



National Conference

Enhancing youth services in Moldova to leave no one behind

8 November 2018, Chisinau | Republic of Moldova

Concept Note

Background

Youth of Moldova, constituting 30% of the population, represent its driving force that can lead to an inclusive, democratic and peaceful society, and bring the social and economic changes that the country needs. However, it faces multiple challenges such as a poor access to labor market, which put young people in economically disadvantaged position; more than 150,000 young people being left by their parents who moved abroad looking for better jobs; schools have limited capacity to build life-skills of young people to prevent risky behaviors and enable them to be active citizens. There are still numerous cases of teenage pregnancies in the country that prevent young girls from continuing their education and fulfill their professional goals. About 20% of young people intend to emigrate for work purposes¹ and 27% young people neither are in education nor employed. It decreases the potential participation of young people in democratic processes in the country and their contribution to social and economic development of Moldova.

There are efforts at the national level to address youth, through policies that target youth development like Youth Sector Development Strategy 2020, Law on Youth, National Programs on Youth Centers Development and National Program on Youth Councils. However, at the district level, youth component is insufficiently reflected in the budget, local public administration still has limited capacity to identify and address youth needs in a result oriented manner, and young people, in particular those most vulnerable, have low civic and social participation.

Youth has to be placed in the center of state, societal and development partners' effort to acquire the democratic and human rights values, fulfil its creative and innovative potential, and contribute to development of their community. Moreover, youth development and youth engagement are cross-cutting issues in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and young people play an important and positive role in the realization of sustainable development of the country. In this context, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova and UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund in the Republic of Moldova are partnering to increase availability and quality of youth services at local level, by establishing the Joint Fund for developing youth services for young people, including most vulnerable.

Within the established long-term partnership, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MECR) and UNFPA are organizing the First National Conference in Youth Area to: coordinate the national efforts on youth services development and discuss the progress made on addressing inequalities among young people, creating safe and friendly spaces and reshaping national and local youth policies to the realities of demographic, social and economic trends of young population.

¹ https://www.oecd.org/countries/moldova/Report_Young_Moldova_Problems_Values_and_Aspirations.pdf

The Conference will be an interactive networking platform, bringing international and national experts, decision makers, development partners, young people and youth services providers. More than 100 persons are invited to attend the event, including representatives of the Youth Centers, CSOs, local public authorities, National Network of Local Youth Councils, specialists in youth work, practitioners in youth field and decision-makers from the Central Public Authorities and Local Public Authorities.

Objectives:

- Disseminate and exchange good practices, strategies and lessons learned on reshaping youth policies and addressing the needs of young people with fewer opportunities;
- Addressing the evidences, latest research results, policy advice, on promoting young people participation and mainstreaming youth priorities at local and national level;
- Fostering a stronger mindset to the participants to enhance opportunities for greater empowerment of young people by engaging active actors in the youth field in joint actions;
- Highlighting important issues of youth sector development and promoting joint transformative approaches for the sector;
- Addressing and advocating for recommendations on re-shaping national policies on development of the youth sector in addressing inequalities among youth.

Thematic areas:

1. Youth policies in Republic of Moldova. Research for policy action and good practices, dynamics on its implementation;
2. UN Youth Strategy 2030 in the framework of Sustainable Development Goals;
3. Youth Centers – safe and friendly spaces for young people. Intermediate Evaluation report of the Youth Centers network;
4. Youth work in Moldova – Specialist in youth work: recognition and prospects for development of the profession / occupation.

Organizers and partners

The Conference is organized by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and UNFPA Moldova, in collaboration with UNFPA implementing partner – Terre des hommes in the framework of the Joint Fund for developing youth services for young people including those most vulnerable.