Joint Fund for the development of Youth Centers, and strengthening participation and civic engagement of young people in the Republic of Moldova

30% of the country’s population are young people.

BACKGROUND

Quality services for young people at local level, as well as diversification of participation and involvement opportunities for young people at community level have a key role in the development of young people. At the same time, the existing youth infrastructure, such as the Youth Centers, serves as a key community actor, which, in partnership with the school, local public authorities (LPA), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other local partners, supports young people to apply their knowledge in practice and develop their participation skills in community life. In order to support young people to develop themselves, engage in their community as active citizens, there is a need for close cooperation between all key local stakeholders.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MoECR) launched the National Program for Development of Youth Centers in 2017, in order to develop youth services at local level. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) became the core partner of MoECR under this Program, having the role of developing the human resources of the Youth Centers and strengthening the services provided to young people, including to the most vulnerable. In 2018 the Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova (SCO-M) joined these efforts through the project “Strengthened Participation and Civic Engagement among Young People in Moldova”. The three partners created the ‘Joint Fund for development of Youth centers and strengthening participation and civic engagement of young people in the Republic of Moldova’ for the period from 2017 - 2022 (hereinafter the ‘Joint Fund’). The activities within the Joint Fund are carried out in partnership with the Council of Europe, Terre des hommes Moldova, the National Youth Council of Moldova, the National Network of Local Youth Councils of Moldova, the Local Specialized Educational Authorities, the National Network of Youth Friendly Health Centers ‘Youth Klinic’ and other national and local key stakeholders.

1 Source: NBS, Number of population with habitual residence in the Republic of Moldova as of 1 January 2019

**Duration:**
December 2017 – December 2022

**Purpose:** Strengthened participation and civic engagement of young people through Youth Centers, which will create opportunities for personal development, participation, information and networking for young people and will help create synergies and partnerships between Youth Centers, schools and other key local stakeholders.

**Budget:**
- MoECCR: MDL 19,500,000
- UNFPA: USD 425,000
- SCO-M: USD 1,000,000

**Implementing agency:**
UNFPA

**Final beneficiaries:** young people aged 14-35, including the most vulnerable.

**Direct beneficiaries:**
- Youth Centers as part of the National Youth Centers Development Program 2022
- Local public authorities
- Young people aged 14-35, including the most vulnerable

**Coverage:**
Entire territory of the Republic of Moldova

**Impact:**
- The Republic of Moldova has a functional network of Youth Centers with safe and youth-friendly spaces, giving opportunities for personal development, participation, information, leisure and socialization.
- Young people from the Republic of Moldova participate and become civically engaged at local and national level, thus contributing to the development of the communities and the whole country.

**OUTCOMES**

**Policy level:**
- Youth policies are improved and respond to the needs of young people at national and local level and facilitate the practical application of the new curriculum of civic education.
- The new Youth Strategy is developed considering the results and conclusions of the assessment of the 2020 National Strategy for Youth Sector Development.

**Institutional level:**
- Youth Centers have skilled human resources in youth work, and their programs and premises are accessible, safe, youth friendly, including for the most vulnerable.
- Youth Centers have developed volunteer and outreach programs and engage scholars and young people in the social and democratic life of the community.

**Population level:**
- Girls and boys, jointly supported by Youth Centers and schools, participate and become civically engaged at local level by applying the knowledge gained at the ‘Education for society’ subject.
- Youth Centers, teachers, LPAs, community organizations, parents and other key local stakeholders, through collaboration, provide students and young people with participation opportunities.

The activities of the Joint Fund contribute to achievement of the objectives of the 2020 National Strategy for Youth Sector Development:

- a) Increase the level of civic activism of young people, including among young people with limited opportunities;
- b) Strengthen local youth councils;
- c) Diversify the methods of young people’s access to information;
- d) Develop outreach services;
- e) Strengthen the measures to promote a healthy lifestyle among young people;
- f) Extend the non-formal education services.

Contact details: https://moldova.unfpa.org/en;  e-mail: moldova.office@unfpa.org