a theme: «Access to Rights»; «Participation»; «Sustainability (economic, social and environmental)»; Then he/she asks the participants form 3 groups around the themes, according to their interest. <i>NOTE: Each group must not exceed 4/5 participants, and all must have an identical number of people. If necessary, 2 groups with the same theme should be made.</i>	Computer; power point presentation; video-projector
2 min.	Explain the activity and objectives	This is a group activity and consists in the creation of a poster to illustrate the «State of the World» and its impact (positive and negative) in the area in which they are working (access to rights, participation and sustainability). At the end, each group should make a 5-minute presentation on their work.	

DURATION	ACTIVITY STEP BY STEP	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	NECESSARY MATERIAL
20 min.	Identify megatrends that have an impact on Youth	Each group is given a flipchart; Groups should discuss the way they see the World (the state of the world), and write notes on the flipchart, identifying opportunities and points to improve, as well as challenges to overcome in the area they chose. The facilitator can launch topics for debate, such as: education, employment, housing, climatic changes, digitalization, globalization, migration, gender equality, among others.	
15 min.	Present the work developed	Each group should present its flipchart	Computer; power point presentation;
10 min.	Final reflection	Then the facilitator should promote a debate among all encouraging the sharing of the impact that the challenges and opportunities identified have on the daily lives of the young people with/for whom they work. Questions to guide reflection: – What did you think of the activity? Was it easy to identify challenges and opportunities? Why? – Do these challenges affect all young people in the same way? How? Why? – What can be done to maximize the opportunities they create and minimize negative effects?	video-projector

ACTIVITY BY AREA OF ACTION			
DURATION	ACTIVITY STEP BY STEP	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	NECESSARY MATERIAL
5 min.	Explain activity	Initial conversation should reflect the fact that the fulfilment and achievement of the commitments made in the Lisbon+21 Declaration is a responsibility of all and depends on the work we do, in a coordinated and interconnected way, for and with young people, on the basis of what is the 2030 Agenda and national documents in the area, such as the National Plan for Youth. Participants must remain per group, if they are all from the same area or institution. Otherwise, they should be grouped by theme where they work in their professional life (eg. Education, Health, Employment, Migration ...) As a group, they are asked to plan an action / project that implements at least one of the commitments of the Lisbon + 21 Declaration applied to their area of work. Participants must complete a table provided for the activity. <i>NOTE: the facilitator may provide extra material for consultation (National Plan for Youth, reports from United Nations agencies or relevant intergovernmental organizations, etc.).</i>	Computer; power point presentation; video-projector; printed copies of the Lisboa+21 Declaration

DURATION	ACTIVITY STEP BY STEP	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	NECESSARY MATERIAL
10 min.	Explain the table to fill	The facilitator should design the table and explain each of its columns. Columns: Name of the Initiative; Explanation of the initiative; Necessary steps until you get there; Necessary resources; Partners (if relevant); Identification of the commitment(s) of the Lisbon+21 Declaration that is patent; Identification of the most present SDG(s) (if they know, also add the relevant measure of the National Plan for Youth).	Computer; power point presentation; video-projector; printed copies of the Lisboa+21 Declaration
50 min.	Planning and filling out the table	The facilitator should visit the groups in order to assist them in the process.	
35 min.		5-minute presentation for each group.	
20 min.		In the end a small debate is promoted on the projects presented.	
10 min.	Final reflection		

EVALUATION: HAND DYNAMICS			
DURATION	ACTIVITY STEP BY STEP	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	NECESSARY MATERIAL
15 min	Open conversation with group	The facilitator should make a brief summary of the main points addressed, encouraging the dissemination of knowledge. Then you should open the debate to the whole group, asking them to share what they take from training.	1 sheet of paper and ballpoint per participant
2 min.	Explicar atividade e objetivos	The facilitator must give everyone a sheet of paper and a pen and ask them to draw their hand. Each finger will match a rating parameter. Participants should write their opinion on the topic on each finger. <i>NOTE: the evaluation must be done anonymously and, as such, the sheets should not be signed by the participants.</i> Suggestions for topics to be evaluated: time management; space of formation; the trainer; usefulness of the content; knowledge of the Lisboa+21 Declaration.	
10 min.	Debate	Make the participants feel at ease to express their opinions and promote an evaluative debate on the session.	

PART II

1 | LISBOA+21 AND NATIONAL POLICIES

Portugal led the process of building the Lisboa+21 Declaration at international level. The motivation behind the organisation of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and The Lisboa+21 Youth Forum comes from the work developed at national level to ensure that youth policies and programmes meet the highest criteria when it comes to the implementation of Youth Human Rights. It was the positive experience in terms of national policies that motivated the country to take the initiative to raise the standards of international commitments in terms of youth policies and programmes in order to respond to the challenges of the megatrends of our time.

In Portugal, Youth has the special protection of its rights enshrined in Article 70 of the Constitution. It was with this motto and with the purpose of improving youth public policies that the National Plan for Youth was conceived and prepared. At the local level, there is a great diversity with regard to youth policies and programmes, however the theme deserves recognized attention from all municipalities in the country.

This chapter aims to analyse the National Plan for Youth for Lisboa+21 and also to make known the country's landscape with regard to local youth policies.

THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR YOUTH

Approved through the Resolution of the Council of Ministers n.º 114-A/2018, published in the *Diário da República* of September 4, 2018, the National Plan for Youth (NPY) is the political instrument of intersectoral coordination of Youth policy in Portugal, with the mission of achieving its transversality, with a view to strengthening the special protection of the rights of young people. Youth-related issues cut across virtually all sectors and the NPY, as foreseen in commitment n.º 17 of the Lisboa+21 Declaration, is based on a multisectoral and multi-level perspective that aims to be comprehensive and exhaustive.

The National Plan for Youth seeks to fulfil the commitment of the XXI Constitutional Government, which assumes, in its Program and in the National Reform Plan, a transversal perspective of public policies for Youth, when presenting sectoral measures destined at the young population of the Country. In the Grand Options of the Plan (GOP) 2016-2019, the Government establishes a



commitment to invest in Youth, with specific attention dedicated to inter-ministerial coordination with the tutelage and programmes with an impact on the lives of young people. In response to this goal, the 2017 GOPs highlight the definition of the first National Plan for Youth.

Also taking into account the international references of the United Nations (UN), the Council of Europe, the European Union (EU), the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America, namely:

- UN 2030 agenda;
- European Council resolution of 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018);
- European Council resolution of 15 December 2015 on an EU Youth Work Plan (2016-2018);
- Council of Europe Resolution CM/Res (2008) 23, of 28 November 2008, on Youth Policy in the Council of Europe;
- Ibero-American Youth Pact;
- CPLP Youth Charter.

The coordination of the NPY was entrusted to the Portuguese Institute of Sports and Youth (IPDJ, IP), which has as partners several public entities that give it shape and that make its execution feasible. The responsibilities of the IPDJ are:

- Compile and disseminate, annually, the measures for the execution of the NPY, presented by each governmental area, accompanying its execution;
- Prepare and send to the Government member responsible for the Youth area, annually, and until January 31 of each calendar year, an *interim* report on the execution of the measures;

- By the end of the first quarter following the end of the NPY's term, final report on the implementation of the measures entered.

These execution reports are subject to analysis by the NPY Monitoring Committee, made up of representatives of the IPDJ (who presides), the National Youth Council, the National Federation of Youth Associations and a person of recognized merit in the sector, designated by the member of Government responsible for this area. Given her experience in the sector, PhD Magda Lalanda Mira Nico, researcher at the Centre for Research in Sociology Studies of the University Institute of Lisbon, has been appointed as a personality of recognized merit. The monitoring and evaluation of the NPY thus meets commitments 17 and 18 of the Lisboa+21 Declaration, which provides for the multi-level and multisectoral implementation and monitoring of public policies in the youth area.

The construction of the NPY resulted from consultation processes with interested parties, but also from the mapping and knowledge of the challenges and potentials particular to the young population. For this purpose, information was collected and the main agents of the Youth sector in Portugal were consulted by means of focus groups, the Youth Forum, questionnaires to young people and municipalities, which previously made it possible to carry out a mapping of the experiences, difficulties, challenges and conditions of Youth in the Country. These efforts made it possible to integrate contributions from all interested parties, in a process that was intended to be very participatory and that enriched the structuring and elaboration of the NPY.

Youth participation is one of the guiding principles of the Lisboa+21 Declaration and a fundamental criterion established by several other European and international documents. The active participation of Youth in all phases of policies came to be promoted in an integrated and transversal way in relation to all areas of the NPY, as provided for in commitment no. 6 of the Lisboa+21 Declaration.

In order to optimize the necessary coordination between the various partner entities, focal points have been defined that assume responsibility for the execution of the various reports, but also for the coordination of the necessary steps to carry out the measures that are under the responsibility of your entity.

Entities involved in the National Plan for Youth:

Ministry of Education	Directorate-General for Education Directorate-General for Schools Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics ANQEP, I.P.
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Republican National Guard Public Security Police (PSP)
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development	AFDR Minister's Office
Ministry of Environment and Energy Transition	General Secretariat of the Ministry of the Environment
Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education	CTES Minister's Office
Ministry of Culture	Cultural Strategy, Planning and Evaluation Office
Ministry of National Defence	Incentives and Professional Reintegration Division
Ministry of Economy	Ministry of Economy
Finance Ministry	European Policy Department of the Office of Planning, Strategy, Evaluation and International Relations
Justice ministry	General Directorate of Reinsertion and Prison Services
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of the Sea	Directorate General for Maritime Policy (DGPM)
Ministry of the Presidency and Administrative Modernization	Agency for Administrative Modernization (AMA) High Commissioner for Migration (ACM) Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (IGC)
Ministry of Planning and Infrastructure	Agency for Development and Cohesion
Ministry of Health	Ministry of Health General Directorate of Health
Ministry of Labor Solidarity and Social Security	Employment (IEFP) Social Security Inclusion of people with disabilities National Institute for Rehabilitation

It is with all this involvement that the National Plan for Youth assumes itself as an instrument of intersectoral coordination of Youth policy in Portugal, becomes the first strategic document to systematize policies, programmes, initiatives and projects of, for and by Youth, whose Execution responsibility rests with differ-

ent governmental areas, many of which require the sharing of responsibilities and resources of various entities at national, regional and local levels.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR YOUTH

The conception of the NPY was preceded by an exhaustive preparation work that involved several players from the most varied sectors of society. All the preparation work carried out, collection of contributions and previous studies, allowed the structuring of the document in different approaches to Youth policies, from which two great dimensions were created, integrating, each one, the policies worked and analysed throughout the information collection and consultation process.

Therefore, in the **Key Areas Dimension** the following areas were integrated: *Formal and Non-Formal Education, Employment, Housing and Health*. These were the areas considered as most important, main priority and the most consensual among young people and the inquired entities. Key areas are those set of measures to which a responsible governing area is more immediate, overwhelmingly representing the areas of sectoral policy identified by young people as most relevant.

The **Key Themes Dimension** relates to the areas of *Environment and Sustainable Development; Governance and Participation, and Equality and Social Inclusion*, which although considered of great importance and priority, are distinguished from the former for their more comprehensive nature and for representing more cutting-cross areas of intervention, which involve several governing areas in their implementation.

Taking into account the commitment of several governing areas in the construction of a sectoral action plan for Youth, it was decided to also point out **other relevant areas**, that correspond to the sectoral action plans outlined by the governing areas of *Internal Administration, Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, Culture, Defence, Sports, Justice and The Sea*.

The NPY Action Plans are organized, therefore, by key domains, key themes and sectoral action plans, as well as by priorities and strategic objectives. Operational objectives correspond to each strategic objective, for which a set of measures contribute, whose responsibility for execution lies with different governmental areas, many of which require the sharing of responsibilities and resources of various entities.

The different action measures are defined through this structure, being developed by the partner entities responsible for initiating the necessary steps for its implementation, under the terms of the planning annually defined by it.

In structuring the NPY, priorities were outlined for each of the defined areas. Taking this framework as a starting point the various measures were designed and objectives and goals were outlined.

In the key domain of **Formal and non-formal education**, it is considered a priority to ensure the realization of the right to education and education from a holistic and inclusive perspective, in particular by bringing non-formal and informal learning into the formal education system, focusing on the development and recognition of skills, with a view to integrating young people in the active life and the exercise of citizenship and civic participation, considering their specific conditions. The approach that governs the NPY in the area of education is the same that gave rise to commitment No. 12 of the Lisboa+21 Declaration, which provides for the realization of the right to education for all young people equally, through formal, non-formal and informal education and in a comprehensive and holistic way, addressing a wide range of competences linked both to personal development and to citizen and professional development.

It is hereby understood that, as a vested constitutional right, education is a constant process and that the combination of different types of education, learning, lifelong knowledge shape the citizen, as a unique being.

Within the scope of the NPY, and safeguarding the importance of formal education in the training process of young people, it is intended to promote the appreciation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning in the certification of students, aware of their influence on school development, personal, social, cultural, among others, of each person.

In the key area of **Employment**, it is considered a priority to promote the realization of the right to decent and inclusive employment, generalizing a faster and better access to the first job and combating precariousness, with a view to the sustainability of the emancipatory process and creation of autonomy for young people.

Unemployment and access to a first job are two of the greatest concerns of young Portuguese, according to recent studies. These are concerns of the Government as well, which has been developing measures and programmes that help to reverse this situation, facilitating the respective integration processes, a claim that is intended to be strengthened in the NPY.

This concern is transversal at a global level to all Youths and, therefore, the Lisboa+21 Declaration dedicates commitment No. 13 to it, which provides for economic empowerment and decent work for all young people.

In the key domain of **Housing**, it is considered a priority to promote the realization of the right to housing, guaranteeing the access of young people to adequate housing, understood in the broad sense of habitat and geared to the people, contributing to the sustainability of the emancipatory process and the creation of autonomy for young people and to a degree of freedom in student, professional and family mobility.

Housing, or access to it, is another concern of young people in Portugal, which is directly related to the problems of unemployment, precarious work and high housing costs (both for purchase and for rent).

This situation has a decisive impact on the independence of young people, as well as on their personal and family stability, which needs to be mitigated. It is also an issue inherently linked to sustainable development and the fight against poverty and social exclusion, as foreseen by commitment n.º 2, and also, linked to the fight against the different discriminations based on the age foreseen in commitment n.º 7.

In the key domain of **Health**, it is considered a priority to ensure the realization of the right to health, taking into account the particular bio-psycho-social dimensions of this stage of life in the promotion of health policies and programmes and a healthy lifestyle.

Considering that in the first decades of life there is a progressive multiplication of challenges arising from the processes of socialization, the well-being and health of the young population acquire a particular importance, at this stage, requiring adequate responses from the services and adapted to the contexts of life and their needs. From the point of view of health, it is also in the interest of young people to support, educate, protect and prevent, contributing to their healthy development and well-being, present and future.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration takes a holistic view of youth health and social protection. Commitment No. 10 aims at a healthy environment and specific attention to the social determinants of health.

In the key theme **Environment and Sustainable Development**, it is considered a priority to ensure the involvement and participation of young people in the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Objectives and the Agenda 2030, ensuring that they also find inclusive actions, measures and objectives devel-

oped for and with young people, monitoring and evaluating their impact on youth. Sustainability is one of the transversal principles of the Lisboa+21 Declaration and the 2030 Agenda is one of its main references. The perspective of sustainable development, in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, is at the heart of commitment No. 2, right after Human Rights, thus occupying a prominent place in the Lisboa+21 Declaration. Environmental issues are specifically addressed in commitment 5.

In the key theme **Governance and Participation**, it is considered a priority to promote multilevel, inclusive, participatory and participated governance practices, with a view to the institutional strengthening of youth policies.

The current forms of exercising citizenship require the outreach of citizens to public policies, participating actively and directly in political decisions that protect the interests of the parties. This approach means that citizens and, in this case, young people, should be involved in the discussion and planning of public services, frame the problems and participate in the solutions, with the aim of improving the society where they live.

The Lisboa+21 Declaration has the participation of young people as one of its flags and multilevel and multisectoral governance as a *modus operandi*. In addition to commitments 6 and 9, which elaborate on youth participation, commitment 19 establishes the players who have a fundamental role in the implementation of Youth policies and programmes. Governments and youth representatives have pledged to collaborate on co-management mechanisms for the implementation of policies, programmes and the Lisboa+21 Declaration itself. Commitments 17 and 18 also provide for multilevel governance and co-management.

In the key theme **Equality and Social Inclusion**, it is considered a priority to promote the realization of the right to equality and social inclusion of all young people, combating social exclusion and all forms of inequality and discrimination. The theme of Equality and Social Inclusion is closely related to Human Rights and equal opportunities, therefore requiring the definition of measures that guarantee equal participation by all people, in all spheres of society: health, education, housing, work, etc. Social inclusion is a strategic factor on the reduction of inequalities and social exclusion and to build a more just society, with each of us having a share of responsibility in this regard.

Commitment n.º 3 of the Lisboa+21 Declaration lists the principles of gender equality, diversity and inclusion that crosscut the entire document and to the efforts to implement the Human Rights of all young people in their indivisibility.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE NPY

The Sustainable Development Goals are an integral part of the agenda for action that the United Nations Member States have built with the aim of transforming the world through sustainable development. This ambitious agenda is at the heart of all efforts aimed at economic, social and environmental sustainability and is also one of the main references of the Lisboa+21 Declaration.

The process of designing and structuring the NPY is not least of the major challenges launched by the SDGs. Aware that the biggest challenge arising is to find formulas that allow young people to appropriate processes, both by accomplishing their own projects and by being present in decision-making structures related to the priorities and ways of carrying out the measures, the design of lines of action of the NPY were created with a view to adapting the initiatives to the intentions of the SDGs.

In Portugal, public policies for Youth are structured so to respond to a diversity of intervention areas, based on a participation, crosscutting perspective.

In parallel, an organization for the participation and consultation of young people is established. In this regard, the existence of the NYC – National Youth Council, of diverse Consultative Councils (Secretary of State of Youth and Sports, IPDJ, I.P. consultative council, or a regional consultative council), stands out. Public consultation, structured dialogue with different age groups and social groups or youths, is permanent. We can take, as an example, the process that preceded the elaboration of the NPY itself, the ultimate reference in public youth policy, which resulted in the intersectoral action tool we have been analysing.

To the structuring and breakdown into strategic and operational objectives, measures and activities, to which the execution indicators are associated, as widely mentioned above, we will now consider the association each measure aims to attain regarding the SDGs. In this sense, the PNJ is, in practice, the main instrument for the pursuit and implementation of the SDGs in the national context in terms of Youth policies.

In the construction of the National Plan for Youth, concern about the implementation of the SDGs was widely placed by different groups of stakeholders, so even if no other reasons existed, the SDGs had to have, and did have, an express and direct influence on the building of the Plan.

Once an assessment of the achievement of the Objectives of the SDGs is made through the NYP, we note that the vast majority have a strong presence, as follows in the table:

SDGs VERSUS NYP		
OCCURRENCES		
SGD	DESCRIPTION	OCCURRENCES IN THE NYP
1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	2
3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	22
4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	12
5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	8
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	9
9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	1
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	13
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	5
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	2
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*	1
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	1
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	2
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	9
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	33

It is with all this contextualization that we can, with propriety, say that at present, in the Portuguese case, there is a considerable commitment of the Youth sector in the pursuit of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, especially regarding the dimension of public policies and the conversion of the SDGs into effective and concrete measures to implement. Still, there is always room for improvements with the intervention of young people and their representative platforms, particularly with regard to monitoring the level of implementation of the SDGs.

CONTRIBUTION TO LISBOA+21

Bearing in mind all this contextualization, we easily perceive the relevance and inevitability of the involvement of the NPY and its partners in the preparation for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21, events of global impact that had the theme of the SDGs precisely as one of their mottos.

It was in this context that it was decided to promote the consultation of the focal points of the various entities that contribute to the realization of the NYP. Taking advantage of the first moment of monitoring and evaluation of the Plan for the year 2019, consultation sessions were held with partners on the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21, promoted in partnership between the coordination structure of the PNJ and the Executive Secretariat of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21. They took place on June 4th, 5th and 7th at the Lisbon Regional Directorate of IPDJ, I.P. with the following format:

1. Presentation of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21;
2. Explanation of the main international milestones in the area of Youth;
3. Explanation of the megatrends that impact young people today;
4. Listening to partner entities about the commitments to be enshrined in the Lisboa+21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes 2019;
 - a) How do megatrends impact young Portuguese people today?
 - b) What commitments are needed to tackle megatrends?
 - c) How can the Lisboa+21 Declaration be used as a tool for pursuing the aims of the National Plan for Youth in different sectors?

Session 1 – Education and Health

The session dedicated to the theme – Education and Health – took place on June 4th. The General Directorate of Education, the General Directorate for Statistics, Education and Science, ANQEP, I.P., the General Directorate of School Establishments and the General Directorate of Health were present at this meeting, with a total of seven participants.

The session concluded that it is necessary to promote well-being and inclusion in an interdisciplinary and transversal way to all areas of knowledge through a holistic approach centered on personal development and maximizing the potential of the young person. Following this path, the education on skills for life

(including empathy and solidarity), for citizenship, for developing critical spirit, for breaking the logic of *having* to *being* through not only formal learning, but also of non-formal learning, are of importance. The issue of inclusion of young people with disabilities and the fight against gender inequalities must also be the focus of attention when it comes to education.

On the other hand, with regard to health, the capacity for innovation of Youth was also evident as the generation better prepared for the digital world and whose entrepreneurial spirit and the power to replicate good examples must be fostered and cherished in the school and professional context. However, always bearing in mind that promoting well-being is different from preparing for employment and that school, serving both purposes, should focus on the well-being and personal development of all young people.

It also addressed the issue of the responsibility of the different public institutions and civil society organizations on the creation of the conditions for the involvement of Youth, promotion of their free participation, civic and political involvement, and also on giving voice to their desires and expectations. This does not mean, however, taking away the responsibility of the young person for his/her school and professional paths, and for being an active socially interventionist citizen.

The necessary commitments identified in these areas are based on the change in the family paradigm in which the family assumes itself as the main educator; in the promotion of youth associations and in the integration of citizenship content in schools such as sexual and reproductive health, sustainability, violence gender, gender identity and digital isolation.

The session concluded that the best way to use the Lisboa+21 Declaration as a tool is to disseminate it on social networks and online channels, provide training in schools on citizenship and foster training of Youth professionals on the Lisboa+21 Declaration and its use as a key document of political commitments in the different areas.

Session 2 – Employment

The session dedicated to the theme – Employment – also took place on June 4th, 2019 with the Institute of Employment and Professional Training, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy, in a total of three participants.

In this session it was concluded that employment continues to be an important concern for Youth and for the different partners of the National Plan for

Youth, causing some «social frustration» due to the instability, precariousness and stagnation in the work of young people who end up often resorting to the informal economy. Portugal has a high number of young NEETs, of whom around 50% are not even actively looking for educational or professional opportunities because they have lost confidence in the system. Mobility, even though it is an important phenomenon for the personal development of young people, makes it difficult to retain talent in Portugal, aggravated by the difficulty in integrating migrants.

A challenge listed in the session was the difficulty of the State in sharing information among its institutions so that problems can be the target of timely intervention. The issue can only be resolved with the consent of young people, or those in charge of education, to share information between State entities.

The entities agreed that there are structural difficulties in the transition from the education system to the labour market, due to a lack of information about specific sectors and market procedures contrasting with an excess of information in other sectors; another reason is the dispersion of the existing information and its inaccessible language for Youth.

As for the commitments to be signed, these must include the promotion of the entrepreneurial spirit of young people. It is important to carry out campaigns to raise awareness of the consequences of the informal economy as well as to make language and search engines more accessible to young people by regulating the information that is made available and by centralizing information on the appropriate sites. Regarding training for employment, it is important to introduce competitiveness strategies in universities and companies.

Session 3 – Globalization and Digitalization

The session dedicated to the theme – Globalization and Digitalization – took place on June 5th 2019 and was attended by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, the General Secretariat for the Environment and Energy Transition, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development and the General Directorate of National Defence, with a total of five participants.

This session concluded that investment in higher education and mobility, to which globalization and digitalization have contributed, has allowed greater inclusion and accessibility to education and science by minorities. It has been promoting citizenship education and contributing to the country's sustainable development.

Digitalization plays an important role in making knowledge available free of charge (Open Science) and in the transfer of applied knowledge in different areas such as the economy, thus motivating young people and companies. Digitalization has also brought remarkable opportunities in terms of entrepreneurship in the areas of agriculture and forestry, which consequently contribute to the settlement of young people in the countryside, increased productivity and rejuvenated the sector.

On a more negative note, the more traditional professions – associated with the primary sector – have suffered a decrease in the interest of young people and this is partly due to their lack of promotion in the education system and the lack of practical activities in schools.

The risk of a setback in access to new technologies and mobility was pointed out with concern.

Session 4 – Sustainability and Global Citizenship

The session dedicated to the theme – Sustainability and Global Citizenship – took place on June 7th 2019, attended by the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality, the High Commissioner for Migration, the Office of the Secretary of State for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities, the National Institute for Rehabilitation, the Ministry of Planning and Infrastructure – Agency for Development and Cohesion, the Republican National Guard, the Public Security Police, the National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority, the National Road Safety Authority, the Directorate of Youth Justice Services and the Office of Cultural Strategy, Planning and Evaluation, with a total of twelve participants.

In this session, it was concluded that when we talk about global citizenship and sustainability, we talk about active citizenship and youth associations mostly, but also about rights. Issues of inequality and inadequacy of the education system that lead to school dropout and failure, issues of youth unemployment, access to housing, violence between peers and discrimination of young people based on age, migrant status, disability, gender and sexual orientation, were some of the themes addressed.

Non-formal education and volunteering are considered good tools to foster global citizenship, promoting intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and peer learning on topics as relevant as environmental education, for example. Digitalization is an essential tool for combating exclusion, bullying and violence, promoting the participation of women and other vulnerable groups in society. It is necessary, however, to create inclusive leisure spaces, where access



to culture – as creators and consumers – is inclusive, helping young people to form themselves as active citizens with cultural identity.

Another issue addressed was new mobility patterns brought about by new technologies and digitalization, which requires attention from the entities involved, when promoting a new mobility system.

An issue identified as fundamental was the involvement and participation of Youth and also the need for education for citizenship for young people and Youth professionals based on specific data and knowledge.

It also addressed the need for the State to guarantee free access to culture, the need to cooperate and work within a network, and the need for a unifying structure of efforts and training content.

It is also important to measure the impact and evaluate the different measures that are being taken.

CONCLUDING...

Taking the words of Magda Nico, and quoting, in the «Partial report: priority areas and proposals» prepared when elaborating the National Plan for Youth, which states that the NPY «should be, (...), a positive plan, which do not limit yourself to prescriptive, curative and palliative attitudes, but to take advantage of the full potential of young people, the will of youth workers, the know-how of technicians and researchers, the political will and sectoral transversality of this stage of life. It must be a functional plan, capable of putting its stakeholders in dialogue and dynamics», we dare to say that the PNJ is fulfilling the mission for which it was formulated. The availability of partners and the way they got involved in the process of preparing the Lisboa+21 Declaration entitle us to affirm that we are on the right track and on the right path to contribute positively to the transformation of the World of Youth.

This positive note, however, is not an invitation to «rest» on the road travelled. The promotion and protection of Human Rights, the development of environmental, economic and social sustainability, as well as ensuring that the participation of young people is real at all decisive moments of their lives, in any form – themes that were so dear and present during the preparation and implementation of the Lisboa+21 Conference and the Forum – for the NPY also, they were, and continue to be, issues of obligatory, constant awareness in the minds of all those who have responsibilities in matters of Youth policies.

At the end of this chapter, once again, we quote Magda Nico in the aforementioned report: «Yes, it takes a very large inter-sectoral effort to ensure that all dimensions, so important for young people, are considered. It's necessary to think outside the box. The sector is not self-sufficient. It is necessary to involve families, schools and the media. It is necessary to involve everyone in a cause that is societal and not just for young people» [free translation].

Yes, we believe to have contributed greatly to making this a reality through the work we have been developing and we believe that both the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21 in a global perspective, as well as the National Plan for Youth in a national perspective, are very important milestones that will most certainly contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of all young people. Furthermore, we are truly happy for having had the opportunity of making this national instrument, the NPY, contribute and collaborate in an initiative that constitutes a historic milestone and which we believe to be of vital importance not only for young people, but for the whole of society in general.

MUNICIPAL YOUTH POLICIES AND LISBOA+21

FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL: THE ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN YOUTH POLICIES

The role of local policies for the implementation of public youth policy instruments in the global, regional and national context is recognized and expressed in the various documents of reference, addressed in the first chapter, such as the Declaration for the Promotion of Youth among the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding among Peoples, adopted in 1965 by the United Nations member states¹⁴⁷. Principle IV of the Declaration underlines, in addition to the relevance of youth mobility provided through exchanges, travel, tourism, meetings and the learning of foreign languages, the importance of town and university twinning as ways of allowing young people access to education and sports and cultural activities as means that affirm the importance of peace, justice, freedom, equality, mutual respect and understanding in the promotion of human rights and economic and social progress.

The United Nations reinforces the role of young people, youth associations and Youth policies for local development when it materializes the idea of celebrating the International Year of Youth in 1977¹⁴⁸, in particular by recognizing the need to improve channels of communication between the organization and those and to promote their active participation in all stages of development both locally, nationally and internationally¹⁴⁹ and believing that it could be useful and serve to mobilize efforts at local, national, regional and international level for promoting better educational and professional conditions, as well as

147. United Nations General Assembly (1965), *ibid.*

148. United Nations General Assembly (1977), *ibid.*

149. United Nations General Assembly (1978b), *ibid.*

better living conditions for young people, ensuring their active participation in the integrated development of society and encouraging the preparation of new local and national Youth policies and programmes¹⁵⁰.

The World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, in 1995, not only provides a political framework and practical guidelines for national action, but it also addresses the local impact and the role of local Governments for international support to improve the situation of young people. The Program highlights the role of local Governments with regards to:

- The local economic and social conditions that enable families to support access to basic education, especially in what concerns the scarcity of opportunities for girls and young women, migrants, displaced persons, homeless children, indigenous and minority youth, youth from rural areas and young people with disabilities;
- Establishing partnerships with central Governments and Youth organizations with the aim of making rural areas more attractive to young people, through the organization of cultural events that promote exchanges between young people in rural and urban areas;
- The need for young people to be consulted and to participate at the local level in decision-making processes on environmental policies at the national level;
- To incorporate leisure time programmes in their spatial planning and rural development plans;
- The full and effective participation of young people and Youth organizations for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the promotion and implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the evaluation of its execution and the support for youth organizations to carry out their activity proposals.

Within the framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the First World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, which took place in Lisbon in 1998¹⁵¹, in its result, in the **Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes**, also contemplates the role and responsibilities of local authorities for the implementation of Youth policies in both national and international agendas, namely:

- In analysing the situation of young people and their needs, incorporating the assessment of priorities made by young people, through their participation in

150. *Ibid.*

151. United Nations (1998), *ibid.*

consultative processes and ensuring that young women and young men actively contribute to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies, Youth programmes and plans;

- Creating synergies to better address the potential and problems of young people, by strengthening responsible partnerships between all key stakeholders, especially youth networks, youth non-governmental institutions and organizations and other non-governmental organizations, including also young women, mainly girls and young men, their families, Governments, international agencies, educational institutions, civil society, the business sector and the media;
- Establish or strengthen, as appropriate, a policy to combat poverty, ensuring actions to reduce poverty and recognize the needs of young women and men for adequate housing, ensuring safe, healthy and protected living, environmental and working conditions, including housing, and integrating young people's concerns into all relevant policies and programmes and locations; supporting the capacity of young people to play an active and creative role in the management and development of populations, so that they can effectively contribute to the improvement of living and environmental conditions, not only for themselves, but also for their communities and society in general.

The responsibility and role of local authorities in implementing international youth policies is again underlined in the **Baku Commitment on Youth Policies**. In seeking to establish the fundamental principles for the development of integrated and inclusive Youth policies from their formulation and implementation to their evaluation, it refers to local authorities that youth policies:

- They must be designed, developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated with the significant participation of young people and with the involvement of all stakeholders, both in rural areas and in the urban, and in all development contexts, including post-conflict and transition situations;
- They must be responsible and enlightening, through regular evaluation and monitoring, in relation to specific youth development goals and indicators and count on the active participation of young people.

It is also committed to strengthening the promotion and application of governance mechanisms that encourage coordination and cross-sectoral and intersectoral work, as well as an efficient and effective implementation of the national to the local dimension.

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopts the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where, once again, local authorities assume an impor-

tant role, regarding the population in general and from the perspective of young people in particular:

- Recognizing that sustainable urban development and management are crucial for the quality of life of the populations, including work with local authorities and communities to renew and promote the ordering of our cities and towns, to promote cohesion, personal security and to stimulate innovation and employment;
- By recognizing that Governments and public institutions promote implementation in close relationship with regional and local authorities, sub-regional and international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, groups of volunteers and others;
- By urging Governments and parliaments, the United Nations system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, companies, the scientific and academic community – and everyone, to take action;
- By underlining – regarding objective 8, dedicated to the sustainable and inclusive promotion of economic development and decent work for all – that by 2030, they should develop and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism and to create jobs and promote local culture and products;
- Regarding objective 15, which refers to the protection and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and combating desertification, by establishing that by 2020, the values of the ecosystem and biodiversity should be integrated into national and local planning, development processes and strategies and poverty reduction budgets; and, further, improving global support to combat poaching and trafficking in protected species, by increasing the subsistence capacity of local communities.

It is within this frameworks and background that, in the Lisboa+21 Declaration, Ministers, Youth officials and youth delegates make a commitment, among others, to «Ensure the right to meaningful participation of young men and women, youth-led and youth-focused organizations at all levels (from local to global) and in all phases of decision making and implementation processes across all policies that directly and indirectly affect their lives, especially traditionally underrepresented youth, and, to that end, promote intergenerational partnerships that support youth inclusion in decision making as well as the social, economic and political integration of all youth»¹⁵², stressing, once again, the contribution and responsibility of local youth policies.

152. Lisboa+21 Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes 2019, commitment 6 [reference added by the translator]

THE ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN EUROPEAN YOUTH POLICIES

The recurring worldwide appeal and emphasis on the need to ensure ways of participation of young people in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Youth policies is echoed at the regional level, namely in the European context through the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The role of municipalities emerges from the outset in the European Union in the renewed Framework for European cooperation in the field of youth 2010-2018 and, more recently, in the European Union Strategy for Youth 2019-2027.

With respect to the renewed Framework for European cooperation in the field of Youth 2010-2018, reference is made to the role of local authorities in the dissemination of results, as a contribution to increasing their visibility and impact, but also in the process consultation and structured dialogue with young people and youth organizations, defending that it should be developed at local, regional, national and European Union level.

Local authorities are also mentioned, in complementarity and cooperation with national authorities and the European Union, in defining objectives and initiatives, namely:

- Improve access to quality information for young people and disseminate it through all possible channels, at local, regional and national levels, reinforcing multilevel cooperation;
- Develop participatory structures in education, as well as cooperation between the school, the family and the local community;
- Mobilize stakeholders at the local level to detect and help young people at risk and to guide them, where necessary, to other services;
- Provide political and financial support to youth organizations, as well as youth councils at local and national level, and promote recognition of the importance of their role in democracy;
- Adopt an intersectoral approach when working to improve the cohesion and solidarity of the local community and to reduce the social exclusion of young people, focusing on the relationship that exists, for example, between education and youth employment and their social inclusion.

In order to achieve these objectives, worthy of note are the European cooperation priorities in the field of Youth for the period from 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2011, regarding social inclusion and participation, which included the following actions:

- Role of local and regional authorities in Youth policy;
- Volunteer activities for young people and their contribution to the development of local communities.

Currently, in the framework of the recent European Youth Strategy 2019-2027, the role of the authorities receives even greater emphasis by being immediately identified among the relevant stakeholders, together with Youth councils, Youth organizations, organizations that work with young people, Youth technicians, Youth researchers and civil society actors, as well as the structures of Erasmus+ programmes and the European Solidarity Corps and successor programmes, reinforcing themselves in the guiding principles so that: in order to ensure a sustainable impact on young people, it is important that EU youth policy is implemented with interconnections with regional and local levels in mind, and that activities are conducted to support youth policies at local level.

The reinforcement of the role of local authorities is well marked in the Work Plan for the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2021, by defining the following actions:

2020	Study to prepare a guide on Youth policies at the local level	Preparation of a practical guide for policy makers at regional and local level to meet the needs of young people, with particular emphasis to intersectoral partnerships.
2020	Peer learning activity Possible joint project with the Committee of the Regions Multilevel governance and participation	Strengthening multi-level governance by promoting youth participation in political decision-making or other processes at national level
2021 (1 st Semester)	(Possibly) Council conclusions on strengthening multi-level governance by promoting youth participation in political decision-making processes or other processes at local, regional, national and European level	Adoption by the Council On the 10th anniversary of the Council Resolution on encouraging new and effective ways for all young people to participate in the democratic life of Europe

THE REVISED EUROPEAN CHARTER ON THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL LIFE

The European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, revised in 2015 by the Council of Europe, highlights that the effective participation of young people is essential for a healthy and democratic

society, particularly when there is a decline in involvement of young people with the traditional political processes observed over the past few years, stating that only when government policies – be they at national, regional or local level – reflect young realities, that their interest in politics may succeed.

Local and regional authorities have the advantage of being closer to citizens and, thus, by establishing a genuine dialogue and partnership with the people living in their territories, creating conditions so that their policies can be more credible and democratic, relevant and effective because they are based on people's needs.

Due to the small size and proximity to communities, Youth organizations, like young people, as citizens of the cities and regions in which they live or in which they choose to spend a good part of their free time, can develop a culture of youth participation and strengthen roots to local institutions and communities.

It considers that young people have the right to be involved in democratic structures and in the life of our societies and that they have the right to be heard in decision-making processes on issues that will impact their lives. To this end, it defends that young people are recognized not as a problem to be treated, but as active players of society, with their rights and responsibilities, which, due to their diversity of experiences, backgrounds, ideas, skills and talents, can be an irreplaceable resource for communities and society.

The document is structured in three parts: sectoral policies; instruments for the participation of young people; and institutional participation of young people in local and regional affairs. Regarding sectoral policies, the following policies stand out:

- For sport, leisure and associative life;
- To promote youth employment and combat unemployment;
- Environment and urban habitat, housing policy and transport;
- Education and training that promotes the participation of Youth;
- Mobility and exchange;
- Health;
- Gender equality;
- Specific for rural regions;
- Access to culture;
- For sustainable development and the environment;
- To combat violence and crime;

- Anti-discrimination;
- About sexuality;
- Access to rights and the law.

For each of the policies indicated, the Charter suggests concrete measures to be implemented by local and regional authorities with the participation of young people on an equal footing and with a view to their perspective.

BRIEF DIAGNOSIS OF YOUTH POLICIES AT MUNICIPAL LEVEL

It is in this international context that the National Plan for Youth, as mentioned in the previous chapter, assumes itself as an instrument of intersectoral coordination of Youth policy in Portugal.

It was also to that extent – following the principle of defining Youth policies based on evidence – that, in the context of the consultation and the consultation instruments for the design of the National Plan for Youth, two studies were carried out related to the intervention and the views of municipalities regarding Youth policies. First, the 308 municipalities were asked about the priority areas for Youth policies at national level and, in a subsequent phase, a study was carried out aiming at obtaining from all Portuguese municipalities a comprehensive survey of their Youth policies.

The latter, carried out by the Permanent Youth Observatory of the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon, between November 2017 and May 2018, was based on an online questionnaire survey of all the 308 Portuguese municipalities, which was complemented by an online documentary survey on the website of each municipality, as well as the analysis of structuring documents in the Youth area provided by the municipalities.

The study, which was answered by 257 municipalities (83.4% of the universe) sought to know the situation of municipal Youth policies in three areas: structure of municipal intervention in the Youth area (local governance models, financial resources and allocated human resources); forms of municipal intervention in the Youth area (municipal plans, consultation with young people, dissemination of information, support for youth associations, structures and services made available); and, also, the diagnosis (main problems of the young people) and the solutions (priorities and proposals) put into practice in the 2013-2017 municipal mandate and foreseen for the current mandate 2018-2021.

For each of the three major areas, the main conclusions are summarized:

a) Municipal intervention structure in the Youth area:

- i. It appears that in most municipalities there is no organic unit exclusively dedicated to intervention in the area of Youth. Intervention in the Youth area is associated with organic units dedicated to education, sport and social action.
- ii. The municipalities with organic units exclusively dedicated to the Youth area are located mainly on the coast, particularly in the metropolitan areas of Lisbon and Porto, as well as in municipalities with a high number of young people.
- iii. The missions of the organic units are mainly based on functions of programming and execution of public policies in the area of Youth. In municipalities with exclusive organic units for Youth there is a more targeted approach for young people as partners in local development, privileging functions of participation and coordination of public policies. On the contrary, in the case of organic units in coordination with other areas of intervention, an approach centred on young people as recipients of public policies is valued, giving priority to missions related to the resolution of problems of young people and the management of equipment, services and management organs, activities that are more marginal and not necessarily directed specifically at young people.
- iv. Most municipalities do not have more than six human resources allocated to the Youth area. Less, if we take into account only the human resources exclusively allocated to the Youth area.
- v. In the exclusive organic units and where there are more young people, it is precisely where there are more human resources.
- vi. In the organic units without exclusivity, there is a greater diversity of human resources training (in education, in sports, among others), whereas in the organic units with exclusivity, most of the human resources have education in non-formal education with a focus in the area of Youth.
- vii. Most municipalities manage limited budgets and do not have, for the most part, budgets dedicated to Youth. In the case of municipalities with organic units in coordination with other areas of intervention, the budget allocation dedicated to Youth is even lower.

b) Forms of municipal intervention in the Youth area:

- i. Most of the responding municipalities (91.2%) do not have a specific strategic plan for the young population. The lack of a Municipal Youth Plan (MYP)

- points to a probable nonexistence of a concerted, integrated and transversal policy, but solely occasional actions.
- ii. The relevance of the involvement of young people in the definition of policies and actions foreseen for them, as well as their auscultation, tend to be practices positively recognized by the municipalities. Most of them (70.9%) promote consultation and listening to young people, believing that it translates into greater involvement and consequent participation in community life, and to solve problems that affect them.
 - iii. Municipalities prefer to listen to young people using formal means, giving priority to the Municipal Youth Council (MYC). This consultative and dialogue-promoting body between youth players does not exist in all municipalities. The main reason given for its absence is a political option, related to the executive's priorities – current or former – and its nonconformity with the legal requirements for the constitution of that advisory body, as well as the formal and rigid character of the legal regime of the MYC. Along with the MYC, the municipalities promote the participation of young people through the participatory youth budget and the development of activities with a playful character and debate, such as Youth weeks.
 - iv. Support to associativism is one of the pillars of action by municipalities in favour of a greater inclusion of citizens and a stimulus to civic participation, thus contributing to local development; however, there are few municipalities with a regulation specifically designed for such support, which ends up being included with those of other sports or cultural associations.
 - v. The promotion and communication channels most commonly used by municipalities towards Youth are associated with new information technologies. The municipalities' strategy is based on the use of the municipal website and its social networks, video channels and a relevant number of municipalities (25.5% of the sample) offer a specific and youth-oriented channel.
 - vi. With regard to infrastructures, sports and cultural facilities stand out, which, although intended for all people from the municipality, end up being used by young people. Regarding infrastructures designed specifically for young people, it is important to mention the «House of youth» [free translation of «Casa da Juventude»] and «Youth Space» [free translation of «Espaço Jovem»], which aim to consolidate as places of participation, coexistence and information sharing.
 - vii. Of the municipal services specifically aimed at young people, the support provided in terms of school transport that extends to secondary education (76.7% of the sample), support at the level of free school manuals and

scholarships for higher education, and the «Municipal Youth Card» [free translation of «Cartão Jovem Municipal»].

- viii. There are offices to support professional insertion and support for entrepreneurship, reproductive health and family planning, as well as psychological support services.
 - ix. The way in which municipalities tend to view young people seems to be aligned with the European Youth Strategy and with the guidelines of the White Paper on Youth, with a focus on youth participation, encouraging voluntary activities and taking measures to promote employability and entrepreneurship.
 - x. Municipalities tend to develop more activities directed to leisure than activities that encourage the participation and involvement of young people in the community.
 - xi. The inexistence of a defined policy for the Youth area prevails, and instruments such as the MPY and MCY in general are not established, regardless of the number of young people in the municipality.
- c) Municipal problems, priorities and proposals in the Youth area:
- i. There is a tendency for problems affecting the Youth area to polarize on issues related to employment and education. Concerning employment, it unfolds primarily on the issue of youth unemployment and on precarious work. In the first case, it assumes some regional asymmetry between the coast and the interior, while the second reveals itself with less territorial contrasts.
 - ii. Housing problems are also relevant as an issue associated with the living conditions of the young population.
 - iii. Participation and citizenship are also of particular importance, being the third area with greater representation on the joint agenda of the municipalities that make up the sample, especially those with a larger youth population.

In conclusion, generally there is a convergence between the principles of design, implementation and evaluation of Youth policies at the international level, either by the instruments issued or supported by the United Nations, or by those existing in the areas of regional cooperation to which Portugal is linked, namely in the Ibero-American Region, in Europe and in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries. However, despite the guarantee of observance of the principle of subsidiarity and autonomy of local authorities, there is a need to deepen vertical coordination between public policies for Youth.

The opening of initiatives such as the World Conference of Youth Ministers 2019 and the Youth Forum Lisboa+21, as well as other *fora* that, formally or informally, happen more frequently, have placed the participation of young people in a central position of Youth policies, in the sense of trying to bring governance systems closer to young people in their national and local contexts, constituting an opportunity to transform the traditional way of doing *great politics* into forms of *grounded politics*. That is to say, policies in tune with the reality of the diversity of youth and territorial diversity, with adequate sensitivity to youth needs and capacities in the contexts of the various existing resources and infrastructure in different territories, and with sufficient availability to the capacities of young people to propose and negotiate actions and resources in the public sphere that actually correspond to their needs¹⁵³.

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