A

toolkit on Quality Standards for Youth Policy

Acknowledgment:

I. Why do we need a toolkit on "quality standards for youth policy"?

Welcome to this toolkit on quality standards, a practical tool for youth organisations to assess the state of youth policy in their context, whether it is national, regional, local, or European. This toolkit provides you with tools, tips and tricks to look at youth policy and identify what is working well and what is not. But, let's start at the beginning...

a. What is this toolkit for?

The quality standards for youth policy developed in this toolkit provide an adaptable framework for measuring the quality of youth policy in different contexts (local, national, European).

This toolkit paves the way for:
- Developing a common understanding of what constitutes quality youth policy amongst the membership of the European Youth Forum
- Supporting member organisations in their advocacy efforts towards quality youth policy
- Updating and strengthening the Youth Forum's position on youth policy at European level

In particular, it is a practical tool for member organisations that serves multiple purposes:
- Firstly, it allows identification of, by comparing with a point of reference, positive and negative aspects of existing youth policies in a given context.

- Secondly, it allows for designing improvements and setting targets for improving the quality of youth policy over time.
- Thirdly, it serves as a new tool for national and local level advocacy that can also be used for comparative analysis in the European context.
- Finally, and most importantly, it helps young people to reach for their fundamental rights.

b. Who is this toolkit for?

The standards were developed by the Expert Group on Youth Policy of the European Youth Forum, with additional input from member organisations, and adopted by the Council of Members in April 2016, ultimately reflecting the vision of quality youth policy of the whole platform.

This toolkit has been developed for youth organisations and young people, primarily member organisations of the Youth Forum (or their members), but it can be used as a reference by any other youth organisations.
The eight quality standards and their indicators provide youth organisations with a detailed framework that can help them assess the quality of youth policy in their country, and accordingly call for improvements.

The standards will also be a valuable reference for both governmental and non-governmental institutions working with youth or on youth issues and researchers in the field.

II. You said quality?

a. What are quality standards?

A standard is defined as "*an acknowledged measure of comparison for quantitative or qualitative value*"[1]. Therefore, quality standards are concise sets of prioritised statements designed to bring about measurable quality improvements within a particular area.

The added value of quality standards, especially in an international context, is that they give a common reference and universalise something that could be isolated in a specific context.

By defining quality standards, that in essence outline how a situation, a policy framework, a person etc should be in an ideal context, we allow comparison and consequently pave the way for a possible assessment of a given situation. This leads to developing strategies and calling for improvements in the situation in order to reach the standards.

b. Who cares about quality?

It is commonly agreed at European level that "Europe's future depends on its youth" *, therefore the need of quality cross-sectoral policies, which can support the development of young people in achieving their full potential, is imperative. The Council of Europe is also committed to helping Member States to improve their efforts to build quality youth policy, notably through the National Youth Policy Reports carried out by a group of experts. Furthermore, the importance of defining the quality standards of youth policy was articulated through the European

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Youth Forum's 2015 - 2016 Work Plan. Thus, both public institutions and the Youth Forum are strong advocates for the development of national policies aimed to improve the lives of young people. At national level, the responsibility of taking into account young people's rights throughout the process of youth policy development should be adopted as a serious commitment by national governments and other respective public authorities.

1. http://www.thefreedictionary.com/standard

III. What is youth policy?

a. Principles of youth policy

Before we go into the details of the quality standards, let's explore what we understand by youth policy. The European Youth Forum understands youth policy as the set of policy measures aimed at supporting the development of young people in achieving their full potential. We believe in positive youth policy, which is based on the premise that every young person has his or her own competences and talents and that approaches young people not as a problem group, but as rights-holders. The European Youth Forum, therefore, avoids an approach where young people are seen as a problem in society and youth policy a tool to solve this problem. While not denying that there are young people in society who are at risk and do therefore need targeted measures, the Youth Forum stresses that youth policy should target all young people.

Thus, the Youth Forum does not recognise so-called youth policy that only addresses young people at risk. All young people have the same rights, regardless of their background, and youth policy should in turn be developed to meet the needs of all of them.

b. The approach to youth policy in this toolkit

In the quality standards framework, the expert group has decided to focus the standards on the process, i.e. how youth policy must be developed, implemented and evaluated and not on the content, i.e. what policy areas should youth policy cover. This is because youth policy differs greatly from one country to another one, and the wide variety of situations across Europe makes it difficult to set a minimum standard for each policy area.

However, the expert group wants to remind the reader that youth policy needs a horizontal approach. There is a wide range of policy areas that impact young people. The European Youth Forum identifies three main objectives as cornerstones of youth policy:

1) Enabling young people to participate actively in society and develop as active citizens

Participation is about having the right, the means, the space, the opportunity and, where necessary, the support, to participate in and influence decisions and engage in actions and activities in order to contribute to building a better society. In particular, the Youth Forum believes that a 'culture of participation', where the voices and views of young people and youth organisations are valued and taken into account, needs to be created. Thereby, young people should be given the necessary spaces at all levels to voice their concerns and be part of the decision-making process.

Therefore the following sectoral policies should be seen as priorities and full components of youth policy:
- *Good governance (schools, administrations, authorities, including co-decision)*
- *Active citizenship*
- *Volunteering*
- *Access to information*

- *Support and capacity building of civil society and youth NGOs management system*

2) Ensuring the autonomy and the wellbeing of young people

Youth policy must aim to provide young people with the necessary support, resources and opportunities to choose to live independently; to run their own lives; enjoying the possibility of full social and political participation in all sectors of everyday life; and being able to take independent decisions. Access to quality employment and facilitated transition from the school system to the job market is therefore a key component of a youth policy. Therefore the following sectoral policies should be seen as priorities and full components of youth policy:

- *Equality and non-discrimination*
- *Employment: fighting precariousness in the labour market*
- *Social protection and poverty eradication*
- *Housing*
- *Transport*
- *Urban and rural development*
- *Health*

3) Supporting young people to find their place in society, as individuals and as professionals

Youth policy must provide everyone with the means and opportunities for integration into society as a member of the active workforce and also as a citizen. It has become a growing challenge for young people to find their place in society and to feel that they belong to a community. The European Youth Forum believes in the role of education, not only as a tool for employment but far beyond, as a means to raise young people's awareness about their rights and responsibilities and to be provided with the skills, knowledge and attitude to strive for an inclusive and tolerant society. Youth organisations stress the need to recognise the skills acquired through non-formal education, which greatly contribute to the development of the individual as a citizen, and therefore, to the development of society.

Therefore the following sectoral policies should be seen as priorities and full components of youth policy:

- *Quality education*
- *Policies providing support for youth work and youth training*
- *Non Formal Education and informal learning*
- *Intercultural learning and global education*
- *Access to culture*
- *Sport*

c. The youth policy cycle

When we talk about the youth policy cycle, we actually refer to different stages that compose a whole policy process. When looking at youth policy and the role of youth organisations in it, we notice that youth organisations often tend to be involved in the implementation phase, namely the moment when the policy comes into practice and becomes reality.

However the policy cycle is much more complex than that and includes the following phases:

- Agenda setting: This corresponds to the moment when a decision is taken to act upon an issue and to develop a policy about it. This is often triggered by the identification of a problem.
- Development: the development of the policy corresponds to the formulation and the adoption of the policy.
- Implementation: once adopted, the policy is put in place and implemented by the relevant stakeholders, thanks to appropriate financial means.

- Evaluation: after the implementation of a measure, it is crucial to evaluate the impact it has had, in order to draw the lessons and improve the measures in the future;

It is important that participatory youth policy approaches extend to the whole process and not the implementation or creation phases alone. A truly participative approach to youth policy will value the involvement of youth organisations in all of these phases.

The graph below[2] illustrates the different phases that compose a policy process.

2. https://www.e-education.psu.edu/eme803/node/516
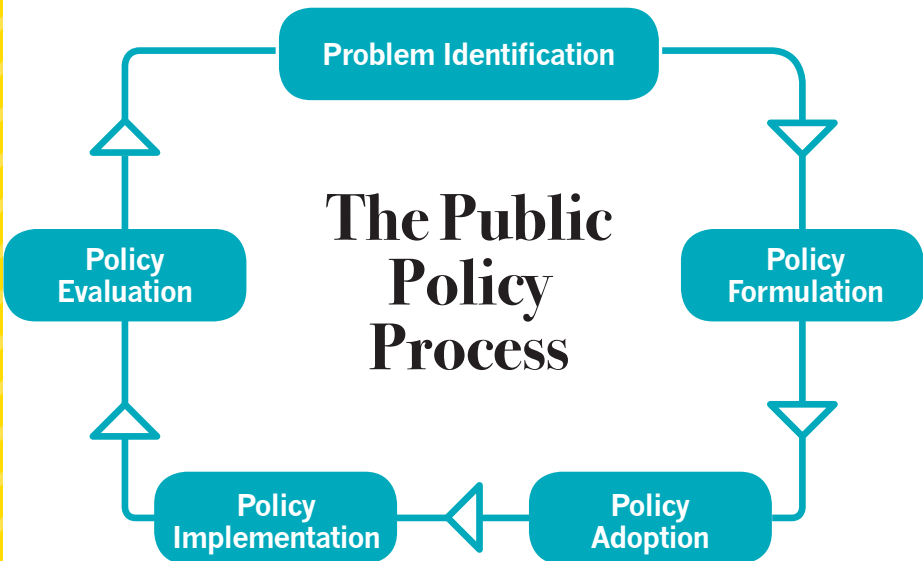
IV. How to use the toolkit and the quality standards in your national/European context?

a. A tool for YOU

The present matrix on youth policy is first and foremost a self-assessment tool designed to help you look at the state of youth policy in your own context.

It should help you and your organisation go through a self-reflection process at the end of which you should have a much clearer picture of the state of youth policies but also of what change you want to achieve and how.

The research process that will lead you to fill the matrix is as important as the results themselves. The goal is not only to tick boxes, but to understand why you ticked them and to be able to present arguments to decision makers in order to achieve change.

This is why for each indicator, there is enough space for you to write down why you decided to assess the indicators the way you did it. This is to help you in your self-reflection and analysis of the situation in your context.

b. How to use the toolkit

The information is out there
(i) You will have to use your best private detective skills to find all the information you need. Ministries' websites, sending e-mails or calling officials, even paying them a visit to interview them, researching 10 year-old policy documents. In the end, if some information is not accessible, then you may already have something to work on.

We are aware that this might require some work, but youth policy is a transversal sector and consequently many actors might be involved in its development.

The more the merrier
(ii) Researching information, analysing policy documents, writing recommendations… all of this requires a lot of work and a lot of expertise. There is no reason for you to do it alone: set up a working group, involve other youth organisations, gather the expertise you need. In the end, working in groups will make the process easier and more reliable.

They are not the enemy
(iii) The tool is not made to point and shame certain decision makers, it is made to achieve positive change. Be clear about that with your interlocutors and you might even get them on board. If you approach the relevant authority with the tool, a proactive and positive approach, you could suggest establishing a joint-working group for its use. However, be sure to keep what is most valuable in this case: your independence.

c. How to use the results: tips and tricks

(i) It is all about improving youth policies
At the end of the process, you should be able to identify the gap between the standards and the reality of youth policies in your country. This gap is what you should aim to change!

(ii) A basis for an action-plan

Of course, we don't want you to tick boxes and forget the matrix on your desk! The matrix should be a basis for action. From the gaps or problems you identified, you should be able to develop an advocacy strategy, to set goals, to call for structured dialogue between youth NGOs and decision-makers, to use good examples from abroad and try to implement them in your country.

(iii) Keep it simple

Having an impact on youth policies is a long and resource-consuming process. While the matrix should help you develop a broad and detailed overview of the situation in your country, you should tackle issues one at a time. Set priorities, make sure you tackle first the issues where you know you can be successful.

(iv) Communicate!

You will need support to achieve change, and to do so you'll need to communicate about your work. Once you have analysed youth policies in your country you should develop a strong communication plan: what are the problems? What to do you want to change? How? This should be communicated to other NGOs, to institutions, to the media and to the general public.

Do not forget that the Youth Forum is composed of about 100 like-minded organisations that would be interested in exchanging ideas with you about your findings and actions regarding youth policies. Use the available Youth Forum communication channels to exchange information with them.

> It should help you and your organisation go through a self-reflection process at the end of which you should have a much clearer picture of the state of youth policies but also of what change you want to achieve and how.

Glossary:

Some reading on youth policy to continue exploring:

- "Key issues in developing and implementing youth policy strategic documents" http://www.forumnazionalegiovani.it/docs/Key%20issues%20in%20developing%20and%20implementing%20youth%20policy%20strategic%20documents.pdf

- Youth policy manual: How to develop a national youth strategy, Finn Yrjar Denstad, http://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/7110707/YP_Manual_pub.pdf/7b17e1e6-e8b6-4041-902e-3b3ad0973c45

- 11 indicators of a national youth policy http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/CoE_indicators.pdf

- An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering, A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52009DC0200&from=EN

- European Commission white paper of 21 November 2001 – A new impetus for European youth, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:c11055&from=EN

Standards for a quality
youth policy
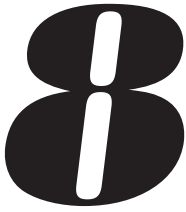
8 Standards for a quality youth policy

a. Summary of the standards

- 2 visuals in a wheel shape
- 1 with only the 8 standards
- Another circle with the 8 standards including the indicators

b. Introduction to the matrix

For each of the eight standards, the framework we are proposing includes the following elements:

– **A definition** of the standard
– **A set of indicators** to assess if the standard is reached. For this, you are invited to tick one of the 4 boxes: absent, fair, good, acquired
– **A list of criteria:** this list is to help you by giving you specific examples of what can be put in place for the indicator to be reached. Therefore, before ticking the box of the indicator, go through the criteria list and try to assess whether this is in place or not!

Effective and coordinated collaboration across sectors

Youth issues are mainstreamed

Evaluation of youth policy is used for peer learning in different sectors

Stakeholders can be held accountable for them.

Public reporting done by the policymakers

Youth organisations are monitoring the youth policy implementation

Cross-sectorial youth policy

8

Political commitment and accountability in youth policy

7

There are sufficient financial resources

Youth organisations and young people are supported with capacity building

Sufficient financial and human resources available for public authorities

Availability of resources for youth policy

6

Strategic Youth Policy

5

There is an overarching youth strategy.

Objectives of the youth strategy are measurable, resourced and time-lined

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a qu...
youth...

8

8 Standards for quality youth policy

1. Rights-based approach to youth policy
- Youth rights as a concept is recognised
- Youth policy is anchored in the universal values or pluralist, democracy and human rights
- The national youth policy endorses the existing legal instruments on Human Rights
- Youth policy is recognising young people as rights bearers

2. Evidence based youth policy
- Research is conducted on representative groups of young people
- Research data is independent and not manipulated
- Appropriate resources are allocated
- The policy is based on up to date evidence

3. Participatory Youth Policy
- Relevant stakeholders are involved
- Youth organisations are involved in all phases
- Unorganised youth and young people with fewer opportunities involved

4. Multi-level youth policy
- The national youth strategy acknowledges existence of policy frameworks at other levels.
- Youth strategy/policy objectives of different levels are coordinated
- Youth policy measures reflect the geographical and socio-economic diversity

At the top of each section of a new standard, you can find the wheel. This is also a tool to help you to visualise the state of the youth policy in your context.

While you go through the indicators and the criteria, we invite you to colour the indicators as follows:

Absent: red   Fair: orange

Good: yellow   Acquired: green

Once you have coloured the indicator, you can also colour the standard, according to the overall assessment.

Easy and fun, now it's YOUR turn to have a go...

Youth rights as a concept is recognised

Youth policy is anchored in the universal values or pluralist, democracy and human rights

The national youth policy endorses the existing legal instruments on Human Rights

Youth policy is recognising young people as rights bearers

Rights-based approach to youth policy

1

Cross-sectorial youth policy

8

Political commitment and accountability in youth policy

7

Availability of resources for youth policy

6

Strategic Youth Policy

5

Multi-level youth policy

4

Participatory Youth Policy

3

Evidence based youth policy

2

Standard 1: Rights-based approach to youth policy

Youth policy should be based on the standards set out by the international human rights framework and follow the principles of equality and non-discrimination. A rights-based approach[3] to youth policy urges policymakers to work towards the long-term fulfillment of youth rights, including the right to participate in defining those rights, and empowers young people by defining them as rights-holders.

3. European Youth Forum, 2014. A European Youth Forum definition of rights-based approach.
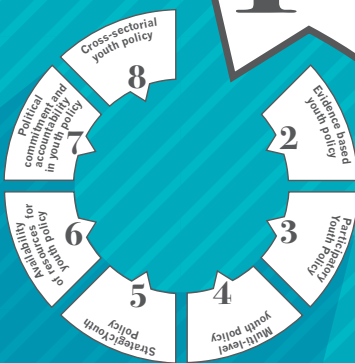
Indicator 1

Youth rights as a concept is recognised in the relevant policy documents

Mark the appropriate category

Absent · Fair · Good · Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria list:

- The term and concept of youth rights is being expressed within official legislation/strategies relevant for youth.

- Youth policy acknowledges all youth rights with equal status: they cannot be ranked in hierarchical order.

Indicator 2

Youth policy is clearly anchored in the universal values or pluralist, democracy and human rights and addresses positively and equally all young people, regardless of their gender, race, ethic group etc

Mark the appropriate category

Absent · Fair · Good · Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- Youth policy is non-discriminatory/universal: the target group for youth policy measures is inclusive and encompasses all young people.

- Youth policy develops a positive approach towards young people, considering them as a resource rather than a problem.

The national youth policy endorses the existing legal instruments on Human Rights

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- The term and concept of youth rights is being expressed within official legislation/ strategies relevant for youth.
- Youth policy is non-discriminatory/ universal: the target group for youth policy measures is inclusive and encompasses all young people.
- Youth policy acknowledges all youth rights with equal status: they cannot be ranked in hierarchical order.

- The national youth policy is in line with the European Social Charter of the Council of Europe.
- The national youth policy is in line with the European Convention on Human Rights.
- The national youth policy is in line with the Lisbon Treaty (Article 1a, Article 2).

Youth policy recognises young people not as beneficiaries, but as participating rights bearers. Thus it establishes corresponding duty bearers like Member States and other public actors, who can be held accountable to the rights of young people.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent Fair Good Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- The government takes an action to ensure young people's access to quality education and training, to decent work and living conditions.
- The government takes action to ensure young people's autonomy as well as their sense of responsibility and participation.
- There are information and counselling services at local, regional or national level.
- The government provides and supports actions and activities to promote awareness and understanding of rights amongst young people, including through formal and non-formal education.
- Human Rights education is implemented in formal education curricula

Research is conducted on representative groups of young people

Research data is independent and not manipulated

Appropriate resources are allocated

The policy is based on up to date evidence

Evidence based youth policy

2

Rights-based approach to youth policy
1

Cross-sectoral youth policy
8

Participatory Youth Policy
3

Political and institutional commitment in youth policy
7

Multi-level youth policy
4

Availability of resources for youth policy
6

Strategic youth Policy
5

Standard 2: Evidence-based youth policy

An evidence-based youth policy means that all stages of youth policy development use and are based on reliable, relevant, independent and up-to-date data and research, in order for youth policy to reflect the needs and realities of young people.
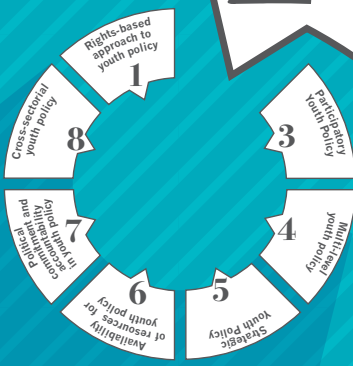
Indicator 1

Research is regularly conducted on the living conditions, aspirations and perceptions of representative groups of young people.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- Research is published or reviewed at least once a year.
- The research used for policy-making reflects the situation of all young people. (Not only of specific groups)

Indicator 2

Research data is independent and not manipulated throughout all parts of the policy cycle.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- The result of the research is verified by the scientific community.
- The research published mentions the sources of data that have been used.
- The research published uses different sources of data.
- There are independent and non-political researchers/institutions/think tanks working on youth.

Indicator 3

Appropriate resources (financial, human…) are allocated for youth-related research.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent	Fair	Good	Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- There is sufficient budget made available for employing independent researchers
- There is sufficient budget for an independent body on youth that focuses on research
- There is sufficient budget for conducting different forms of research

Indicator 4

The policy is based on up-to-date information and research.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent	Fair	Good	Acquired

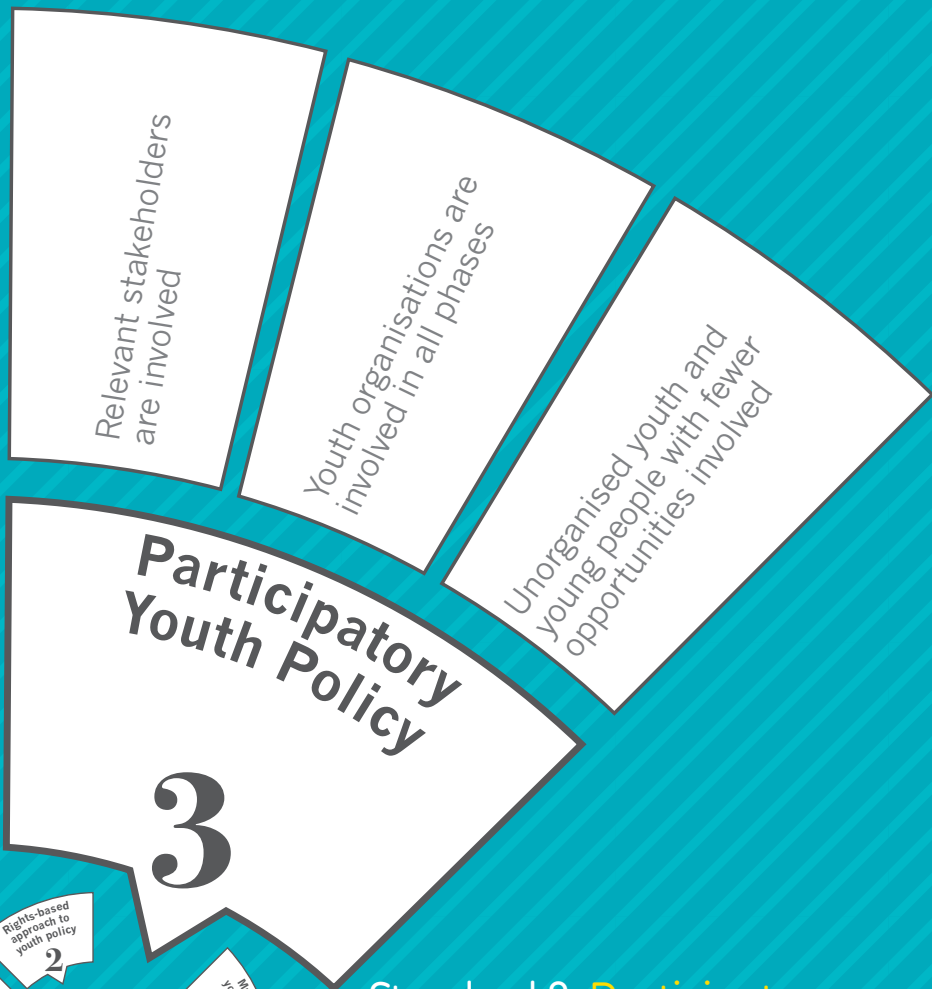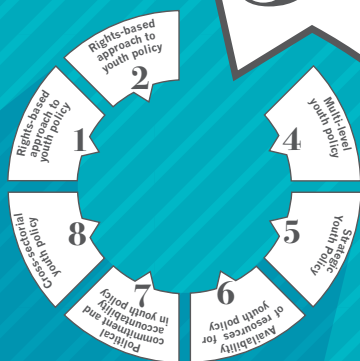### Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- Throughout the policy cycle up-to-date information and research is used.
- Monitoring of the adopted policies is based on up-to date information and research
- Youth policies must be based on a diverse range of evidence-based methods (data, focus groups, surveys etc.).

Relevant stakeholders
are involved

Youth organisations are
involved in all phases

Unorganised youth and
young people with fewer
opportunities involved

**Participatory
Youth Policy**

3

1 Rights-based
approach to
youth policy

2 Rights-based
approach to
youth policy

4 Multi-level
youth policy

5 Strategic
Youth Policy

6 Availability
of resources for
youth policy

7 Political
commitment and
accountability
in youth policy

8 Cross-sectoral
youth policy

Standard 3: Participatory Youth Policy

Participatory youth policy involves all stakeholders, at all stages of the policy cycle, from creation and implementation to evaluation. Stakeholders are youth organisations, young people, and all other organisations as well as individuals who are influencing and/or are being influenced by the policy. Particular attention is paid to participation of vulnerable and marginalised groups among all stakeholders. Mechanisms to ensure that the policy development, implementation and evaluation are participative must be ensured and made transparent.

All relevant stakeholders (civil society organisations, and other sectors of the society) are involved in all phases of the policy cycle.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- There is an open and user-friendly consultation process for stakeholders in the creation, implementation and evaluation phase, which is done through different communication channels to widen the reach of consulted groups (e.g. online, offline, face-to-face, etc.)

- Policy makers publicly provide feedback to the participants after the consultation process.
- Relevant stakeholders (depending on the policy area) are invited by the public authority for a face-to-face meeting to provide input to the discussion.

Youth organisations are involved in all phases of the policy cycle.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent Fair Good Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- Young people are specifically consulted before a policy-making process starts.
- There are regular online and offline consultations conducted between youth organisations and policy-makers to ensure a dialogue.
- There is a co-management system (or other structural tools) in place at all levels, to enable young people to be represented in the policy process.

- The involvement of youth organisations (youth-led and/or working for young people) occurs in all phases of the policy-cycle (not only in the implementation, but also in the development and in the evaluation)
- Youth organisations are considered as key stakeholders when policies affecting youth are developed.

Specific efforts are made by the public authorities to involve unorganised youth and young people with fewer opportunities throughout the policy cycle.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- Before the start of the process, there is a plan put forward to include the participation of non-organised young people and young people with fewer opportunities within the policy cycle.
- Youth work or non-formal methodologies is used in all phases of engagement of young people.
- The meetings, consultations and activities regarding the policy process are adapted and made accessible for young people with fewer opportunities.

- Policy makers provide feedback on how the results of these consultations were used.
- Participative mechanisms are thought through and developed with young people and the youth organisations who are facing the biggest barriers to participate, adapting to the rhythm, language, form and way of working of those organisations/young people.
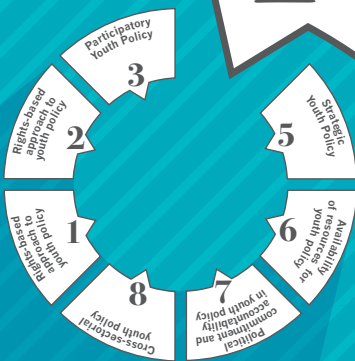
The national youth strategy acknowledges existence of policy frameworks at other levels.

Youth strategy/policy objectives of different levels are coordinated

Youth policy measures reflect the geographical and socio-economic diversity

Multi-level youth policy

4

3 Participatory Youth Policy

2 Rights-based approach to youth policy

1 Rights-based approach to youth policy

8 Cross-sectorial youth policy

7 Political commitment and accountability in youth policy

6 Availability of resources for youth policy

5 Strategic Youth Policy

Standard 4: Multi-level youth policy

Multi-level youth policy means that it is developed, implemented, and evaluated in a coordinated manner between all relevant public authorities from local, regional, national and European levels. The principle of subsidiarity is respected – policies are put in place at the level most effective and closest to people.

Indicator 1

The national youth strategy and youth policies acknowledge the existence of policy frameworks at other levels.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- The national youth strategy refers to the thematic priorities of the relevant European strategy (EU and Council of Europe)
- The national youth strategy refers to the thematic priorities of the relevant global strategy (World Programme of Action for Youth – WPAY)
- The national youth strategy recognises the existence of related frameworks in other public authorities levels

Indicator 2

The national, regional and local level youth strategy/policy objectives are coordinated and thus complementary and mutually reinforcing

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- There is a body (department, committee, ministry) dealing with youth issues at each level of the public authority.
- There is a clear division of competences and responsibilities amongst the different levels of public authority regarding youth policy.
- There is a coordinating body on the appropriate level of public authority that monitors youth policies at all levels.

Indicator 3

Youth policy measures reflect the geographical and socio-economic diversity within and in between different administrative units (such as municipalities, regions, federal states or overseas territories et cetera).

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- The youth strategy/youth policies recognise, identify and introduce measures to address the geographical and socio-economic disparities amongst young people.

- The local youth policy measures reflect the specific conditions and challenges of the young people in the local area.

The principle of subsidiarity is respected – policies are put in place at the level most effective and closest to people.
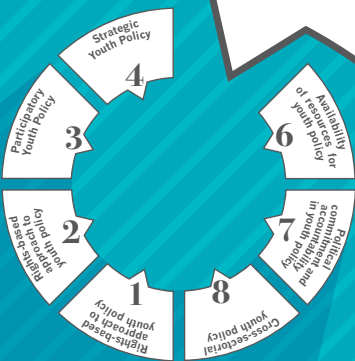
There is an overarching youth strategy.

Objectives of the youth strategy are measurable, resourced and time-lined

Strategic Youth Policy

5

Strategic Youth Policy

4

Participatory Youth Policy

3

Rights-based approach to youth policy

2

Rights-based approach to youth policy

1

Cross-sectoral youth policy

8

Political accountability in youth policy

7

Availability of resources for youth policy

6

Standard 5: Strategic Youth Policy

Strategic youth policy is based on an overarching strategy or a legal framework built around a long-term vision and consisting of a set of measurable, resourced and time-lined objectives, identified target groups and a clear division of responsibilities amongst the different public authorities for its implementation and evaluation.

Indicator 1

There is an overarching youth strategy.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent Fair Good Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- The document exists.
- The document is publicly available.
- The target groups for the policy measures are defined within the strategy.

> Supportive measures, from training schemes to funding programmes, are made available to ensure the capacity building of the actors and structures of youth policy.

The objectives of the youth strategy are measurable, resourced and time-lined.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- The strategy is accompanied by a separate implementation plan with specific objectives, key performance indicators and assessment criteria.
- There is a budget planned and made available to implement the strategy.
- The strategy has time-bound objectives and is subjected to periodical reviews by the appropriate public authority.
- The youth strategy consists of both short and long term policy measures.

There are sufficient financial resources

Youth organisations and young people are supported with capacity building
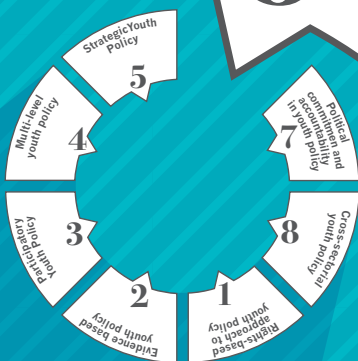
Sufficient financial and human resources available for public authorities

Availability of resources for youth policy

6

Strategic Youth Policy
5

Multi-level youth policy
4

Participatory youth policy
3

Evidence based youth policy
2

Rights-based approach to youth policy
1

Cross-sectorial youth policy
8

Political commitment and accountability in youth policy
7

Standard 6: Availability of resources for youth policy

Sufficient resources, both in terms of funding and human resources are available for youth organisations, youth work providers as well as public authorities to develop, implement and evaluate quality youth policy. Supportive measures, from training schemes to funding programmes, are made available to ensure the capacity building of the actors and structures of youth policy.

There are sufficient financial resources made available by the government for youth organisations, to support the implementation of youth policies.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent Fair Good Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- Grants (both administrative and project-based grants) and other resources are made available by the government to ensure that youth organisations can carry out their activities sustainably.
- Grants (both administrative and project-based grants) and other resources are made available by the government to ensure that youth workers can carry out their activities sustainably.

- There are publicly funded investments made into the development of youth work.
- Youth organisations are involved in the management of funding and grants.

Youth organisations and young people are supported with capacity building by public authorities.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent

Fair

Good

Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- There are financial means to ensure sufficient human resources and capacity building within youth organisations.
- There are programmes available to train youth leaders in order to ensure capacity building.

- Knowledge and information on capacity building (such as guides on best practice and training programmes) is easily accessible for youth and their organisations.

There are sufficient financial and human resources available for public authorities working on youth policy.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent Fair Good Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- There are financial means to ensure sufficient human resources and capacity building of public authorities.
- There is a sustainable budget available for public authorities to ensure the commitment to their work on youth.

- There are educational programmes available for civil servants working on youth issues.
- Knowledge and information on youth (such as research and data) is easily accessible for public authorities working on youth.
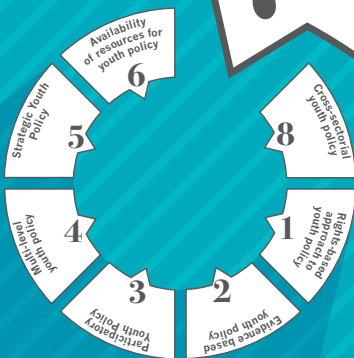
Stakeholders can be held accountable for them.

Public reporting done by the policymakers

Youth organisations are monitoring the youth policy implementation

Political commitment and accountability in youth policy

7

Availability of resources for youth policy
6

Strategic Youth Policy
5

Cross-sectorial youth policy
8

Multi-level youth policy
4

Rights-based approach to youth policy
1

Participatory Youth Policy
3

Evidence based youth policy
2

Standard 7: Political commitment and accountability in youth policy

Political commitment and accountability means that decision makers are taking the appropriate measures to implement youth policy in a transparent way and ensure reporting on their actions in an objective way. Youth organisations and young people are an active part of the policy cycle and decision makers are held accountable for their actions.

The various stakeholders in the policy making process take responsibility for their actions and can be held accountable for them.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- The responsibilities between the various stakeholders are clearly defined and publicly known.
- There are clear development targets in place to measure the advancement of youth policy which makes it possible to hold policy-makers accountable.

- The various stakeholders respond in a timely way to feedback addressed to them.
- All relevant institutions working on youth issues are easily accessible for young people.

There is public reporting done by policymakers throughout all stages of the policy cycle of youth policy on a regular basis.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- There is a public report published periodically by the government on youth policy.
- Information on all stages of the policy cycle is easily accessible for youth through media and other information channels such as the internet, governmental information channels etc.
- Information published is written in language accessible for all.

Indicator 3

Youth organisations are monitoring youth policy implementation in order to ensure that the needs and interests of young people are met.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent Fair Good Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- Youth organisations are participating in the monitoring of the implementation stage and their feedback is taken into consideration.

- There is a continuous advocacy process around youth policy to inform and make young citizens aware, with the aim of ensuring the implementation and monitoring of youth policy.
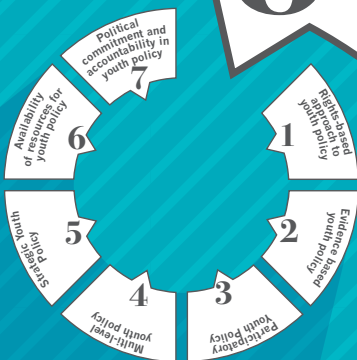
Effective and coordinated collaboration across sectors

Youth issues are mainstreamed

Evaluation of youth policy is used for peer learning in different sectors

Cross-sectorial youth policy

8

1 Rights-based approach to youth policy
2 Evidence based youth policy
3 Participatory Youth Policy
4 Multi-level youth policy
5 Strategic Youth Policy
6 Availability of resources for youth policy
7 Political commitment and accountability in youth policy

Standard 8: Cross-sectorial youth policy

Cross-sectoral youth policy implies there is coordination among different ministries, departments and public bodies responsible for and working on issues affecting young people, jointly working on the creation, implementation and evaluation of youth policy.

There is an effective and coordinated collaboration across sectors, ministries and other relevant entities.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent Fair Good Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- There is a structure that provides the possibility for consultations and coordination among different institutions (e.g. governmental advisory boards, coordination mechanisms, interministerial committee etc.)
- There are regular meetings organised between actors from different sectors in order to review policies.

- Institutions involved in youth policy by other than the youth ministry, receive training on youth issues from the government.
- Youth authorities should not respond to only one department/ministry, but should have effective cross-sectoral responsibilities and means.

Youth issues are mainstreamed throughout different relevant policy areas, hence acknowledging that youth issues are horizontal.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- Public authorities acknowledge that youth policy needs a horizontal approach (e.g mention in the youth strategy).
- Youth issues are being dealt with by different ministries / departments of public institutions.

- There is a person/team in charge of mainstreaming youth issues throughout different sectors (e.g. employment, health, education).

The evaluation of youth policy is used as a mechanism of peer learning for different sectors of the government.

Mark the appropriate category

Absent   Fair   Good   Acquired

Why did you choose this category?

Criteria for assessment

- There is an evaluation process within the institutions directly involved in youth policy.
- The results are shared between relevant institutions.
- Each sector of government is provided with results of the evaluation of youth policy implementation as a way of strengthening future policies.