THE GOVERNMENT

PROPOSAL

THE YOUTH POLICY OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA
FOR 2016-2020.
In Banja Luka
April 2016.

1 RECITAL

The Youth Policy of Republika Srpska is a strategy ensuring the systematic improvement of a numerous areas of young people’s interest. Different institutions are responsible for activities improving the situation of young people in Republika Srpska implemented with young people and / or for young people, and thus the inter-sectoral approach is necessary in its planning and implementation to be realized under this strategic document, unique and common to all entities affecting the young people.

Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports responsible for youth issues but primarily for their organization and conditions solving the issues important to young people, had a coordinating role during the implementation of measures from the document Youth Policy of Republika Srpska, too and initiated other competent institutions for a prompt undertaking of measures and activities under the Youth policy relating to their competence in the whole process of resolving the youth issue.

Based on past experience in the implementation of the two youth policies (2006-2010 and 2010-2015), we decided to insert the results that would improve the youth position and that we would jointly, as a society, strive for while preparing the third document of the Youth Policy. This means that the ministries, as in the past, would realize independent projects targeted at young people, but also there would be the greater opportunity and methodology for joint projects contributing to the realization of the same goal within the jurisdiction of several ministries. This will increase the effects and use available human and financial resources. Also, the funds allocated to civil society organizations and individuals by ministries both in accordance with the Action Plan will be used for the implementation of the Youth Policy of Republika Srpska in a more proper way, and the priorities of the ministries primarily focused on the final result in this particular issue of the youth position.

The Youth Policy defines the main goals, tasks and directions of the youth sector development. The Youth Policy is not only a general principle of youth problem solving, but develops into specific programs and measures providing for better living conditions, creative expression and participation of the youth in the wider social environment, thus improving the position and status of young people, and young people from 13 to 18 years (adolescents).

Given the importance and complexity of this issue, and the fact that the youth are a concern of the general interest of Republika Srpska, it is necessary to involve the wider community in the process of development and realization of the youth policy, and to create institutional obligation of competent authorities in the program implementation to be defined by the Action Plan implementing the Youth Policy of Republika Srpska.

Youth participation in all public life spheres represents one of the main goals of the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and is based on a few international conventions and declarations, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They provide a strong reference framework for the approach based on rights regarding support programs. Participation is a fundamental democratic right. It should itself be sufficient to remove existing barriers to political participation of the youth. By encouraging, promoting and supporting youth participation in public life, the more effective alliance between generations to jointly resolve current problems and challenges is expected in the future.
This model of development and implementation of the Youth Policy brings another dimension - puts the youth at the center of the youth policy both during the preparation and implementation, and proves that all the problems, the needs and concerns of the youth are not solely responsibility of the Government of Republika Srpska, but of all results-oriented stakeholders no matter which sector they belong to. In this respect, an integral part of the Action Plan implementing the Youth Policy of Republika Srpska aims to identify the stakeholders who will be involved in the implementation, their responsibility and hierarchy, as well as mechanisms for assessing and monitoring results-oriented annual progress.

Vision of the Youth Policy of Republika Srpska: the youth, as an equal and active partner in the Republika Srpska's institutions, live in secure social environment of equal possibilities, encouraging them to realize their potential.

Vision of the Youth Policy of Republika Srpska for 2016-2020 will be realized in 5 prior fields:

- Employment,
- Active involvement,
- Healthy lifestyles,
- Excellence,
- Spare time.

The below listed strategic aims are specified within these five prior fields:

- Strategic aim 1: Improving employment of the youth,
- Strategic aim 2: Improving possibilities for active involvement of the youth,
- Strategic aim 3: Develop health lifestyles of the youth,
- Strategic aim 4: Ensuring support to development of youth excellence,
- Strategic aim 5: Improving possibilities for good spare time of the youth,

and their supporting operational aims:

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<th>1. Improving employment of the youth</th>
<th>2. Improving possibilities for active involvement of the youth</th>
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<td>1.1. Ensuring better connectivity between educational system and labour market</td>
<td>2.1. Developed consciousness on significant active involvement of the young in society and decision-making process</td>
<td>3.1. Support healthy behavioral patterns with the youth</td>
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<td>1.2. Developed occupational culture and labour ethics</td>
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<td>1.3. Stimulative professional and business environment for the youth provided</td>
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2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The constitutional basis for the enacting of the Youth Policy is contained in the Amendment XXXII, Article 68, Point 12 of the Constitution of Republika Srpska, where Republika Srpska governs and takes care of children and youth, and Point 18 of the Constitution of Republika Srpska, where Republika Srpska regulate and provide other relations of interest for Republika Srpska in accordance with the Constitution. Pursuant to Article 11 of the Youth Organization Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 98/04, 119/08 and 1/12), the general interest of Republika Srpska is care for the youth. The general interest is achieved by fixing and creating conditions for youth organization and care of the youth, in particular by adopting and implementing the document Youth Policy established at the Republika Srpska level and local governments. On the basis of Articles 13 and 14 of the Youth Organization Act, the youth policy is adopted at the level of Republika Srpska and local government units.
(LGUs) for a five-year period, and Republika Srpska and local government units (LGUs) pass an action plan for the implementation of the youth policy for one year based on the adopted youth policy. The Youth Policy is adopted by the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, and an action plan for the implementation of the youth policy is adopted by the Government of Republika Srpska upon proposal of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports (“the Ministry”). The Action plan for implementation of the youth policy shall be made within 30 days after adopting the budget for the year for which the action plan is adopted. Proposal of the youth policy and action plan for the implementation of the youth policy is prepared by the Ministry in cooperation with the Youth Council of Republika Srpska.

3 KEY PRINCIPLES

Key principles referring to the document preparation process and its implementation are as follows:

- **Transparency** – Document with all relevant data is publicly available and is subject to public discussion.

- **The youth active involvement** – The youth were actively involved in document preparation process, directly and via representatives of youth organizations. The document defines active involvement of youth in implementation, tracking and evaluation process.

- **Equality – equal opportunities for all** – Diversity of experiences, capabilities, identities and culture of youth is honoured, and reduction of inequality is promoted throughout the document as a mean for improving results and achieving the greater social involvement.

- **Result - and ponderability – oriented** – To be efficient, policies and activities covered by this document must be supported by evidence and result oriented as agreed.

- **Clearly defined responsibilities** – Responsibilities for all said measures, projects and activities are clearly defined, and tracking system is established.

- **Resource efficiency** – Application and tracking mechanisms are established to provide efficient application of the youth policy.
4 ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

4.1 Youth employability

4.1.1 Meaning and elements of youth employability

Issues such as employment, unemployment and economic (in) activity of the youth directly related to the level of their employability, are key strategic issues of vital interest in every modern society. The youth is the most vital part of any population, the driving force of economic, social and demographic development and the most valuable resource of any community, with a due consideration. Due to a large number of heterogeneous causes, the youth of Republika Srpska is currently in a complex situation when it comes to their employment and their capacity for employment. When we talk about the employability of youth, above all, it is necessary to further clarify the term "employability" and its connection with the terms "employment", "unemployment" and economic "activity of the workforce".

According to the definition of the Committee on Human Resources Development and Training of the International Labour Organization, the term "employability" in its broadest sense can be defined as an individual's ability to secure and retain a job, to progress at work and cope with changes during the working life. The French Ministry in charge of the labour issues defines "employability" as an individual's ability to move independently through the labour market and achieve full professional potential. The above definitions show that the term "employability" has a significantly broader meaning of the terms traditionally used in the field of employment, and that the employability rate indicates the greater number of factors classified into external ones (legal, structural and institutional factors that determine a real possibility of employing on the open labour market and, in the broadest sense, represents the demand for workers / work) and internal ones (primarily related to the personal attributes of workers, such as: knowledge, skills, personal responsibility, motivation, flexibility and, in the broadest sense, represents labour supply).

Given the foregoing, the workforce employability can be monitored and evaluated indirectly only, by monitoring the available indicators of the workforce economic activity (number of active and passive persons in the labour market, the number of employed and unemployed persons, number of open and available jobs, etc.) on the one hand, and indicators measuring

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the workforce subjective quality (skills, knowledge, experience, motivation, etc.), on the other hand.

For the purposes of the situation analysis the BiH Agency for Statistics’ and the Republic Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska’s data were used and processed in the statistical bulletin *Workforce Survey*, 2014\(^4\).

According to the said survey, it is observed that the youth population (15 to 24 years old) had significantly lower activity rate (30.8%) and employment rate (13.4%) than the average (the activity rate was 47% and the employment rate was 34.9%), and significantly higher unemployment rate (56.5%) compared to the general population (25.7%).

When this data is compared with data on the youth economic activity from other parts of BiH, we can conclude that the situation in Republika Srpska is slightly better than the average in BiH (activity rate of 29.3%, the employment rate of 10.9%, and the unemployment rate of 62.7% ), and in the Federation of BiH (activity rate of 28.8%; employment rate 10.0%, and the unemployment rate of 65.3%) and the Brčko District of BiH (activity rate of 21.1%, the employment of 6.1%, and the unemployment rate of 71.3%). However, when the same data is compared with data on youth unemployment rate in the rest of Europe (activity rate among the EU - 28 was 22.2%), which also indicates serious problems of high unemployment rate, it can be concluded that the youth in Republika Srpska reached the category of a little economically active youth in Europe.

According to the records of the Employment Institute of Republika Srpska (ZZZRS), there are 46,091 (2012) registered unemployed persons actively seeking employment in the previous three years, and 43,380 (2014) persons from 15 to 30 years old.

What is characteristic of a group of young unemployed persons registered in ZZZRS, in addition to their number (about 1/3 of the total number of unemployed persons) is the fact that the majority of the youth is registered as unemployed for more than a year, which makes them long-term unemployed persons, whose future employment seems more difficult.

In addition, regarding the ”job waiting list” period, an additional challenge in terms of the youth employability is the fact that the largest number of unemployed youth have no work experience gained (in their profession or outside of it), and the youth often cannot find a job in the profession or outside of it for five or several years after graduation.

Survey of the youth attitude in BiH: "The youth voice" 2012
Respondents spent 16 months seeking a job after educational process (it was 11 months in 2008).
One third of young people does not believe that education acquired (or is being acquired) will help them finding a job.
- 4.8% of employees say that there is a need for knowledge and skills they do not hold at their positions (it was 15.9% in 2008).
- 5.9% of respondents tried to start their own business (6.6% in 2008), male (8.3%), female (3.6%).
- By excluding pupils and students, approximately one quarter of unemployed (25.7%) do not seek a job.
- 50.2% of the youth unemployed would take a job in any sector, 10.6% seek a job in specific sector.
- 13.5% of respondents do not seek a job in a specific sector, but would not take a job in any sector.

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By comparing the time spent in the unemployment registry, with or without work experience, it can be concluded that the youth who gain work experience shortly after graduation spend less time as unemployed, and the youth who cannot find work immediately after graduation have a higher risk of long-term unemployment.

Technological progress and rapid market development resulted in the absence of life-long jobs today. The one not willing to continuously improve and adapt will find him difficult to survive. At the end of 2012, the Council of the European Union issued a recommendation to all Member States to have in place systems that confirm formally and non-formally acquired knowledge, skills and competencies not later than the end of 2018. Validation of knowledge and skills acquired outside the formal education system provides an individual, on the one hand, with greater access to the labour market, because he/she will not only be asked about qualifications, but also about competencies, what he/she actually knows. On the other hand, this allows for constant progress and development of the individual, because the validation of non-formally acquired knowledge recognizes the preferences and interests of the individual, his/her ordinariness and encourages him/her to improve.

When the qualification structure of the youth registered at the ZZZRS is observed, it can be concluded that the majority holds a secondary school degree (of three or four years), and the number of unemployed with university degree increases.

4.1.2 Legal framework and key stakeholders

The problem of the youth unemployment in Republika Srpska has already been recognized in a number of strategic documents adopted from 2009 to 2015, above all in the Youth Policy of Republika Srpska (2010-2015) and the Employment Strategy of Republika Srpska for 2011-2015. By preparing and funding annual action plans for the implementation of these strategic documents the Government of Republika Srpska has already undertaken certain measures in the past to increase economic activity and employment of the youth, and to reduce the unemployment rate. The results of these measures can be seen when comparing youth economic activity data in Republika Srpska to information on the youth economic activity in other parts of BiH.

As the most important measures aimed at increasing the employability of the youth in Republika Srpska, within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons’ Protection and ZZZRS, are different projects that supported employment of trainees in this period which covered more than 6,510 young people, with fund of more than 34,800.000 million BAM. Also, through the implementation of projects funded by international donors, specific organizational units (centers for information, counselling and training - CISO and job clubs - Job Clubs) have been established, equipped and started operations within ZZZRS whose primary objective was unemployed young people. ZZZRS has provided professional, advisory and brokerage services to more than 21,000 of young
unemployed since 2012 by the operation of these organizational units, and at this time hired more than 5,500 young people by ZZZRS’ intermediation.

In addition, several bureaus of ZZZRS began to apply individual counselling to job seekers using the instrument Competency Passport from April 2015.

Competency Passport is the first step in confirming formally and non-normally acquired knowledge and as such, under the same or similar name, begins to be used in several European countries - in Spain, France, Ireland and Slovenia, besides Germany, where used since 2006. Survey was conducted among the top 200 users of the Competency Passport in BiH.

There are 92 secondary schools in Republika Srpska: 88 secondary schools established by the Government of Republika Srpska and four private secondary schools. Secondary schools in Republika Srpska are divided into grammar schools of four courses (general, socio-lingual, natural sciences, and mathematics and IT), art schools for two vocations (music artist and music theorist), and secondary vocational and technical schools (13 vocations and 103 professions). According to the enrollment policy of the Ministry of Education and Culture in which preparation, besides representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture and educational institutions, representatives of business community and other participants in the field of education actively take part, the enrollment plan for public secondary schools is designed under the principle where more than 75% of students enroll a four-year programme secondary schools, and less than 25% of students enroll a three-year school programme.

Although there has been a tendency to strengthen the influence of participants outside the field of education (Chamber of Commerce of Republika Srpska, Association of Employers, ZZZRS) in terms of preparing a plan for secondary schools enrollment in Republika Srpska in recent years, these partners still have the attitude that the enrollment policy does not fully reflect the needs of the labour market of Republika Srpska. In the previous three years an average of about 11,000 students (more than 98% of graduates) enrolled secondary school which, in accordance with the Secondary Education Act, is not compulsory.

According to a large survey of the youth opinion in BiH, "Voices of Youth" conducted by the Agency "Prizma istraživanja" in 2012 for the purposes of the UNDP on a representative sample of 2,360 young people from all parts of BiH, youth unemployment is seen as one of the biggest problems burdening and endangering their existence in BiH. On average, respondents needed more than a year to find a job after completing the educational process. According to this study, it can be concluded that a large number of unemployed young people do not seek for a job. Most

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5 Unpublished research "Results of applying Passport competencies", Customs Concept, 2014.
participants, including students, do not actively seek an employment during the previous month (65.5%).

The results of the survey "Voices of Youth" carried out for the purpose of this document can be correlated with the results of "Researching needs and attitudes of the youth in Republika Srpska", 2015. For example, according to the latest survey, 45% of respondents are not satisfied with the education system, 30% have no attitude, and only 25% of young people are satisfied, which is correlated with the results from 2012, where the largest percentage of respondents believed that excessive curricula programs was what should have been changed primarily in the area of formal education (28.6%), then lack of practice (27.2%) and lack of scholarship / loan (14.5%).

In order to determine the true extent of the problem of the workforce as a factor limiting the development of the industry in Republika Srpska the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining conducted a survey in 180 enterprises in the manufacturing industries, which are important from the standpoint of revenues and number of employees, and for the the local community in which they operate, while taking into account their representation in the whole territory of Republika Srpska. This survey found that more than 60% of employers considered a lack of workforce expertise and low labor productivity as a particularly emphasized factor limiting the development of the industry.

Further research showed that the labour market needed certain profiles of skilled workforce, which is a result of inadequate education system and the needs of industry, and the lack of motivation for young people to enroll vocational schools. In addition, the existing workforce largely has no knowledge the employers require. This leads to the next significant stakeholder - the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Although higher education has been reformed in Republika Srpska as well as in other parts of the country since 2003 in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Declaration, which main objective is the transition of European society from industrial to knowledge society, and was based on the need to adapt the higher education system to the new economic, social and ethical paradigm of the 21st century, the previous results in the field of student mobility, which is one of the basic functions of this process, are not satisfying.

Besides very limited success in students, professors and other experts’ mobility, the Bologna Declaration in Republika Srpska has not fully achieved other aims of this process, too, such as:

- Increasing degree of employment of European citizens and raising level of international competency of European system of higher education,
- Promoting lifelong learning and education,
- Establishing stronger connection between higher education and research institution,
- Promoting employability, strengthening social dimension, developing national qualification frame compatible with adopted qualification frame for European field of higher education,
- Promoting principles of student centered university,
- Creating possibilities for more flexible way of learning, including procedures for recognizing previous learning history,
- Promoting cooperation in quality assurance to develop comparable criteria and methodology, and promoting European dimension in higher education in terms of developing curricula and interinstitutional cooperation.

In terms of the development of lifelong learning and education to increase the employability of youth and to facilitate their professional mobility both in horizontal and vertical axis, it can be concluded that very good results have been achieved so far, but at the same time there is plenty of space and the need to further empower and support this segment of the education system. Namely, the adoption of the Adult Education Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 59/09 and 1/12) is a milestone in the education system development in Republika Srpska, as the adult education was conducted by secondary schools according to model of a part-time education until the adoption of the said Act. The programme quality offered by the schools varied considerably in terms of quality, but also of the the program realization.

The most common programmes identical to the programmes realized in everyday teaching process, and as such have been inadequate for adults and labour market. In addition, teaching process organization and teaching methods applied have not been adapted to the needs and capabilities of adults. There were few educational institutions that cooperated with employers and other relevant partners in the development and implementation of the programme. Also, the teaching staff, which was the implementer of education for adults, was not satisfactory because the majority of the lecturers was not qualified for educational work with adults. When the Act was passed and the Institute of Adult Education established, the administrative organization within the Ministry of Education and Culture that supervises the application of the Act and continuously monitors the improvement of adult education, we can conclude that the situation in the field of adult education is slowly recovering.

The introduction of systems for control, certification and

**Experiences**

The problem of insufficient integration of the education system and the labour market has already been recognized by some local communities in Republika Srpska in order to overcome this problem, implement concrete actions and measures. As a positive example of such action, one of the current projects of the Economic Development Agency of Prijedor “PREDA-PD” is mentioned, which is conducted in partnership with the Agriculture and Food School of Prijedor, School of mechanical Engineering of Prijedor, Employment Bureau of Republika Srpska - Branch Office of Prijedor, Regional Chamber of Commerce of Banja Luka - Prijedor Office, Craft and Entrepreneurship Association of Prijedor and Wood Processors Cluster “Drvo-PD” Prijedor. Within this project, the Council for Education and Employment of the City of Prijedor is established and brings together representatives of relevant organizations and institutions that affect the trends in education and the local labour market.

Council activities are focused on the development of human resources and the harmonization of skills and qualifications of the workforce with the requirements of local businesses. The Council’s backbone consists of partnership organizations from DELICE consortium, together with the city administration, Regional Union Center of Prijedor and Youth Council fo the City of Prijedor. The Council has achieved full commitment during the implementation of the project DELICE, participating in the preparation of the Regional Operational Plan, where the methodology of the Council with clearly defined tasks and roles is stated. As examples of good practice in active problem solving employability of young people in Republika Srpska, we can mention the activities carried out by the Agency for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises. Especially the Program "PrilikaPlus", supported by the Embassy of Switzerland (adapting vocational education to labour market needs), Programme of active job creation - PANORAMA, which aims to provide young people with a business idea with the vocational training and check the same and, if it proves economically viable, turn into their own business and promote entrepreneurship among young people through the project of Global Entrepreneurship Week.
accreditation of institutions that carry out adult education programmes, and very adult education programmes, the requirements for formal recognition of non-formal and informal education have been created.

In the previous period the Government of Republika Srpska has already taken a number of measures and activities to improve the overall business environment in Republika Srpska and largely facilitated the registration and operations of enterprises. In 2012 the Government of Republika Srpska adopted the Decision on the implementation of the reform regarding the commencement of business operations in Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 88/12), and established a working group to propose the best solution for simplifying this process.

An important result of the reform is the unified registration system, a unique and up to date registry of all enterprises for companies, entrepreneurs (natural persons), other legal entities (medical and public institutions, schools) and the sporting and financial organizations, associations, cooperatives, foundations, etc.

4.1.3 Analysing problems and needs

Analysing the situation regarding the level of employability of the youth in Republika Srpska, one can conclude that the youth have limited opportunities in the labour market, independently or in collaboration with public or private services for mediation in employment, to find a proper job and keep it for a certain time.

There are numerous causes of such situation, and the consequences for the individual and for society as for a whole Republika Srpska are serious with extremely dangerous consequences. Among the most important consequences of limited employability of the youth we can mention: the incompetence and lack of competitiveness of the youth in the labour market, the lack of a large number of young people trained for abundant professions, with a simultaneous shortage of labour in abundant professions, a negligible number of young entrepreneurs, and obvious economic inactivity of the youth primarily reflected in the extremely high rate of youth unemployment and low employment rate of youth. These key consequences of the youth limited employability continue to cause numerous negative phenomena such as: lack of economic and financial freedom, youth dependence, increase of a degree of socio-pathological conduct of the youth, reduction of level of social activity of young people, delay starting a family, reduction of birth rate and reduction of social and economic activity in general.

When youth limited employability is deeply analysed, we can observe that main causes of this situation can be:

- **Non-compliance of educational system with labour market needs** - As the main causes of non-compliance of the education system with the labour market needs we can mention: the quality of knowledge and skills that pupils / students acquire through educational process, the inadequacy of the enrollment policy, poorly developed system of professional and career guidance and counseling, and insufficient volume and quality of practical training and practical work where pupils and students would check the theoretical knowledge acquired in their educational process.

- **Non-stimulating business and entrepreneur environment** - Although significant progress have been achieved in this area in recent years, the main reasons for the existence of this problem are the following: underdeveloped infrastructure for the development of youth entrepreneurship, insufficient support to youth employment,
underdeveloped entrepreneurial spirit among young people, lack of information and poor image of entrepreneurs.

- **Undeveloped labour culture with the youth** - In addition to the "adverse selection", research shows that young people in Republika Srpska have poor work habits and undeveloped attitude towards any kind of work, in terms of their vocational or professional training and advancement. Also, due to the extreme apathy and indifference, young people get limited information about the work and a large number of occupations and activities, which is reflected in the constant absence of specific occupations in the labour market of Republika Srpska.

- **Limited educational, professional and spatial mobility of the youth** - Young people in Republika Srpska have limited educational, professional and spatial mobility for increasing employability. When the educational mobility of young people is observed, a relatively small number of them change the secondary school or university enrolled during their schooling, and what frequently occur is that, although they realize they made a mistake when entering secondary school or university at some point of time, they continue education in selected school or university because of the limited possibilities for the smooth transition to another school or university. Cases of change of school or university are occasional and the process is time-consuming, complicated and expensive and one of the consequences of change of school or university during teaching process is a waste of at least one academic year in many cases.

### 4.1.4 Youth housing policy

Youth housing policy is a very important area in the youth policy document, regardless of whether the document is passed on the local or national level. Quality development and successful implementation of the housing policy, and the effective implementation of measures aimed at housing and independence of young people are of great importance to the involvement of young people in the community and create a sense of belonging, especially for young people with disabilities when independent life and starting families require adapted living space, too.

A significant number of young people in Republika Srpska has not solved the housing problem, and the young people often live with their parents or, if they are employed, rent an apartment, and the like. According to the Republic Institute of Statistics’ data obtained from the Household Budget Survey (2011) on a sample of 3,091 households in Republika Srpska, of which 2,437 were interviewed, the estimated number of young people (aged 15 to 30 years) is 199,255. It was estimated that 140,095 of young people live with their parents / guardians, 5,019 have their own housing, and 1,882 pay rent. Based on the Republic Institute for Statistics’ data from the Workforce Survey for 2014 conducted on a sample of 3,565 households, of which 3,002 were interviewed, it was estimated that the number of young people (aged 15 to 30 years) in Republika Srpska was 183,605.

Research of Društvo psihologa Republike Srpske (Eng. Psychological Society of Republika Srpska) titled "The problems and needs of young people of the city of Banja Luka" showed...
that "the young people of the city of Banja Luka feel the burden of long-term housing and financial dependence of parents and this is felt more by students and employed and unemployed young people". It is indicative that the housing dependence on the parents significantly affects young people, their psychological state, and is the cause of many other, mostly negative, social phenomena.

Under its credit programme the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska has offers housing loans. Housing loans are intended for social housing important to Republika Srpska (families of killed soldiers, disabled war veterans), and social groups of special interest for Republika Srpska (young highly educated married couples, families with two or more children) to prevent the negative effects reflected in the outflow of highly educated people, and reduction of birth rate. Housing loans of the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska can be used for the purchase, construction, reconstruction or expansion of housing units. Depending on the beneficiary group, the interest rate ranges from 3,6% to 4,8%, with a repayment period of up to 20 years. Loans are available in the following amounts: from 5.000 to 50.000 BAM for the reconstruction and expansion of housing units, from 10.000 to 100.000 BAM for the purchase and construction of the first residential unit owned. As of 10th August, 2015, the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska, by the housing loans means, granted a total of 307.200.000 BAM via 5.201 loan application. In the structure of the total loans of the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska, a credit line for solving the housing problemes participates with 23,6%, or with 59,8% in the total number of approved loan applications.

To solve the housing problems of young people the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska offers favorable housing loans. As of 10th August 2015, out of a total of 307.200.000 BAM of funds granted for housing loans, 39,5% or 121.300.000 BAM refers to funds placed in three categories: young married couples under the age of 35 years, both spouses (VII degree of education - one spouse), young married couples under the age of 35 years, both spouses (VII degree of education - both spouses) and young couples under the age of 35 years - both spouses. The total number of approved loan applications to beneficiaries in these groups was 1.771. Possibility of reducing interest rate by 0,5 percentage points is given to young couples - University degree - both spouses, while all the beneficiaries solving the housing problem in undeveloped and extremely undeveloped municipalities are entitled to a reduction of the basic interest rate by 1,2 percentage points. In addition to providing direct financial support to young married couples, the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska hereby achieve wider social and economic effects reflected in preventing the outflow of young and highly educated youth abroad, increasing the birth rate, as well as stimulating their stay in their local communities with the status of undeveloped or extremely underdeveloped. In this way, the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska contributed to the realization of the Programme of the Youth Housing Policy of Republika Srpska of the Youth Policy for 2010-2015 (Strategic Objective 2 - Support young people to purchase or construct a housing unit in the market, sub-aim 2.1. Support the development of housing loans for young people).

In July 2015 the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance of Republika Srpska, agreed on the draft of a framework loan agreement with the Development Bank of the Council of Europe (CEB). Afterwards, the procedure for the ratification and adoption at the institutional level of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH Parliamentary Assembly and the Presidency of BiH) and Republika Srpska (National Assembly of Republika Srpska) has been initiated. Given the foregoing, loan resources will be fully operational, in terms of their accessibility for end-users, if
primarily conditioned by the dynamics of the completion of these procedures. The approved loan arrangement amounts to 5,000,000 EUR. This will allow the expansion of housing loans beneficiaries in the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska, through separate credit lines, both for single and highly educated married couples older than 35 years. Funds will be available for purchase, construction and expansion of the first housing unit with repayment period up to 20 years and maximum amount of 100,000 BAM, depending on its purpose.

The programme of the Ministry for subsidizing interest rate on housing loans for young people and young couples includes subsidized housing loans granted under favorable conditions and helps young people solve the housing problem, as a priority for their future, forming and development of healthy family, and thus the increase in the birth rate and retaining young people in Republika Srpska. There is a great disproportion in income of youth and young married couples and the prices of apartments, which hinders access to housing for young people and puts them in the category of those who find it difficult to "get home" without taking loans and certain mechanisms of assistance from the state. Monthly payment of subsidies for young people is a saving as approximately one monthly payment a year, which is a direct assistance in repaying the loan, and thus in securing their first housing unit and solving a housing problem which is, in addition to unemployment, one of the largest problems of this population (for example, on the loan of 100,000 BAM, the maximum amount that the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska grants, with an average interest rate of five percent and a repayment period of 20 years, the Ministry pays subsidies to about 13,000 BAM as a subsidy on a monthly basis). After taking a housing loan at a commercial bank from the funds of the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska, young people and young couples address to the Ministry with a request to subsidize one percentage point interest rate on the loans granted. This type of subsidy makes it easier for young people to enter into marriage, purchase residential unit, as one of the preconditions for increasing the birth rate. Acquiring opportunities for young people and young couples to meet their needs for housing, conditions for the development of society as a whole are met. Rules on subsidised interest rates on housing loans for young people and young married couples ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 90/12) set forth the rules, procedures and conditions for obtaining subsidy.

Current situation and current problems relating to housing issues of young people require the joint efforts of the Government of Republika Srpska (the Ministries, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Construction and the Environment), the Investment and Development Bank of Republika Srpska, local authorities and NGOs. Of course, the operations and housing problems of young people are accompanied by a number of previously established measures aiming to support young people in solving the housing problem. The measure of subsidised interest rates on housing loans for young people and young couples should be kept at least at the current level, with consideration of opportunities to increase its volume in the amount, but in the older age of the borrower.

4.2 Active participation of the youth

4.2.1 The concept and elements of the active participation of the youth

Active participation of the youth primarily represents the attitude of the youth towards society. In this regard, active young people can identify themselves with active citizens who have their role and their rights. Young people exercise their rights by participating in political life and decision-making processes, participating in economic activities, cultural and other activities.
The European Charter on the Participation of Young People at local and regional level, states that participation is based on the realization of rights, resources, space, opportunities and support to participate in the activities and actions and to influence decision-making. In the European Governance White Paper, 2001, participation means "ensuring young people are consulted and more involved in the decision-making that directly affects them and, in general, the life of the communities they belong to".

The EU Youth Strategy has defined involvement as one of the eight areas of action. The aim of this area is to empower young people to be involved in society developing mechanisms for dialogue with youth, supporting youth organizations (local and national), promoting the involvement of under-represented young people in politics, youth organizations and civil society, as well as supporting active involvement from early days of life.

4.2.2 Legal framework and key stakeholders

Active participation of the youth is a complex concept that includes and weaves thematic sectors and holders of programmes and activities.

The Youth Organization Act defines basic concepts significant for work with young people. Article 2 defines young people aged 15 to 30 years of age. The basic concepts such as: youth policy, youth organizations, youth work, youth activities, programmes, youth facilities, and youth events are defined. As an important tool for youth work, the Act has defined youth organizations as "voluntary and legally defined organisations having a status of citizens' associations". This Act defines the obligations of LSGU, which read: "to improve the role and status of young people in Republika Srpska, the competent authorities of Republika Srpska, cities and municipalities will provide the conditions for young people to participate in decision-making, discussions and debates related to their issues" (Article 22). Regarding the youth involvement in decision-making, Article 22 of the Act stated an obligation of establishing the committees for young people in order to "provide conditions for young people to participate in decision-making, discussions and debates". Article 39 defines the existence of the Youth Council of Republika Srpska, the key youth organisation whose task, among other things, is "to stand for the interests and rights of young people and their institutional involvement in the life and functioning of Republika Srpska, city and municipality". Article 44 defines the local youth

Key information - Active participation of youth

The Youth Organization Act sets forth the obligation to establish a youth committee, to provide conditions for young people to participate in decision-making, discussions and debates. In 39 of the 46 municipalities in Republika Srpska a youth committee is established. Only 13 LSGUs has adopted a youth policy at the local level.

Article 44 of the Youth Organization Act of Republika Srpska defines local youth councils operating in cities and municipalities, whose contribution should be in representing the needs of young people at the local level. This article defines that LSGUs are obliged to finance and technically assist the work of local youth councils. The Youth Registry, kept by the Ministry, only three organizations that meet the requirements under the Youth Organization Act and the Ordinance on registration in the registry of youth that have the status of local youth councils are registered. In the Youth Registry of the Ministry, as of 7 September 2015, 121 youth organizations, 87 youth associations, five republic youth organizations and three local youth councils were registered.

In period from 2010 to 2014 the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government allocated 52,493.64 BAM to youth organizations and 46,400 BAM was paid to the Youth Council of Republika Srpska, as an association of public interest.

Volunteer Service of Republika Srpska consists of 11 local voluntary services with more than 2,500 registered volunteers. In 2014 more than 13,000 volunteer hours was generated.
councils operating in LSGU, which should contribute by representing the needs of young people at the local level. Article 45 defines that LSGU are obliged to provide funds and technical assistance to local youth councils. Article 76 of the Act stipulates the establishment of the Youth Council of Republika Srpska. The Council is established by the Government of Republika Srpska, upon proposal of the Ministry, to give opinions on the professional issues in the field of youth policy and its implementation. The Council members are: the Minister of Family, Youth and Sports, the Minister of Education, Minister of Health and Social Welfare, the Minister of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons Protection, the Minister of Finance, a representative of the working body dealing with youth issues of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska and three representatives of the Youth Council Republika Srpska. The competent authorities of local governments can establish their own youth councils.

The Local Self-Government Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 101/04, 42/05, 118/05 and 98/13), regulated areas related to youth indirectly and partially. The Local Self-Government Act provides only normative framework regarding the position of young people, in order to edit a special regulations, since young people are not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government.

Legal solutions built into the Local Self-Government Act are as follows:
- Article 12: "Municipality performs specific functions in the field of culture, education, sports, health and social welfare, civil protection, information, trade, tourism, hospitality and environmental protection",
- Article 19: "Municipality should provide conditions for maintenance, construction, expansion and equipping of facilities of social institutions for children and youth whose founder is the municipality itself, and conditions for institutional operations to ensure the exercise of rights in the area of municipal jurisdiction",
- Article 22a: "Municipality encourages activities and provides assistance to civil associations which activity is of the importance for the municipality, encourages and promotes gender equality and equal opportunities within its competence".

The above said shows a possibility to further define the responsibilities of local self-governments regulated by the Local Self-Government Act indirectly relating to young people, or specify by the laws in relevant jurisdiction of the Ministry, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, etc.

The Secondary Education Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 74/08, 106/09, 104/11 and 33/14), Article 106 defines the student councils as a form of involvement of secondary school students. Students councils have a sound legal basis for action. However, based on surveys and reports of the Students Advisory Network of Republika Srpska one can get an impression that there is room for improvement when it comes to student involvement in decision making in schools.
Regarding the students involvement three acts are relevant: the Higher Education Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 73/10, 104/11, 84/12, 108/13 and 44/15), the Student Standard Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 34/08) and the Republic of Srpska's Students Union Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 71/09).

The Higher Education Act recognizes "the students involvement in management and decision-making, particularly in issues important to the teaching quality" (Article 3). Under this Act higher education institutions are obliged to anticipate the establishment of the student representative body.

Volunteering is regulated by the Volunteering Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 89/13). This Act sets forth that voluntary services can be established to develop volunteering and mediation between volunteers and organizers of volunteering in Republika Srpska. The activities of volunteer services can be performed only by non-profit legal entities. Volunteer services provide free services to volunteer organizers, volunteers and beneficiaries of volunteering. Local volunteer services, in accordance with the Volunteering Act, operate in 15 local self-governments of Republika Srpska (Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Gacko, Gradiška, Derventa, Doboj, Zvornik, Laktaši, Mrkonjić Grad, Novi Grad, Prijedor, Srebac, Srebrenica, Trebinje and Pale).

The general objective of the Strategy for the promotion and development of volunteering in Republika Srpska (2014 - 2018) is to support the sustainable development and promotion of volunteering, and to increase volunteerism in Republika Srpska. Mission of the Strategy (2014 – 2018) is to create a stimulating environment for the promotion of sustainable growth and development of volunteerism in Republika Srpska, by applying measures and activities such as: promotion, education, development of volunteering infrastructure and the establishment of a proper legal framework which are planned, implemented and coordinated by and between the local and the national level, by and between the relevant stakeholders on the principle of partnership and multisector collaboration. The adoption and implementation of strategic directions and objectives aims to contribute to the expansion, development and strengthening of a volunteering culture, and therefore promotion of humanism, social cohesion and active involvement of citizens in the development of society.

The most important key stakeholders contributing to the realization of strategic objectives in this area are:
The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports - has the most important role in the development of youth work. It is a processor of the document Youth Policy and normative legal acts regarding the youth work and organising. It keeps a registry of youth organizations.

The Youth Council of Republika Srpska - Article 76 of the Youth Organization Act stipulates the establishment of the Youth Council of Republika Srpska. The Council is established by the Government of Republika Srpska, upon proposal of the Ministry, to give its opinion on professional issues in the field of youth policy and its implementation. The Council members are: the Minister of Family, Youth and Sports, the Minister of Education, Minister of Health and Social Welfare, the Minister of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons Protection, the Minister of Finance, a representative of a working body dealing with youth issues of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska and three representatives of the Youth Council of Republika Srpska. The Council, within its scope of work, considers, proposes and gives opinion on: objectives, policies and measures proposed under the Youth policy; programs financed from the state budget and local governments; youth activities of main importance for the state and local governments; criteria for allocation of funds from the state budget and local self - governments intended for implementation of the programme established under the Youth policy; the Council also performs other tasks given by the Government of Republika Srpska. The competent authorities of local self - governments may establish their councils for young people.

Local self – government units (cities and municipalities) - are among the major carriers aiming to enable active involvement of young people at the local level. Local self – government units are required to provide funds for youth work and youth activities, however, funds granted to this sector are inadequate for continuous activities of youth organizations. In local self - government units there are officials working to support young people, but in practice only few are exclusively interested in youth policy and youth issues, resulting in reduction of their availability to young people. Based on the "Survey for determining the level of support of LSGU to youth population in 2014", it was found that significant funds for youth projects and youth work were not allocated in most local self – government units, and the funds for the youth are in most cases focused on scholarships for students. Pursuant to the Article 61 of the Youth Organization Act, local self - government units are required to provide space for youth activities, so 33 out of 46 local self - government units indicated that they had had some sort of a dedicated space for young people in their local communities. Based on this survey, it was found that only 13 local self - government units had adopted a youth policy at the local level, which indicated that a significant number of local communities had no infrastructure or formal arrangements for continuous addressing of youth issues with their participation in the whole process.

The Youth Council of Republika Srpska - is the top youth organization in Republika Srpska, which position and role are defined by the Youth Organization Act. As the top youth organization, its membership brings together local and national youth organizations with the aim of presenting and representing their interests in the institutions of Republika Srpska, international cooperation, and more. The Youth Council of Republika Srpska was established in 2002, and got the status of an association of public interest in November 2010.

Local youth councils - The Youth Organization Act, Article 44 defines the form and the possibility of local organizations to join the youth councils. Youth organizations working in the field of local self-government may establish local youth councils, which play an important role in solving the problems of young people in the area for which they are established. Only three organizations are registered in the Youth Registry kept by the Ministry which, under the Youth Organization Act and the Ordinance on registration in the
youth registry ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 45/12), have the status of local youth councils. However, on the basis of the "Survey for determining the level of support of the local self-government units to youth population in 2014", 15 of 46 local self-government units responded that they believe there was a registered youth council in their community. Some of the reasons for having only three registered local youth councils in the Youth Registry is the failure to meet the prescribed criteria, non-functional but registered youth councils, as well as the insufficient capacity in organizations at the local level, which cannot become members of the youth councils. Also, the number of youth councils was reduced after the recent amendments to the Youth Organization Act as of 2012, as it stipulated that only youth organizations may join the youth councils i.e. those having at least two thirds of young people in its membership, and that persons who are not young cannot be elected for the president, vice president, meeting chairman, president of the Board of the Youth Council and youth councils of local self-government units. The Youth Councils had the opportunity to "rejuvenate" membership and maintain the status they used to have.

**Student organizations and representatives of student councils** - Student representative bodies are organized under the said legislation, but the greatest impact has the Student Union of Republika Srpska. Students are organized at the level of higher education institutions, guaranteed by the Higher Education Act.

**Network of student councils of Republika Srpska (mRESURS)** - is a joint body of the students council of all secondary schools in Republika Srpska, with aim to promote and support the realization of the obligations, rights, interests and needs of the secondary school population. This is one of the results of the programme for development of secondary school student councils which the Youth Communication Center (YCC) has been implementing since 2000. The network was established at the Conference of secondary school student councils of Republika Srpska held in October 2006 in Laktasi. At that occasion 15 regional representatives in the Board, in particular three from each of the five regions (Prijedor, Banja Luka, Doboj, Bijeljina and Trebinje) were selected.

**Association of citizens / civil society organizations (CSOs)** - Civil society is one of the most important segments of a democratic society. Young people place the most of their trust to civil society organizations in representing the rights and needs. As of 7 September, 2015 there were 121 youth organizations, 87 youth organizations, five republican youth organizations and three local youth councils registered in the Ministry's registry of youth.

**The local youth organizations** have the most important role at the local level as they are aware of the situation and needs of young people in the community; however, "what might be called 'Civil Society of Young People' is strongly divided between professionalized CSOs (working with youth and / or for youth) and grassroot / initiative of the young people (headed by the young people). Professionalized CSOs mainly, in fact, have 'no connection' with grassroot initiatives. Grassroot initiatives do not have access to the preparation process of the youth policy at this time". Currently, there is no adequate mechanism in Republika Srpska to ensure the conditions for continuous operation of youth organizations and organizations working with young people. In practice, LSGUs do not allocate sufficient funds for the youth

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organizations. Part of the funds is provided from the state level, but funds are not sufficient for civil sector to use its capacities to the full extent.

**Networks of CSOs** - play a significant role in the development of youth work and youth representation. Networks are organized and operate in some of the common issues. Currently, two networks, relating to youth work and volunteering, operate on the territory of Republika Srpska.

**Volunteer Service of Republika Srpska (VSRS)** - the association of citizens established on June 23, 2014, which consists of 11 local voluntary services with more than 2,500 registered volunteers. In 2014, it operated for more than 13,000 volunteer hours. The sectors where volunteers were most useful were in working with vulnerable groups (children, people with disabilities, the elderly and infirm, public kitchens), collecting humanitarian aid, organizing sporting and cultural activities in various street actions for raising public awareness, and various educational and environmental workshops.

**The network of youth centers for animation, development and training of Republika Srpska (M.O.C.A.R.T.)** - was established at the second Conference of Youth Work, held on 11 and 12 December, 2013. The aim of M.O.C.A.R.T. is to improve the quality of youth centers at local levels, and services and programmes for young people. One of the main programme is the standardization of youth centers in local communities.

4.2.3 **Analysis of problems and needs**

Lack of capacity in the youth sector is among the key difficulties in youth work. Underdeveloped human resources, financial constraints to investment in youth infrastructure and youth work make the self-organization of young people difficult, as well as ongoing activities in the field of youth work.

The lack of interest of young people for social and political events in the community is directly linked with the level of information and education. Young people, in spite of present and accessible information, are still not informed, which is specially observed with the young from rural areas. It is indicative that young people who are members of youth organizations demonstrate significantly better involvement in decision-making process, and thus is necessary to strengthen the capacity of youth organizations and organizations working with young people and provide them with continuous support in performing social functions.

Passivity of youth in social and political sphere is largely due to the environment that does not encourage young people to take an active part in social and political process, and thus some of the measures herein are aimed at creating tools for better information and civic education of young people through the involvement of all stakeholders in society. "To improve synergy and collaboration between multiple stakeholders" is one of the recommendations in the document "Encouraging Youth for Political Involvement in the Democratic European Life", which is the result of structured dialogue with young people in the European Union. Encouraging cross-sectoral dialogue and supporting youth initiatives must promote social involvement for universal good. Better youth involvement in the political parties of Republika Srpska is obvious, but also such social arrangement is often reserved only for a small circle of those who hold certain knowledge and skills, and the involvement of young people in society in terms of this document requires a proactive attitude and action towards the greater number of young people.

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9 Joint recommendation of the young people and decision makes of the EU "Encouraging Youth for Political Involvement in the Democratic European Life" which is the result of structured dialogue with young people in the European Union and the Youth Conference of EU, Luxembourg, September 2015.
One of the main roles of institutions, particularly local self – government units, would be to provide material and technical support for the work of young people, and to provide support and a framework for self-organized youth activities. Capacity building in youth work, adapting legislation, the creation of sustainable mechanisms and standards for working with young people at the local level are measures that create conditions for active involvement of youth in society, which is in line with the recommendation of the "Strengthening the role of youth work for the political encouraging of young people".\(^\text{10}\)

It is necessary to pay special attention to young people coming from vulnerable and marginalized groups, having limited access to information and activities.

Involving young people in voluntary activities make space for young people to express their views freely in the search for answers to the needs of the community. Volunteering is a great way for young people to be productive and active members of the community. Low rate of young people involvement in socially useful activities is one of the challenges this document deals with. In spite of satisfactory legislation, voluntary infrastructure at the local level is not sufficiently developed and sustainable, and social volunteering is not sufficiently promoted among young people.

**Experiences of others**

By its national strategy the republic of Croatia has devoted considerable attention to the active participation of young people. The main priority is to ensure the sustainability of organizations that work with young people. In Croatia, there are four regional info-centers, whose role is to support youth organizations engaged in informing young people in the local community. At the state level, there is legislation that regulates the activity of the Youth Council (the Youth Councils Act), the representative body of young people at local and regional level, aimed at the active involvement of young people in public life.

There is a National association of local youth offices in Serbia, which brings together coordinators of local youth offices in Serbia. Youth offices are regional and local. Currently, there are 80 offices.

Youth Offices are local authorities which are being established throughout Serbia supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia. Offices are in charge of distribution of information of interest to young people by training through various programmes and courses, preparing the youth policy at local level, encouraging youth activism and volunteerism, finding opportunities for financing youth programs. A specific and obvious result of voluntary activities of young people is assistance and support given in the catastrophic floods that hit Republika Srpska and the region in 2014. Youth organizations and voluntary services in cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports carried out a series of activities aimed at helping vulnerable areas. The Youth Council of Republika Srpska coordinated the collection and distribution of aid in the affected areas. Aid was largely collected in the Youth Center in Banja Luka and delivered to the Red Cross, warehouses of local staff committees in the affected areas, but also directly by volunteers to vulnerable families in Banja Luka, Laktasi, Doboj, Smac, Bijeljina, Novi Grad and Prijedor. The Youth Council of Republika Srpska established cooperation with entrepreneurs of Republika Srpska and Serbian associations from Germany, who donated packages distributed directly to vulnerable families. More than 600 volunteers took part in this action. During these activities tens of thousands of aid packages were collected and distributed. Before the establishment of the Voluntary Service of Republika Srpska, the Youth Communication Center (Volunteer Service of Banja Luka) had the role of the Voluntary Service of Republika Srpska in an emergency situation, that so far

\(^\text{10}\) The same.
coordinated the work of volunteer services in Republika Srpska. VSRS formed a joint base of volunteers of all local voluntary services and other interested citizens, who applied for participation in voluntary activities via electronic database. The database contained more than 2,000 volunteers. VSRS, in cooperation with the Ministry, recruited volunteers from the first day of emergency state, in accordance with the needs of the Republican Staff Committee and local committees for emergency situations, as well as other institutions and organizations (more than 1,000 volunteers and more than 10,000 volunteer hours in Banja Luka, Laktaši, Doboj, Šamac and so on). Volunteers were engaged in the loading and unloading of humanitarian aid, collecting, sorting and distributing aid, cleaning objects of interest, as well as direct assistance to vulnerable families.

4.3 Healthy lifestyle of the youth

Analysis of the situation in the area of "Healthy lifestyles of youth" aims to show the previous and the current facts of the aspects that are important for this section.

4.3.1 Concept and elements of healthy lifestyles of the youth

The Youth Health Policy of Republika Srpska 2008-2012 specified the following"Care about the young people’s health is the Republika Srpska’ general interest. Health is a basic prerequisite for the overall development of society, it is the responsibility of all of us as individuals, families, communities and state institutions. Promoting the healthy development of young people in the second decade of their life is one of the most important investments any society can implement."


The World Health Organization has defined health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease"\[1\] and healthy lifestyle should help achieving this ideal. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republika Srpska and Ministry of Education of Republika Srpska developed two guidances that handle this area: a guidance for secondary school students "Healthy Lifestyles" and guidance for secondary school teachers "Healthy Lifestyles", with ten themes: 1. Health and healthy lifestyles; 2. Proper diet and physical activity; 3. Sexual and reproductive health; 4. The influence of psychoactive substances on human health; 5. The immune system disorders, infectious diseases, and AIDS; 6. Environment and Health; 7. The social and emotional literacy; 8. The interpersonal relationships and communication skills; 9. Leisure; 10. Gender.


**Key information – Healthy lifestyles of the youth**

Based on data of 2014 PHI Institute of Public Health of Republika Srpska number of treated young people in stationary medical institutions suffering from blood system disorder is 263 (1,33%), diabetes 128 (3,54%), and out of the total number of treated from narcotic drugs abuse is 76 (19,8%) young people. Number of juvenile pregnancy in 2014 was 49 (0,53%), and according to PHI Institute of Public Health of Republika Srpska’s data collected from survey in 2011. Among students on public universities in Republika Srpska 2,7% of students declared that they had suffered from one or more sexually transmitted diseases. In 2014 total of 147 suffered from sexually transmitted diseases (Chlamydialis: 127, syphilis: 15, gonorrhea: 1, HIV positivity: 2, AIDS: 2) with a morbidity rate of 10,5% and up to 0,86% of the total rate of infectious diseases. Out of this number, the number of young patients was 76 (Chlamydialis: 70, syphilis: 5 and gonorrhea: 1). The real disease suffering is probably higher, because of the very nature of these diseases, cultural reasons (the presence of stigma and discrimination), these diseases are usually not regularly reported. Based on the PHI Institute of Public Health of Republika Srpska's data collected on the basis of population health survey in Republika Srpska in 2010, the older population (aged 55 to 64 and 65) stated emotional problems in higher percentage (28,8% и 27,7%) unlike the younger population (aged 18 to 24) where the presence of emotional problems was significantly less emphasised (17,6%). Considering indicators of mental health at the population level (psychological distress and positive mental health), young categories of the population have better mental health than older groups of the population.

Sport in Republika Srpska is organized in accordance with the Sports Act of Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 4/02, 66/03, 73/08 and 102/08). By overviewing the registry of sports organizations and other organizations in the field of sports kept by the Ministry, it was found that 35 sports associations and six sports associations of disabled persons operate in Republika Srpska. There are about 1,000 sports organizations in Republika Srpska registered so far. Sports Development Strategy in Republika Srpska for 2012-2016 shows that, although Republika Srpska has a huge natural potential for sports and recreational sports, these opportunities are not fully utilized: "Study of the relationship between investment in spa-recreation-health centers of Republika Srpska" showed that out of the total investment the percentage of 71,02% of funds is invested in the accommodation and catering facilities, 22,86% in the medical, and only 6,23% in sports facilities.
In its *Special Report of the Ombudsman for Children and Network of Youth Advisors “Reproductive health - the attitudes of young people”, 2012 the Ombudsman for Children of Republika Srpska*, states the following:

"Protecting the health of children and young people refers to a number of issues, among other things, to: protection from the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco, the importance of physical activity, nutrition of children, a healthy environment, healthy lifestyles, protection from any form of violence, abuse and neglect, reproductive health and the like. Each of these issues requires systemic solutions, primarily programmes of prevention and education, and what is particularly important, requires a multidisciplinary approach in order to examine causes and specific effects on a child's development, as well as measures and activities of various protective authorities for their solving”.

The UN Committee for the Rights of the Child in General Comment Number Four: Adolescent Health states the following: "Adolescence is a period characterized by rapid physical, cognitive and social changes including sexual and reproductive maturation, a gradual increase in the ability to take a mature behaviors and roles involving new responsibilities with respect to sexual and reproductive health. The family, school and peer groups play a key role in terms of information, advice and support. It is particularly important that the family is involved in the process of the young people's growing capacity to manage decisions related to sexual and reproductive health. The family can assist in dealing with the range of changes that young people are facing and help them acquire the necessary information and skills to make responsible decisions.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republika Srpska, in the report on the security situation in Republika Srpska, January - December 2014, it is stated that the overall rate of general crime of minors decreased by 33% compared to 2013 (531 in crime 2013 and 355 offenses in 2014), but the information is related to the increase of criminality of minors and against minors present in the areas of crimes against sexual integrity (100% more than in 2013, and one case of trafficking minor persons), drug abuse (50% more than in 2013 and six offenses in 2013 and nine offenses in 2014), offenses relating to weapons and ammunition (133,3% more than in 2013 or three offences in 2013 and seven violations in 2014).

In *The report on traffic safety in Republika Srpska* for 2012, drawn up on the basis of analytical reports of MIA of Republika Srpska, it is stated that the total number of persons killed in traffic in 2012 is 30% of victims of category of youth road users.

### Key Information - Healthy Lifestyles of the youth

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republika Srpska, in the report on the security situation in Republika Srpska, January - December 2014, it is stated that the overall rate of general crime of minors decreased by 33% compared to 2013 (531 in crime 2013 and 355 offenses in 2014), but the information is related to the increase of criminality of minors and against minors present in the areas of crimes against sexual integrity (100% more than in 2013, and one case of trafficking minor persons), drug abuse (50% more than in 2013 and six offenses in 2013 and nine offenses in 2014), offenses relating to weapons and ammunition (133,3% more than in 2013 or three offences in 2013 and seven violations in 2014).

In *The report on traffic safety in Republika Srpska* for 2012, drawn up on the basis of analytical reports of MIA of Republika Srpska, it is stated that the total number of persons killed in traffic in 2012 is 30% of victims of category of youth road users.

### The survey results of the Ombudsman for Children of Republic of Srpska, 2012 - Reproductive Health

On the survey questions 523 high school students answered, of which 318 female, or 61%, and 205 male, or 39%.

- 67% of young people receive reproductive health information from the media, less than half of them from the parents of 39%, 33% from their peers, and only 15% in school.
- 58% of children think they receive very little information on reproductive health in school, 24% think that they get enough information, while 18% believe that no information is received in school.
- 82% of secondary school students wanted to learn in school about reproductive health, and only 18% did not want.
- 39% of students would like to learn about reproductive health in regular classes and 35% in community class, and 23% of them at the sessions and extracurricular activities.
- 69% of young people want to learn about reproductive health from the experts, and 23% of respondents wanted from peer educators, while only 8% from teachers.
- 52% believe that learning about reproductive health should start from sixth to ninth grade, 37% in high school, while 12% think that reproductive health should be taught about until the fourth grade.
- Almost the same number of young people believe that the child's voluntary consent to sexual intercourse should be at the age of 17 - 30%, or the age of 18 - 34%
responsibilities requiring new knowledge and skills. Although, in general, adolescents are healthy population group, and adolescence poses new challenges in relation to health and development, due to their relative vulnerability and pressure exerted by society and their peers, in terms of acceptance of risky health behavior”.

The strategy for the development of sports in Republika Srpska 2012-2016 has linked the importance of sports and physical activities with the overall development of young people several times: "The importance of physical activity in a man's life is immeasurable. It helps proper development of body and spirit in childhood and adolescence, and prevents many diseases, improves quality of life and prolongs even a lifetime in the ripe and the old age.. "

Taking into account all of the above sources and new challenges of modern society, healthy lifestyles, as the field of the Youth policy, can be viewed through three thematic areas:

- Youth Health - covers issues of healthy nutrition, substance abuse, reproductive health, mental health, proper development and awareness of healthy lifestyle behaviours in young people;
- Physical activity of the youth - includes the availability of the sports and recreation fields, the availability of sport and recreational activities for the most young people, but also for the specific groups of young, such as pupils and students and young population with disabilities;
- Youth Safety - covers issues of various security challenges, threats and risks to young people, the young people are exposed to some of the negative phenomena in society, or the perpetrators thereof, environmental issues and sustainable living environment.

Results of ‘‘the Survey for needs and attitudes of the youth in Republika Srpska' 2015, relevant to – healthy lifestyles of the youth

In addition to reducing unemployment (score of 3.79 on a scale of one to four), the issue of health care (score 3.73), as well as the economic growth and development (3.73) is of considerable interest for the young. Next fight against crime and corruption (3.69) and improve the situation of young people (3.64). At last in the development of private entrepreneurship (3.37).

Almost 37% of young people surveyed recognized that the benefits of tobacco. Partially more urban youth consume cigarettes, while the students are the majority consumers. About 35% of the surveyed young people use alcohol. More consumed with the urban youth, and students and students are the main consumers of the young. The use of marijuana in the past six months, respondents evaluated with 1.22 (score one - never, score four - often), indicating that some of the surveyed young people use or used. However, when talking about the perception of drug consumption in others, the coefficient is significantly higher - 2.60 (grade two - rarely score three - sometimes).

Almost 67% of young people surveyed had sexual experiences. City youth are sexually active, a category of students, employed and unemployed young people are the most active group. Although 37.49% of young people said they never used contraception, 7.61% of them do not know what contraception.

Most young people interviewed, about 84%, rarely (50.48%), and only if it is organized as a part of school or work (32.46%), going to the systematic medical examinations. About 96% of young people surveyed rated their general health as very good (39.44%) or very good (55.84%). Moderate to strong demand for health institutions (grades 3.28 to 3.41 on a scale from one to four) shows the majority of young people surveyed.

Respondents young people responded that they often witnesses (score of 2.04 on a scale of one to four, wherein the two - rarely, three - times), then the victim verbal abuse (score of 1.46 on a scale of one to four, wherein one - ever, two - rare), then the victims of physical violence (score 1.40) and least often the victims of violence on the Internet (score 1.39).
4.3.2 Legal framework and key stakeholders

International Documents on Human Rights, which establishes minimum standards to protect the health of young people, are the following: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the Convention against discrimination in education, the ILO, the Minimum Age Convention (regarding the employment) and the Beijing declaration and platform for action, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Document that specifically deals with young health as international strategy is the World Programme for Young People (1995), but a significant part is directly related to the health of the young. The background of this strategy can be found in the fact that the health of young people is threatened by many factors, such as harmful traditional practices, unhealthy environment, weak system of health promotion, and inadequate or inappropriate care. The most common problems are related to the "lack of a safe and healthy living environment, poor diet, the risk of infections, parasitic or water transmitted diseases, the increase in the consumption of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, illegal, risky and destructive activities that lead to unintentional injuries".

European youth health legal regulation is governed by three main levels: by-laws of the World Health Organization, referring to the European region, the activities of the Council of Europe in this field, and the legislation of the European Union, which refers to the young people’s health. It should be noted that policies at all three levels are quite compatible.

Research results - a healthy lifestyle of young people - physical activity

In the research conducted by the Commission for Coordination of Youth Issues in BiH, "Analysis of the position of young people and youth sector in BiH", an analysis of youth dealing with recreational activities was done. It was concluded that every second girl / woman and every third man is not engaged in recreational activity. It is stated: "45% of young people do not engage in recreational activities that maintain physical fitness and health, and the same number of them are involved in activities at least once a week; others conduct such activities once a day (13%), one to three times per week (28%) or less frequently (13%). The percentage of inactive was significantly higher when it comes to women (56%) than men (33%) ".

Results of "Survey of needs and attitudes of young people in Republika Srpska", 2015: When it comes to different activities where participants had to estimate how often they are engaged in specified activities on a scale from one (never) to four (often), we can see that they usually hang out with friends (M = 3,8), and listen to music (M = 3,7) and spend time on the Internet (M = 3,7), and the games of chance are the rarest (M = 2), and volunteering (M = 2,1). The biggest gender differences are in the items of sports and betting, where men spend significantly more time in these activities, while girls / women spend significantly more time in reading. Age differences are most emphasized on things such as listening to music and hanging out with friends, where younger respondents spend significantly more time in these activities, and vice versa is with reading. The differences by place of residence is almost nonexistent, and the only significant difference is expressed in reading, where respondents from the city spend a little more time. The differences by the status, similar to age, are the most marked on itings such as music listening, hanging out with friends and sports, where pupils and students spend considerably more time in the activities than employed and unemployed.
In September 2012 the WHO Regional Office for Europe adopted the documents "The New European Health Policy - Health 2020" and "European action plan for strengthening public health capacities and services". Drafts of these documents, together with the national legal and strategic framework that includes the Constitution of Republika Srpska, a number of laws, regulations and planning documents, were the basis for the development of health promotion policies of Republika Srpska’s population by 2020 that the Government of Republika Srpska adopted in September 2012 (the first in the region). The objective of this policy is to improve the health of Republika Srpska’s population by reducing the health difference among the population, investing in health by involving citizens in decision-making on health and creating healthy communities, tracking non-infectious and infectious diseases and improving the health safety, creating a healthy and supportive environment for the health and well-being, strengthening the health system oriented to the needs of beneficiaries, strengthening the capacity of public health and preparedness for emergencies, and promoting and adopting the "health in all policies". These prioritized directions of action are achieved by the implementation of a number of measures in the specific fields of action of which the ones that relate to the youth health will be mentioned: 1) The differences in the population health are reduced, inter alia, by developing specific policies, programmes and action plans aiming the social determinants of health and focusing on key areas, such as early childhood development, employment and working conditions, social protection, prevention and treatment of disease and the reduction of social exclusion and vulnerability of these individuals and communities; and reducing inequalities in health (associated with the reduction of inequalities in society).

2) Investing in health, the involvement of citizens in decision-making about health and creating healthy communities is exercised, inter alia, by ensuring a healthy beginning of life (promotion of sexual and reproductive health, family planning and informed choices and protection of mothers and children health); protecting from bad experiences in childhood and promotion of safety and well-being in childhood; providing health services tailored to the needs of adolescents; improving coordination of health and social services; empowering citizens to make informed decisions about their health; and creating healthy local communities (according to the concept of healthy cities and communities).

3) Control of non-communicable and communicable diseases and improvement of health security is intensified, inter alia, by: implementing the Political Declaration of the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, WHO Framework Convention on tobacco Control, Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol and Gaining Health-the European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases; promoting healthy choices by defining and designing the products, regulating marketing, excise and taxation and consumer education; developing a healthy environment for work and study, promoting road safety, and active living, healthy development of transport, education and nutrition, promoting safe physical and social environment that protects against injury and violence; strengthening the health system by creating primary care to manage risks for non-communicable diseases, early detect and treat malignant diseases, providing integrated health care, activating people living with non-communicable diseases through mechanisms such as:
making informed decisions, taking care for themselves and their treatment, promoting health literacy; promoting mental health and human rights under the European Declaration on the Health of Children and Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families, protecting human rights of vulnerable groups and developing institutions for mental health fighting against stigma and supporting the reintegration into the community; reaching and maintaining the recommended vaccination coverage (prevention of sickness and death that can be avoided by immunization and reaching the regional objectives regarding the elimination of a disease); applying regional policies and action plans related to the rational use of the antibiotic for control of infection infection (to prevent the occurrence and spread of drug-resistant strains and nosocomial infections); ensuring the availability of health services and interventions based on the evidence of the vulnerable groups of the population to ensure complete control of the most important infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV / AIDS, influenza vaccines and infectious diseases preventable; improving the exchange of information and, where possible, common supervision and control of diseases by public health authority (human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, and food) for the purposes of better control of zoonoses, resistant strains of micro-organisms and infections caused by food; and developing an intersectoral, multihazardous approach to emerge preparedness and emergency operations (infectious disease outbreaks, industrial, chemical and nuclear accidents, floods, earthquakes, wars, as well as the use of biological, chemical and nuclear weapon).

4) A healthy and supportive environment for the health and well-being is created, inter alia, through: impact assessment of sectoral policies on health to promote policies that protect and promote the health and well-being and prevent disease and disability; implementation of multilateral agreements related to environmental factors for the purpose of promoting a healthy environment and reduction of the negative impact of the environment on health; contribution to sustainable development by ensuring the protection and sustainable use of natural resources (water, food, land, energy, biosphere) and the promotion of green and environmentally sustainable healthcare institutions; and adapting health services to changes that occur in the environment.

5) Public health capacity and preparedness for emergencies are strengthened, inter alia, through: health promotion, including actions on the social determinants of health and health inequalities; prevention of diseases and conditions, including early detection; and improving advocacy, communication and social mobilization for health.

6) Promotion and adoption of "health in all policies" is taking place, inter alia, through: advocacy leading to the acceptance of the fact that health is a concern and responsibility of all sectors, not just health care sector, and that investing in health is not consumption rather than investment in social development; implementation of multi-sectoral activities that promote health and equity in health through action on the social determinants of health (improving education, promotion of social cohesion, the reduction of poverty, improvement of Early Childhood Development); building partnerships for health between the competent institutions, government, non-governmental and philanthropic organizations, private foundations and community.
Adoption of the Policy for improving the health of the Republika Srpska’s population until 2020 has enabled the design and implementation of activities needed to improve health in the future, along with coordination, cooperation and partnerships of competent institutions, government, non-governmental and philanthropic organizations, private foundations and community.

The most important acts that govern certain sections of healthy lifestyles of the youth are:

- **The Health Care Act** ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 106/09 and 44/15): The Article 8 of the Act stipulates that health care is provided under the same terms and includes "children under 15 years of age, school children and students until the end of schooling, and no later than 26 years of age, in accordance with the Act".

- **The Youth Organization Act**: Under the Article 12 the Act provides that the Youth Policy of Republika Srpska should pay attention to the social and health care of young people, and the Article 19 specifically defines the area of social and health care of young people.

- **The Sports Act** ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 4/02, 66/03, 73/08 and 102/08): the Article 2, Paragraph 1 thereof defines the sport as any form of physical activity, which organized or unorganized participation contributes to improve and enhance the physical and mental development of children, youth and adults, promotion of values of human life and achieving better results in sports competitions. The Article 4 thereof sets forth that sport in Republika Srpska is voluntary, free and accessible to all citizens under the same conditions, regardless of the race, ethnicity, religion, political, and gender, healthy, safely and is carried out under professional supervision. In addition, the way of organizing and financing of school, student sports and youth sports is defined (Art. 13, 17, 31, 33, 136 and 141).

- **The Volunteer Act**: The Act takes care of the welfare and health of the minors volunteering, and the Article 16 thereof defines "A minor volunteer can take a volunteering role only in activities according to his/her age, physical and mental development level and skills that do not bear risk to his/her health, development and success in carrying out school obligations".

- **The Production and Trade of Narcotics Act** ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 110/03): The Act sets forth the organization and implementation of preventive and educational programs to combat abuse.

- **The Protection of Persons with Mental Disorders Act** ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 46/04): the Act does not specifically regulate the category of youth, but contains provisions on minors. According to the Article 3 a minor is a person older than...
14 years and under 18 years of age. The Act anticipates that the psychiatric treatment of children and minors is conducted in special departments of health facilities intended for the treatment of children and young people and are separated from the department of adult patients (Article 13).

- The Principles of Road Safety in BiH Act ("Official Gazette of BiH", Nos. 6/06, 75/06, 44/07, 84/09, 48/10 and 18/13), under the Section 3 the Act sets forth: "Traffic participants are obliged to comply with the provisions of this Act and other regulations related to road safety, develop human relations among people to protect the health and lives of others, especially children, the disabled, the elderly and disabled persons, and take care on environmental protection".

- The Health Insurance Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 18/99, 51/01, 70/01, 53/03, 57/03, 17/08, 1/09 and 106/09): If we need provisions on health insurance for young people, they are entitled to health care if a child is up to the age of 15 years and is a child of an insured person, or until the age of 26 if attending regular educational process (Article 16).

- The Social Protection Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 37/12): under the Article 3 the Act stipulates that social care is provided to citizens in need of social assistance, Article 20 specifically identify certain categories of minors who enjoy this protection, and great attention is paid to the equalization of opportunities for children and youth with disabilities.

- The Pension and Disability Insurance Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 134/11 and 82/13): The Act stipulates compulsory insurance for persons under certain circumstances and, in general, when young people are hired by youth cooperatives (Articles 11 and 17).

- The Primary Education Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 74/08, 71/09, 104/11 and 33/14): As one of the goals of primary education the Act establishes "to develop environmental awareness and awareness of the need to protect nature and environment" and "to raise awareness about the need to protect health (Article 7). As a pupil’s serious breach of obligations the Act specifies using or inciting pupil to the use of alcohol, tobacco and narcotics and provides for material and disciplinary sanctions (Article 82).

- The Secondary Education Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 74/08, 106/09, 104/11 and 33/14): As one of the objectives of secondary education the Act establishes "development of respect for differences in gender, ability, racial, national, religious and social status and fostering tolerance of diversity", and under the Article 6 states: "the school, parents, students and local authorities promote and implement the joint and organized action and cooperation in the fight against abuse and maltreatment of children and young people, human trafficking, drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other drug addictions, juvenile delinquency, and all other phenomena that threaten the health and lives of students".
The Criminal Code of Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 49/03, 108/04, 37/06, 70/06, 68/07, 73/10, 1/12 and 67/13): The Act makes the difference between the category of the young, in particular between minors and adults in the sentence, so that long-term imprisonment (from 25 to 45 years) cannot be imposed on a person who, at the time of execution, has not reached 21 years of age, or pregnant woman (Article 32, Paragraph 4). Also, the Code provides for a special type of sanction for minor offenders: educational measures, recommendations and penalties for minors (Chapter VI of the Code). Criminal sanctions (Article 64) cannot apply on a minor who, at the time of the offense, has not reached the age 14. The Code contains special provision for criminal offenses committed against a child, a minor or a pregnant woman. In fact, these acts have harder qualification and harder penalties are provided than in case when the victim is an adult (Articles 149, 168 and 192).

The Republika Srpska Criminal Procedure Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 53/12). The Act takes special care of minors and ways to protect them during the examination, the mental health of young people during the proceedings, safety, and other aspects relating to health minors (Articles 143, 146, 147, 151, 221, 251 and 278).

The Republika Srpska Misdemeanors Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 63/14): the Act sets forth a care for representing young people in the misdemeanor proceedings and the possibility of providing defense lawyer with special knowledge, and the Article 78 (Special knowledge) reads: "Judges and police officers handling misdemeanor cases against minors must hold a special preference for training, the needs and interests of young people and specific knowledge in the field of child rights and juvenile delinquency".

The Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in the Criminal Procedure Code ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 13/10 and 61/13): The Act takes care of minors, emphasizing the welfare of a minor in conflict with the law. This Act provides for the possibility of choice and application of the act provided for sanctions and the application of measures tailored to personal characteristics, environment and circumstances in which a minor lives, in proportion to the circumstances and severity of crime, and respecting the rights of persons harmed with criminal offense.

The Prevention of Sporting Events Violence Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 14/04 and 13/10) The Act stipulates the measures for the prevention of violence and misbehaviour at sports events, measures that ensure the protection of spectators, players and other participants and regulates the measures of prevention and sanctioning misconduct with the aim of improving the quality of life of citizens and youth.

The Environmental Protection Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 71/12) is the principal Act in the field of environmental protection and is the basis for the adoption of regulations relating to environmental protection. Under this Act and other special laws and regulations the segments of environmental protection, natural resources and issues of importance to environmental protection and environmental management system, as well as various activities in the framework of environmental protection and security of citizens of Republika Srpska, and therefore youth categories are governed.
The most important planning documents regulating certain parts of the healthy lifestyles of young people:

- **The policy for improving the health of the Republika Srpska’s population until 2020** ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 92/12) which is the main strategic planning document for Republika Srpska in the field of health, which aims and priorities have already been explained.

- **The Strategy of Traffic Safety in Republika Srpska, 2013-2022**: Strategy in Column 4. "Safer road users" defines several activities, among which the most important for youth policy are the following four: Strengthening and increasing traffic education of children with clear guidelines for teachers; Introducing projects "safe routes to school" throughout Republika Srpska; Expanding the traffic education to older children in primary and secondary schools; Conducting campaigns about using seat belts throughout Republika Srpska in order to raise awareness; Implementing campaigns on speeding and driving under the influence of alcohol along with police activities.

- **The Strategy of Supervising Drugs and Combating Drug Abuse in Republika Srpska, 2016-2021** (drafted and in the process of adoption): The vision set out in the Strategy: "Reduce the supply of and demand for narcotics in society, and provide adequate protection to the lives and health of children, youth, families and individuals through an integrated and balanced approach to the drug problem and in this regard maintain the scope of narcotic drugs abuse within socially acceptable risk not to disrupt the original values of society and threaten the security of the population".

- **Policy for the Advancement of Sexual and Reproductive Health in Republika Srpska, 2012-2017**: Under the Specific objective "Promotion of sexual and reproductive rights" the policy defines the following: "Access to sexual and reproductive health based on human rights means promotion of the protection, empowerment and equality of all young people in all aspects of their sex life. It is access to sexual reproductive health based on internationally agreed and recognized human rights. This approach recognizes young people as sexual beings who have a right to information, education, health services tailored to their needs, protection and participation in decision making".

- **Mental Health Policy in Republika Srpska** ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 112/05): Vision set in Policy: "a stigma- and discrimination-free society, where people with mental health problems are treated in the community and are fully integrated into society".

- **Strategy for Mental Health Development in Republika Srpska 2009-2015** ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 87/09): Mental health is a state of emotional and social well-being where a person can realize his/her own capabilities, cope with normal life stress, work productively and is able to contribute to the community in which he/she lives (WHO, 1999). Mental health is not just the absence of mental illness, but the ability of individuals and groups to influence each other and their environment promoting subjective well-being, welfare and use of mental abilities (thinking, emotional, interpersonal, and spiritual) and achieve individual and common objectives in line with the social and legal norms. The vision set out in the Strategy: "All citizens understand the importance of mental health for general health, they know how to preserve and improve
their own mental health and mental health of others. Good mental health means healthier Republika Srpska, but also equality in exercising guaranteed human rights and freedoms, social solidarity and cohesion between different social classes and groups, healthier family, school and work environment, greater social inclusion and gender equality”. A new *Strategy for Mental Health Development in Republika Srpska, 2016 – 2026* is being drafted.

- **Strategy for Combating Domestic Violence in Republika Srpska, 2014-2019.** ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 63/14): The strategy envisages a number of activities under the campaign as well as preventive measures; there is also an activity "Promotional activities for children and youth in educational institutions".
- **In the Strategy for Preventing and Combating Terrorism, 2015 - 2020** emphasis is placed on removing all causes leading to extremism and terrorism, cooperation with NGOs, including religious communities, and achieving the support and active involvement of the widest community, especially young people, in combating hate speech, hate crimes and terrorism. The action plan drafting of the Government of Republika Srpska for the prevention and fight against terrorism for the implementation of the aforementioned strategy, is in progress.

As key stakeholders in the field of Healthy lifestyles in Republika Srpska, the following have been identified:

- **The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport**, as the relevant ministry for the Youth of the Government of Republika Srpska, is the processor of the document Youth policy and normative legal acts regarding youth work and organization.
- **The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare’s** main goal is to build a modern, rational, efficient and effective institution dedicated to policy improving the health of the nation, conditions affecting the health and social care.
- **Ministry of Education and Culture** performs administrative and other tasks relating to the pre-school, the primary, the secondary and higher education system, and provides pupils’ and students’ standard.
- **Ministry of Internal Affairs**, with mission to provide constitutional and legal protection, democratic principles, take care for the personal safety of citizens and their property, protect human rights and freedoms, reduce crime efficiently and effectively, maintain public order, prevent the consequences of natural and other disasters and provides services to civil protection.
- **Ministry of Justice** performs administrative and other professional tasks related to the competencies of Republika Srpska, inter alia, in the field of judicial institutions and administrative supervision of the judicial administration, penal and correctional institutions, the execution of criminal sanctions.

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- **Ministry of Administration and Local Self - Government** performs administrative and other professional tasks relating to, among other things, citizens' associations and foundations.

- **Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology** performs tasks of the Republican administration relating to the improvement of work in the areas of spatial planning, construction and ecology.

- **The Ministry of Transport and Communications** has a vision to build Republika Srpska and equip with a modern and well-developed infrastructure in the field of communication, both within its own territory and connection with the neighbouring countries for faster, more comfortable and more efficient movement of people, goods and better service delivery.

- **Ministry of Finance** carries out administrative and other technical matters with regard to, among other things, the design and execution of the RS budget and annual account budget, compensation, indemnification, and investments financed from state budget;

- **The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Regional Cooperation** performs administrative and other professional tasks, which, among other things, relates to cooperation with national, regional and international organizations and institutions.

- **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management** is the administrative body, which carries out administrative and other tasks in several administrative areas and is directly subordinate to the Government and is engaged in, among other activities, rural development.

- **Sports organizations** - Republika Srpska's sport is organized in accordance with the Sports Act of Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 4/02, 66/03, 73/08 and 102/08). There are 35 sports associations and six sports associations of disabled persons in Republika Srpska. So far, there are about 1,000 sports organizations registered in Republika Srpska.

- **Universities** - There are several universities in Republika Srpska, which are mostly located in the three centers: Banja Luka, East Sarajevo and Bijeljina. The largest two universities are the University of Banja Luka and University of East Sarajevo, founded by Republika Srpska. Private universities in Republika Srpska are mainly concentrated in Banja Luka and Bijeljina.

- **Student sports organizations** – The Student Standard Act of Republic of Srpska and the Sports Act of Republika Srpska allow formation of student sports organizations in universities and colleges.

- **Ombudsman for Children of Republic of Srpska** - among other responsibilities, proposes measures for the protection and promotion of rights, and prevention of harmful practices that threaten the rights and interests of the child.

- **Gender Center of Republic of Srpska** is a center for gender equality, established by the Government of Republika Srpska in December 2001. The objective of its operation is to support the implementation of gender equality in all areas of life and work in Republika Srpska through laws, policies and programmes, in cooperation with national and
international institutions and organizations, in accordance with national laws and international conventions and agreements ratified by our country.

- **Public Health Institution – Institute for Public Health of Republika Srpska** is a highly specialized health institution, whose scope of work and activities are stipulated under the Health Care Act, and operates in the whole territory of Republika Srpska, and often beyond.

- **The Republic Administration for Games of Chance** performs administrative and other professional tasks relating to, inter alia, inspection of the organizers, the harmonization and implementation of the established policy and ensures execution of laws and other regulations in the field of gambling.

- **The Republic Pedagogical Institute** is responsible for the duties and tasks set out in Article 50 of the Republic Administration Act which relate to, inter alia, pedagogical, counseling, instructive, corrective and supervisory work in preschools, primary and secondary schools and student dormitories.

- **The Republic Administration for Inspection Affairs of Republika Srpska** - Republic of Srpska Inspectorate carries out inspections in Republika Srpska in order to ensure the enforcement of laws and other regulations and general acts.

- **Local self-governments** are the main carriers of the realization of youth policy at the local level.

- **CSO** – along with local governments the CSOs are also one of the key stakeholders of the implementation of programmes and activities of youth policy, both at the national and at the local level.

4.3.3 **Analysis of problems and needs**

- **Coordination of the health sector with the youth sector in Republika Srpska** – Reviewing acts, policies and strategies adopted ten years ago, a progress in involving civil society organizations in the legislation adopted over the last few years is evident. Civil society organizations are defined as active participants in their establishment and subsequent implementation. Civil society organizations, unfortunately, still act individually and there is no significant networking among them, which would improve their impact on society. Procedures for cooperation of CSOs with health institutions such as the Institute for Public Health of Republika Srpska, health centers, medical facilities privately owned and so on are not properly developed. In certain acts, explicit use of the term CSO is omitted, but the public involvement is mentioned, which indirectly shows the possibility of CSO's operating, but its specific role is not defined. Some acts, for example, the Protection of Persons with Mental Disorders Act of Republika Srpska, define the participation of CSO only through the involvement of representatives in certain
government committees, while the CSO's operations in the area they govern are not defined.\(^{13}\)

- **The capacity of CSO, sectors dealing with the youth issues in Republika Srpska** - CSOs are not allocated to a particular segment of health care services, and the role of CSOs is not clearly defined in some strategic documents. There are no clear guidelines and regulations which specify and allocate the work of CSOs in the field of health care and the provision of psychosocial support from other CSOs engaged in other activities and areas of human work.

- **The financial position of sports organizations in Republika Srpska** – There are few sports organizations that do not charge a membership fee for the youth in organized systematic training process in order to express their preferences and achieve sports results in Republika Srpska. Inaccessible fees in organisations are often an obstacle to young people for mass participation in sports facilities. Sports organizations in Republika Srpska usually do not have the funds to finance the performance of its members in competitions and if they want to compete, the members themselves must bear these costs, which is a reason for a small involvement of children and youth in sports activities.

- **Lack of awareness and show of interest of young people for healthy lifestyles in Republika Srpska** - Data from the results of "Survey of needs and attitudes of young people in Republika Srpska", 2015, show that young people cannot perceive healthy lifestyles, and they do not show great interest for their health.

4.4 **Excellence**

4.4.1 **Definition and elements of excellence**

\(^{13}\) The survey of existing mechanisms and legal framework of participation of civil society organizations in the health sector and identify the need for creating additional mechanisms and procedures for participation of civil society organizations in the health sector, Aleksandra Vučina, 2013.
When the excellence is in question, we can often hear terms such as creativity, originality, intelligence, ability, genius, "wunderkind" and talent. Talent is a concept that has long been used in speech when described the individuals with extremely developed specific ability. Usually, these achievements are in the field of music, mathematics, chess and so on. According to Ćudina–Obradović (1990)\(^{14}\), the concept of talent has three meanings: 1) manifested gift, and potential gift is what we now call gift, 2) a lower level of intellectual gift, while the higher level of these gifts what also now call gift, 3) the specific gift, or the ability for high performance on specific areas. Today, a talent is a common term used exclusively in the third meaning, according to the mentioned author. However, in her later works, it is said that talent is sometimes synonymous with gift, but only when high performance in a particular area and realized performance occurs. Then it was thought that the gift was potential, and talent was manifestation of gift. Today, however, a clear distinction between the terms gift and talent is made, wherein gift includes high attainment in one or more areas due to high intellectual ability, motivation, and creativity, and talent includes high attainment in one specific area, which does not necessarily involve high intellectual abilities. Renzulli\(^{15}\) points out that, thanks to the skills of creativity, gifted person becomes a creator, because if he/she has only developed or high intellectual ability and commitment to the task, that person will probably be an exceptional professional in his/her field, but they will never move beyond the borders of science that

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deals with or create work of art that will significantly affect the development of society and culture. Due to their creativity, the gifted create a product (theory, novels, formulae, patents, images, and so on) that affect the change, and therefore the development of society. In order to allow adequate working conditions with gifted and talented young people, too, we decided to use the concept of excellence, which includes both categories of young people in its definition. The term 'excellence' represents the term determined by consensus, which combines both categories of the young (gifted and talented) with the generated high achievement in one or more specific field. Trying to bring order into the results obtained in numerous studies, experts have opted for a consensus on certain issues about the nature of excellence (whether it is a talent or a gift). Thus, the following two issues were found among them: 1) Whether the excellence is general or specific? 2) Is it manifested or is it a potential? The authors have taken the official attitude that excellence can speak only if there is a manifestation, not potential, which is specific and not general. In defining the concept of excellence we will adhere to the scientific attitude and recognize excellence on the basis of events and specificity.

4.4.2 Legal framework and key stakeholders

There are several legal acts of Republika Srpska partly concerned with excellence which are, although insufficient, important in further regulation of this area:

*The Education and Scholarships for Young Talents Act*, passed in 2010 ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 73/10) defines specific requirements for education and scholarships for young talents of Republika Srpska, and establishment of a center for young talents, which has not yet been established. On the basis of the Act, a young talent is considered a pupil or student who has special, outstanding, special, practical tendency, with a pronounced creative, original abilities. Article 18 of the Act stipulates that "a school or institution of higher education shall enable young talent of optional programmes according to his/her abilities and preferences, group and individual work, work with a mentor, earlier enrollment in art schools, contacts with experts in the field of interest, access to specific knowledge sources, programmes about the choice of profession and career, extracurricular programs and additional teaching, scholarship." The Act anticipates two by-laws: *Rules on pedagogical and psychological training of teachers and parents of young talent and the Ordinance on the criteria and procedure for identifying, tracking and identification of young talents* that have not yet been adopted.

The Decision of the Government of Republika Srpska establishing the Foundation, "Dr Milan Jelić" ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 33/11) - With this act, the Foundation "Dr Milan Jelić" was established as a continuation of the regular activities of the former Foundation of the President of Republika Srpska, or the Foundation "Dr Milan Jelić". The Foundation operates within the Ministry of Science and Technology as a separate spending entity to support talented students of Republika Srpska.

In accordance with the Scientific Activity and Technological Development Act ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 6/12 and 33/14) and the Ordinance on training young people for scientific and research work ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 59 / 10 and 48/11), the Ministry of Science and Technology allocates significant funds intended for training young people for researching. The support is implemented through several programmes: the training program for young talented for scientice and research (preparation of master thesis, preparation of doctoral disertation and co-financing projects with young researchers) and the Programme of international scientific cooperation of importance for the Republika Srpska. In addition, the programme of co-financing science and research projects in Republika Srpska is supported by the Ministry by involving young researchers in the implementation of these projects.

The Sports Act of Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", Nos. 4/02, 66/03, 73/08 and 102/08) and the Ordinance on conditions and criteria for scholarships for promising athletes of Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska" No. 15/07) anticipates scholarships for promising athletes and support to top athletes training to achieve top results. Top athlete is a person who, at sporting events, has achieved top sports results in accordance with established norms and standards of the International Olympic Committee and international sports associations. Granting scholarships to promising athletes, athletes with disabilities and potential Olympic candidates, enables the achievement of the best sport results, which will contribute to the promotion of talented individuals and the sport in Republika Srpska.

Past experience shows the need to improve procedures for the identification of excellent students. Regardless of the existing programmes and definitions, there is a demonstrable need for improvement in this area, with special emphasis on the establishment of clear criteria by which we measure "above average aptitude" and "creative ability"17, which are the basis for the early recognition of excellence, in particular talented and gifted youth. When we talk about preferences, it should be borne in mind that we are not talking about the achievements, but the preferences. Also, there is no clear concept of "young talented"18, as postgraduate studies and doctoral studies, can be attended by students of average intellectual abilities without exceptional, practical, intellectual abilities and without creative thinking, so we can conclude that the grants are mainly intended for hard working and successful students, but not excellent (gifted and talented).

When it comes to the area of excellence, the cooperation of all relevant ministries and other key stakeholders who could contribute to the development of this area (professional audience, specialist organisations of civil society involved in the development of alternative methods of

17 Младим талентом се, на основу Закон о школовању и стипендирању младих талената („Службени гласник Републике Српске”, број 73/10), сматра ученик или студент који има посебне, натпређене, специјалне, практичне склоности са наглашеним креативним, стваралачким способностима.
18 Фонд „Др Милан Јелић“, између осталог, доприноси подстицању младих надарених за научноистраживачки рад.
education, the private sector that achieved results in the areas of science and innovation, experts from other countries and so on) is required.

**Ministry of Education and Culture** conducts administrative and other tasks which, among other things, refer to the system of preschool, elementary, secondary and higher education; adoption of the basis of the preschool education curriculum for primary and secondary education, approval and licensing for implementing study programs at higher education institutions; strategic planning at all levels of education, establishing standards and norms, and other conditions for performing educational work; providing funds for scholarships for students in Republika Srpska and abroad, coordination of international exchange of students and academic staff; providing education for pupils with special educational needs and the provision of lifelong learning.

**Ministry of Science and Technology** performs administrative and other professional tasks which, among other things, refer to the development and promotion of scientific research; encourage basic, applied and development research and other aspects of scientific research; establishing and carrying out activities of research and development organizations; development and training of scientific personnel, provision of infrastructure for performing research activities, the system of scientific information and communication; participation in international scientific research activity; maintaining a database of research organizations and personnel; encourage the development and improvement of technology, innovation, the development of the innovation system in Republika Srpska, the development of the information society; scholarships for talented pupils and students; monitoring of the development of science and technology in the European Union and the harmonization of scientific research and innovation system in Republika Srpska with the strategic documents, standards and norms of the European Union to meet the requirements for the European integration process;

**Foundation "Dr Milan Jelić"** operates within the Ministry of Science and Technology as a separate organizational unit whose purpose is to support talented students of Republika Srpska in financing of studies of I, II and III cycle at home and foreign universities; encouraging talented young people to scientific research; promoting fellows’ results achieved; supporting the development of a professional and research career of fellows; informing young talents on the possibilities of further development; cooperation with other institutions and organizations of importance for the most talented students of Republika Srpska and providing other forms of financial and moral support to fellows in achieving outstanding results.

**The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports** performs administrative and other tasks which, inter alia, relate to: promoting family values and responsible parenthood; developing and supporting projects and programmes of associations aimed at the welfare of children and families; system tracking of the situation, problems, needs and attitudes of young people in Republika Srpska; preparing assumptions for resolving the youth issues; encouraging active participation of young people in society, the cooperation with the youth organizations, international cooperation in youth organization and work; creating conditions for the development of sports at the national level.
The Council for Children of the Republic of Srpska operates within the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports as a permanent, advisory and coordinating body of the Government, responsible for issues in the field of the rights of the child. In accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international instruments on human rights, the Council’s tasks include, among others, the promotion and protection of children's rights, initiation and active participation in making, implementation and monitoring of laws, regulations, strategic and action documents in the field of the rights of the child in the Republic of Srpska, reporting to the Government, competent ministries, institutions, bodies and agencies on the situation, problems and activities in the field of the rights of the child in the Republic of Srpska and possibilities for solving those problems, and proposal of measures for improving the exercise of the rights of children to the Government and the competent institutions and bodies.

Faculty of Philosophy, University of Banja Luka, within several courses at undergraduate and postgraduate studies (Psychology of Giftedness and Creativity, Psychology of Learning and Teaching, Psychology of Abilities, School Psychology and Psychology of Learning and Creativity) deals with the approaches and the need for the study of giftedness and creativity (the nature of giftedness and creativity, contemporary models of encouraging and developing giftedness), the nature of creativity and understanding of creativity of gifted students, identification of gifted and creative students (procedures and materials used in the selection of students who meet the criteria for the exercise of academic acceleration, identification of gifted students with special needs), programs for work with gifted students (review of the program for the gifted, teaching strategies in an average classroom and teaching strategies in special programs) and the like.

In neighbouring countries there is a prescribed manner of identifying gifted students, as well as applicable measuring instruments. In addition to the legal documents regulating this area, there are several successful examples of private and scientific sector that works on the development of excellence. In Serbia, there are funds for young talents in almost all the municipalities which are guided by the opinion that they should be supported. The initiative and preparation of available human and material resources were launched for the establishment of the European centre of excellence in Novi Sad. The building of infrastructure through the Development Fund of Vojvodina, the University, scientific and technological park, business incubator and cluster successfully created a structure employing nearly 3,000 people in the IT sector. The competition for the Center of Excellence, which would be located in Novi Sad, is under way. The Center would do the research and development of the application of new technologies in agriculture, which would achieve significant revenue. This is a big European competition within the call Horizon 2020 and it is expected that the agricultural production will increase by 50 percentages on existing surfaces in the next 20 years. The regional centre for this type of technology is the first multi-disciplinary research centre for the development and application of information and communication technologies and methods in agriculture, forestry and environmental protection which creates various international projects, founded by the provincial government. In Serbia, in addition to the Petnica Science Center, there are Regional Talent Center in Kragujevac, the Regional Talent Center in Niš, Regional Talent Centre in Vranje and the Center for Young Talents headquartered in Novi Sad. In all these centres, regardless of the activity and specificity of work, there are common threads of action aimed at strengthening and developing its own approach to students, developing care for those who are active or potentially can provide outstanding results in the sectors of activity and detecting and testing of talented students. Seven research centres were established in the Republic of Croatia: Center of Excellence for
Advanced Materials and Sensing Devices – CEMS, the Center of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST), the Scientific Center of Excellence for Reproductive and Regenerative Medicine, the Scientific Center of Excellence in Viral Immunology and Development of Vaccines, the Scientific Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics, Science Centre of Excellence for the Language and the Scientific Centre of Excellence for School Effectiveness and Management.

Also, there are many other centres for talent and excellence in non-neighbouring countries (Norway, Ireland, Great Britain, India and so on). The purposes and objectives of all of them are similar. Majority of the excellent are recognized and selected in the programs for research of giftedness thanks to their creative achievements. There are also challenges (from financial to those related to content and methodology).

The program *Nikola Tesla Center (NTC) learning system*\(^40\) is implemented in 15 European countries and it is especially useful for finding gifted children and improving their giftedness. The focus of the program is the sensory and motor, and cognitive development of children, and its application has shown results in improving motor skills, physical skills and cognitive abilities. The NTC program is intended for all children. The results are visible also in the work with children with developmental disorders and learning problems, and it was noted that it is particularly suitable for the detection of gifted children. NTC learning system is a specialized program for training of parents, educators and teachers, whose knowledge and skills acquired can be applied in everyday activities in the work with children. Education of educators, teachers and parents is conducted in seminars, lectures and workshops. Certain institutions have NTC license for work, which confirms that the staff is trained and conducts the NTC program in their daily work with children. Dr. Ranko Rajović is, as the author of the NTC program, this year's winner of the prestigious international awards for intellectual contribution to society, awarded by the Mensa Education & Research Foundation, in order to honour eminent and notable achievements contributing to the society.

There are several unjustified causes for concern regarding the accelerated education of gifted students\(^41\). The most common are:

- concern that special programs cost the state a lot,
- the lack of conditions for scientific research in connection with this type of work and the possible psychological effects in children,
- opinion that it is the best for children to be in their age group,
- the concern that other students and their parents would be hurt by singling out some children as an advanced,
- the fear that the separation of children from their age group is not good for their social development,
- the belief that this deprives children of childhood.

However, a key challenge is the manner of timely recognition of excellence among young people. According to the definition of inclusion the gifted and talented students fall into the category of children with special needs. However, in practice, the inclusion is implemented\(^41\)

\(^{40}\)NTC program is accredited in six countries (Serbia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia), while in nine countries is implemented in cooperation with educational institutions (Macedonia, Italy, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Norway, Switzerland and Greece). The program is in a pilot phase of the project in several countries (Germany, Poland and Austria).

\(^{41}\) Data of the Regional Talent Center Kragujevac
only with children with disabilities and developmental disabilities. The studies have shown that a large number of gifted students have low school achievements and do not realize their potential.

In the past twenty years the process of internationalization of higher education has been noticeably intensified. The majority of higher education institutions in Europe consider that internationalization begins by relatively traditional focusing on gathering of foreign students. Many institutions are trying to expand the definition of internationalization, which would cover the activities of cooperation and partnership in research and teaching, learning foreign languages, deeper involvement of graduates from universities from other countries and partnerships with non-academic international organizations. In the past period, the European higher education has been strongly marked by the trend of increasing international mobility of students and academic staff. All prestigious European universities have recognized the internationalization of higher education as one of the most important mechanisms for improvement of the overall quality of the educational process. These international programs can represent an important instrument in the development of excellence. In addition to the EU programs, the resources allocated by the Ministry of Education and Culture for co-financing of international exchange of students and academic staff in the amount of BAM 110 000 per year should not be neglected. Overwhelming is the fact that even such an amount has not been fully used, which means that our students and teachers are not interested in participating in international exchange or are not sufficiently informed about the possible participation. It is necessary to continuously implement measures by which the Republic would contribute to achieving the strategic goal set out in the Strategy "Europe 2020" which is that 20% of students by 2020 spend a certain period abroad during their studies or training.

4.4.3 Analysis of problems and needs

All these issues and needs, when it comes to the area of excellence, can be classified into three basic challenges:

- Insufficient development of mechanisms for early recognition of excellence,
- Lack of the system for support of the development of excellence,
- Lack of awareness of citizens of the benefits which the society has from excellent young people.

During the realization of the project of the Council for Children of Republic of Srpska The position and needs of particularly gifted children in the Republic of Srpska, it was concluded that the issues of talent and giftedness do not cause enough attention of the social community, which is reflected in unclear responsibility of actors that should support the development of this category of children. The talent will not be developed if the child is not provided with adequate conditions and support for development, and there is a possibility that it will remain undiscovered forever, unrecognized or unidentified. The talent is often placed in the context of the "reward" for success in school in education policy. During the research, it was found that the preparedness of families, educators and teachers to work with gifted and talented children is of great importance. Cooperation between families, schools and other relevant institutions has a major role, and the connection of all institutions engaged in this activity is necessary in order to achieve quality in work with gifted and talented children. Also, it is necessary to develop a network of institutions as resources that affect meeting the needs of

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gifted and talented children, in accordance with the possibilities of the budget and on the basis of public and private partnerships. The studies have shown that a large number of gifted students have low academic achievement and do not achieve their potential. In the budget of the Republic of Srpska, within several line ministries, there are programs which partially support the development of excellence. Unlike the Republic of Srpska, the neighbouring countries clearly prescribed the method of identification of excellent young people, as well as measuring instruments that are applicable. Past experience shows the need to improve the procedures for the identification of excellent students in the Republic of Srpska and to establish integral mechanism to support excellence, based on the harmonization of existing sectoral programs supporting young talent and programs at the local level. For this to be achieved, the cooperation of all relevant ministries and other key stakeholders that could contribute to the development of the area (expert public, specialized civil society organizations involved in the development of alternative methods of education, the private sector, which has achieved results in areas of science and innovation, experts from other countries and so on) is required.

In the Republic of Srpska there are programs of informal education, which can be attended by educators and parents, but none of them deals with this matter, and they can be organized with the available resources with the aim of training key actors to work on this topic. In neighbouring countries, in addition to legal documents regulating this area, there are several successful examples from the private and academic sectors working on development of excellence. Based on examples of good practice in other countries, it is necessary to work to encourage public-private partnerships, which would enable bilateral or multilateral benefit of the parties involved.

Renzuli points out that thanks to their creativity the gifted create products (theories, novels, formulas, patents, paintings, and so on) that affect the change, and therefore the development of society. It can be concluded that it is necessary to enable each excellent individual to develop his/her abilities to the maximum limits, in order to prevent trend of decrease of creative skills through formal education, since such an approach to excellent pupils would result in the development of society. In this way, the number of members of a community that produce different products (theories, paintings, formulas, designs, musical compositions, etc.) is increased, through which the problems of modern society are solved, instead of just educating the members who will be able to use the knowledge. In order for the general public

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44 Đorđević, B. (1995): Daroviti učenici i(ne)uspeh, Zajednica učiteljskih fakulteta, Belgrade
46 Studies show a tendency of decline in creative skills (giving genuine, meaningful responses) through formal education already in higher grades of primary school - Drobac, M. (2014): Psihološki efekti transfera u razvoju kreativnosti kod intelektualno darovitih učenika; Drobac, M. (2012): Stilovi učenja kod intelektualno darovitih učenika, Psychological studies of learning and behaviour, Faculty of Philosophy, Banja Luka).
to understand the importance of excellence which the society could have of excellent young people, it is necessary to work on the raising the awareness of the public of this topic.

4.5 Leisure

4.5.1 Concept and elements of leisure

Leisure represents all activities that an individual voluntarily does, either to rest, entertain, inform, educate, engage for public good or artistically expresses after his/her professional, family and social obligations. When the free time is designed in an appropriate and proper way, it becomes a central force in improving the quality of human life. Free time, as a vital component for experiencing maximum when the quality of life is concerned, in some societies is a reality, while in most only a tendency.

That the free time is important is also confirmed by the fact that there is an Article dedicated to leisure in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) - Article 24: Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Leisure is also mentioned in the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Article 31, 1) States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. 2) States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Article 30 Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport defines: States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities: Enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats; enjoy access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats; enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, and, as far as possible, enjoy access to monuments and sites of national cultural importance.
Leisure activities can support the development and improvement of global civil society, as an integral part of the well-being of individuals, communities and nations. Research, development, renewal of spirit and lifelong learning are possible through leisure. Leisure, with proper guidance, enables the creation of high-quality life experiences in a sustainable environment. Leisure contributes to the improvement of living conditions, promotes opportunities for intergenerational perspectives, supporting an inclusive, accessible, socially positive, healthy and holistic experience. The peculiarities of free time are the search for pleasure, enjoyment, discovery and socialization. It plays an essential role in the development of individuals, communities and nations, contributing to quality of life and well-being, improvement of social relationships and social capital for the expression and engagement in democratic life. In the broadest sense, the free time includes: game, recreation, arts and culture, sport, festivals and celebrations, health and fitness, travel and tourism, education/training.

Characteristics of leisure are:
- that part of the time that remains outside the individual’s professional, social and family responsibilities,
- it is disposed by an individual voluntarily,
- it is achieved by a variety of occupations for the purpose of rest, recreation and personal development.

Leisure is the time during which the young people become independent at the earliest and where their autonomy is the greatest. When the leisure time becomes the time where young people feel happy and fulfilled, where they are creative, spontaneous and natural, it can be said that the leisure has fulfilled its function and contributed to the development of young people.

Results of Research of the needs and attitudes of young people in the Republic of Srpska in 2015, which are relevant to the area - Leisure

Young people usually hang out with friends (score of 3.8 on a scale of one to four), then listen to the music (score 3.7) and spend time on the Internet (3.7), and the rarest activity is gambling (2.0) and volunteering (2.1). Men spend significantly more time doing sports and gambling, while girls spend significantly more time reading. Younger respondents spend significantly more time listening to music and hanging out with friends, then reading. Students spend significantly more time listening to music, hanging out with friends and doing sports activities then the employed and the unemployed. Members of youth organizations are the most different from those that are not performing volunteer activities and playing sports, reading and spending time in nature. Respondents who are members of a political party spend significantly more time on games of chance and betting, and less time listening to music and more time performing voluntary activities.

When it comes to different objects, the respondents demonstrated the greatest need for recreational centres, sports fields (score of 3.5 on a scale of one to four), then youth centres (3.3), and the least lead for theatres (2.9) (behind the cultural centre, theatre, library - score of 3.2). Members of the youth organization mostly recognized the need for youth centres.

Young people usually travel within the Republic of Srpska, then in the Federation and neighbouring countries. The rarest are travels to Europe and the countries on other continents.

A total of 45% of young people did not participate in some forms of non-formal education (seminars, training, workshops, etc.), while 55% had the opportunity to participate in them. Former and present members of youth organizations and organizations for young people mostly participated in this form of education.
4.5.2 Legal framework and key stakeholders

In the legislation of the Republic of Srpska, the leisure mentioned in the Law on Sports, Law on Primary Education, Law on Secondary Education, and the Law on Children Protection, and also, through the youth work, in the Law on Youth Organization. In addition to the laws, leisure activities are mentioned in the Code book of the Rulebook on registration in the youth register of Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, where the organizations are classified according to the type of activity (for example, informal education, recreation and leisure activities for youth).

The Law on Youth Organization included in the youth work that part of the youth activities that are organized with and for youth, which takes place during the free time and is undertaken in order to improve conditions for personal and social development of young people and the general social benefits, in accordance with their needs, opportunities, and with their voluntary participation. Also, Article 19 stipulates that the competent authorities of the Republic and local self-government units undertake to pay special attention to the development and implementation of programs in various areas of interest to young people. One of these areas is the use of leisure.

Law on Volunteering (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 89/13) - Volunteering is an activity of general interest for the Republic, which contributes to improving the quality of life, active participation of citizens in social processes and the development of a more humane and equitable democratic society. Volunteering, in terms of this Law, is an organized voluntary activity, or provision of services or carrying out activities aimed at the general, common welfare or that of another person without payment of monetary compensation or other material gain.

Law on Sports stipulates that school sports competitions are mass competition for students within the school system, and that the organization, terms and conditions of the maintenance of student competitions is regulated by the Minister of Sports, school sports federations and sports federation.

Law on Secondary Education as well as the Law on Primary Education (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 74/08, 106/09, 104/11 and 33/14), Article 52 provides for the establishment of student cooperatives for developing extracurricular activities and community service of students. Funds generated through this activity can also be used for trips and excursions of students. The schools organize extra-curricular activities to develop the creative potential of students, acquire knowledge, skills and abilities useful for life. Extracurricular activities, which are recorded as a working day, are trips, field trips, student organizations, associations, clubs, sports and other activities. In schools, in the framework of the
extracurricular activities of students, programs can be implemented also by civil society organizations with the prior approval of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

*Law on Child Protection* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 4/02, 17/08 and 1/09) under child protection includes the rights of parents and children in organized activities that provide rest, recreation, cultural, sporting and creative activities children. This Law regulates more free time for children up to 15 years of age, while children/young people aged 15 to 18 years old are not mentioned, even though the children are all persons up to 18 years according to our laws and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This points to the fact that it is necessary to pay more attention to the quality of the offer of activities of free time of young people particularly in this sensitive period.

The *Law on Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings* is a way to recognize the importance of free time. Specifically, the Law recognizes the educational recommendations, and one of them reads: “involvement in the work, without fees, to humanitarian organizations or activities of social, local or environmental content”.

*The Law on Tourism* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 70/11, 67/13) defines the services in youth tourism such as organization and stay of tourists in hostels or other objects intended for young people, such as student and youth dorms, camp, as well as organization of cultural, entertainment, musical, educational and other programs and content that are related to the area of youth. Tourism Development Strategy of the Republic of Srpska from 2011 to 2020 defines youth tourism as a particular type of tourism that is attended for young people between 16 and 35 years, with a trip involving at least one overnight stay outside the family community, as well as measures for the development of youth tourism.

Young people often do not know how to alone create their free time or to take advantage of the offered opportunities for healthy development, and better approximation of leisure activities and their alignment with their interests is necessary. Various studies indicate that if the free time is filled with social activities, there is no room for deviant forms of behaviour. Some activities will be more easily deviant behaviour or to connect young people with deviant subculture.

Bearing in mind that the free time of young people are not only sports and cultural activities, but also creative, recreational and educational contents and ways of expression of young people, leisure is widely understood and is draw closer to young people through action in the context of youth work.

Holders of leisure activities can be different organizations, clubs and institutions. The basic requirement is to offer structured activities to suit the interests and needs of the user. In the Republic of Srpska those are sports clubs, youth centres, youth organizations and organizations for young people, theatres, cinemas, libraries, museums and the like. *Law on Youth Organization* defines youth centres and youth work was those which have are directly related to improving opportunities for young people to spend their free time.

**Youth Centres** - *Law on Youth Organization* defines youth centres as follows: “Accessible and adapted space for young people in which young people continuously provide activities and programs based on methods and principles of informal education in order to develop young people into conscious, responsible members of the community and create conditions for realizing their full potential.” Youth centres have been identified as areas where the largest number of young people can realize their potential through participation in programs
of recreational, educational nature or those focused on social engagement. The principles on which the operation of youth centres is based are long-term implementation of socially oriented program and project activities within the different areas of work of centres, promotion of positive values and respect for human rights, activism and volunteerism, environmental protection, promotion of healthy lifestyles and local products and services. The range of areas covered by the work of youth centres is broad, and they are recognized as important carriers of leisure activities. With its breadth and flexibility in the work they respond the most easily to the needs and interests of young people.

In 2010, NGO "Perpetuum mobile", together with youth centres, began the process of introducing standards in youth centres, and in 2011 conducted the first evaluation of the situation. The standards that have been developed are an excellent basis for improving the quality of free time for young people, but also the basis for cooperation in youth centres and local communities.

Youth work are all activities that are organized with young people and for young people in the context of free time, in accordance with their needs, interests and abilities, and in order to improve conditions of personal and social development. Activities that youth centers usually organize are of educational, creative, recreational and sport character. The Republic of Srpska still does not have enough youth centres even though there is a real need for them among young people. Also, the existing youth centres are facing funding problems because local self-government units are often not aware of their importance and the fact that they are holders of everyday activities.

There is more and more local self-government units which have youth officers within their social activities departments. Youth officer should be a person who is employed in the municipal or city government and has expert knowledge on youth policy and youth work. In addition to the youth officers, youth boards are common bodies. Youth board as a permanent working body within the assemblies of LSGU consists of assembly members, but also representatives of young people. This body plays a significant role in the process of making the decisions affecting young people, proposes and gives opinions on the proposed measures of youth policy, youth programs, which are financed from the budget of LSGU and the like. According to the Law on Youth Organization, Article 61, LSGU shall, based on established
criteria, adopted by the youth board, provide affordable and adjusted objects and conditions in which young people can express themselves and demonstrate their creative abilities, as well as carry out youth activities. In 2015, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports sent to the local self-government units *Survey for determining the level of support of the local self-government to youth population in 2014*. This survey was answered by 46 local self-government units out of 63. The results of this study show that 33 municipalities that responded to the survey, considers that they have a space for young people. However, this space for youth is very rarely youth centre. These are often an office that is not suitable for organizing group activities of interest to young people and which is sometimes used by a youth organization or larger spaces that youth organizations share with other organizations, which do not have a program adjusted to young people, and young people are not able to create their own quality programs that can continuously be organized for other young people.

Youth Council of the Republic of Srpska (YCRS) is the umbrella youth organization in the Republic of Srpska. The position and role of the organization are defined by the Law on Youth Organization. YCRS is consisted of local and national youth organizations. The goal of this organization is to represent the interests of its members in the institutions of the Republic of Srpska, international cooperation and others.

In the Republic of Srpska there is a network of youth centres called Network of youth centres for Animation, Development and Training of the Republic of Srpska - M.O.C.A.R.T. This network was established in 2013 and, among other things, aims to promote youth work, youth centres as well as the identification of needs, attitudes and aspirations of young people. M.O.C.A.R.T. consists of 14 youth centres.

Networking of holders of leisure activities is likely to be a trend in the future, because only through the cooperation, which includes, among other things, greater territorial coverage and quality of the program can be responded to the needs of young people, but also to a variety of calls from international donors.

Law on Youth Organization in Article 75a defines the mobility as an educational, cultural and tourist mobility of young people and their involvement in international cooperation and exchange. This law refers to the international youth cooperation, which represents different forms of youth cooperation at the international level, as well as institutional cooperation in the areas of interest to young people. However, there are no consolidated data on how many young people are involved in projects of cooperation at the international level.

### 4.5.3 Analysis of problems and needs

The above-mentioned data and research results indicate that young people do not spend their free time in a structured manner. The reasons may be diverse, from the motivation of young people to spend their free time in a different way to the information about opportunities in their local community.

Information of young people is a very important factor that influences their motivation, so it is necessary to offer young people more quality information on how they can spend their free time. It is recommended to use more media that are close to young people.

The fact is that the holders of leisure activities, such as various organizations and institutions, are missing and that the infrastructure must be improved and developed. Holders of leisure
activities need support, primarily at the local level, but also at the national level. There are guidelines in the Law on Local Self-Government according to which LSGU are obliged to provide support to leisure activities:

- Article 12 - municipality performs specific functions in the field of culture, education, sports, health and social protection, civil protection, information, trade, tourism, hospitality and environmental protection,
- Article 19 - municipality should provide conditions for maintenance, construction, expansion and equipping of facilities of social care institutions for children and youth, found by such municipality, and working conditions for these institutions to ensure the exercise of rights in the area of jurisdiction of the municipality,
- Article 22a - Municipalities encourages activity and provides assistance to civil associations whose activity is of interest for the municipality, encourages and promotes gender equality and equal opportunities within its competence.

Developing quality in the field of leisure time depends on the capacity of the organizations and institutions responsible for their implementation, and it is necessary to improve and develop these capacities so that at the level of the Republic of Srpska young people could have equal opportunities to participate in leisure activities, as well as equal standards.

In the Republic of Srpska there is no occupation: youth worker, as well as criteria for the standardization of youth work. Youth work has been recognized in the Law on Youth Organization as an activity that is organized with young people and for young people in the context of free time in accordance with their needs, interests and abilities, and to improve conditions of personal and social development, with social benefits in accordance with their needs, and with the voluntary participation of young people. Aiming to answer to the needs and interests of young people and empower them to participate actively in society, it is essential that representatives of civil society, working with and for youth, are continuously educated. This education should be standardized, i.e. offer the equal knowledge and information about work with young people and organizing leisure activities.

To enable youth officers and youth committee to work with the highest quality for young people and with young people, it is necessary to organize training so that persons involved in these bodies could have more knowledge about the needs and interests of young people, holders of leisure activities, youth policy and so on.

All these issues and needs can be classified into four main challenges:

- insufficient use of existing infrastructure and creation of contents necessary for quality leisure,
- lack of human resources in the public and civil sector for work with young people,
- lack of connection between holders of activities,
- lack of mobility among young people.
5 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

5.1 Strategic objective 1: To improve the employability of young people

As mentioned above in the analysis of the problems, we can see that the following can be marked as the main causes of the limited employability of young people:

– non-compliance of the educational system with the needs of the labour market,
– non-stimulating business and entrepreneurial environment,
– underdeveloped work culture among young people,
– limited educational, professional and geographical mobility of young people.

Therefore, within the framework of this strategic objective, the activities will be taken in order to achieve the following operational objectives:

- Operational objective 1.1: Ensured greater connection between educational system and labour market;
- Operational objective 1.2: Developed work culture and work ethic;
- Operational objective 1.3: Provided stimulating professional and business environment for young people;
- Operational objective 1.4: Improved educational, professional and geographical mobility of young people;
- Operational objective 1.5: Help provided to young people during the purchase or construction of housing unit with the possibility of working.

The corresponding measures are determined for each operational objective:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Operational objective</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To improve the employability of young people</td>
<td>1.1. Ensured greater connection between educational system and labour market;</td>
<td>1.1.1. Improvement of the system of vocational guidance and career counselling</td>
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<td>1.1.2. Improvement of the system of pupil and student internships and international exchange</td>
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<td>1.1.3. Improvement of professional practice in the system of secondary and higher education</td>
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<td>1.1.4. Development of local councils for education and employment</td>
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<td>1.1.5. Improvement of systems and mechanisms of communication of key actors</td>
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<td>1.2. Developed work culture and work ethic</td>
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<td>1.2.6. Promotion of the idea that the employment is not the state of consciousness, <em>Wake up</em></td>
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### Strategic objective | Operational objective | Measures
---|---|---
1.3. Provided stimulating professional and business environment for young people | 1.3.1. Support for the development of students' entrepreneurship | 1.3.2. Development of the integrated system of support for employment of young people
| | 1.3.3. Development of the system of integrated support for youth, social, women's entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurship of young people with disabilities | 1.3.4. Development of crowd funding system for financing entrepreneurial ventures of young people
| | 1.3.5. Development and strengthening of the capacities of Employment Institutes, which are aimed at young people | 1.3.6. Improvement of the system of support for employment and self-employment of young people with disabilities (without discrimination on grounds of causes of disability)
| | | 1.4. Improved educational, professional and geographical mobility of young people
1.4. | 1.4.1. Improvement of employment and self-employment in rural and underdeveloped areas | 1.4.2. Development and implementation of training for improving the employability of young people
| | 1.4.3. Capacity building and strengthening of the Examination Center at the Adult Education Institute | 1.4.4. Development of the system of support for young people when they move for employment in the territory of the Republic of Srpska
| | | 1.5. Help provided to young people during the purchase or construction of housing unit with the possibility of working
1.5. | 1.5.1. Support for the improvement of housing credit lines for young people | 1.5.2. Inclusion of young people with disabilities in the privileged group in granting housing loans

**Crowd funding** is particularly specific form of raising funds to start or develop a project. Crowd funding is based on the same principle as its name says – crowd (a large group of people), funding i.e. financing of a large number of people. Unlike looking for large investors, crowd funding is based on contributions from individuals, small or large companies, as well as all other interested natural and legal persons that want to contribute to your project. It comes down to the target groups of tens, hundreds or thousands of different persons, that will give small amounts to help (amounts can literally go from BAM 10.00 and more). There are frequent cases where the idea is created and placed on the Internet, and there are internet sites serving as a platform for fundraising.
5.2. **Strategic objective 2: To improve the opportunities for active participation of young people**

Taking into account the analysis of the situation in this area, the Youth Policy considers the area of improvements of the opportunities for active participation of young people through three framework directions:
- increase the social engagement of young people through activism and youth work,
- increase participation in institutional mechanisms and decision-making processes,
- establish and strengthen models of sustainable youth work in order to improve the quality of life of young people.

One of the most important elements of active participation of young people is political participation and participation in decision-making. The mechanisms that should contribute to the creation of conditions for active participation of young people belong to the group of activities defined as youth work. Youth work is defined in the Law on Youth Organization as “a form of community service in the field of interests of youth in which they are involved and which contributes to the improvement of situation of young people”. The active participation of young people would not have been possible without adequate and timely informing, and volunteerism is one of the more important elements of the active participation of young people as a tool for the implementation of youth programs and involvement of young people in social activities. For young people to exercise their rights and have the opportunity for active participation, it is necessary, on the one hand, to empower youth, and on the other to create effective mechanisms of support and development of all the elements that are integral part of the active participation of young people.

Therefore, within this strategic objective defined by the following operational objectives:
- Operational objective 2.1: *Developed awareness of the importance of active participation of young people in society and decision-making*
- Operational objective 2.2: *Developed capacities in the sector of youth work and active involvement of young people in decision-making*
- Operational objective 2.3: *Increased voluntary engagement of young people*

The corresponding measures are determined for each operational objective:

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<tr>
<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Operational objective</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. To improve the opportunities for active participation of young people</td>
<td>2.1. Developed awareness of the importance of active participation of young people in society and decision-making</td>
<td>2.1.1. Improvement of conditions for better information and education of young people 2.1.2. Improvement of political education of young people 2.1.3. Initiations and promotion of intersectoral dialogue between the private sector, youth initiatives and decision-makers in order to develop active participation 2.1.4. Promotion of active participation of young people in decision-making</td>
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<td>2.2. Developed capacities in the sector of youth</td>
<td>2.2.1. Strengthening of human resources in the field of youth work (public sector, CSOs, youth) 2.2.2. Improvement of mechanisms of active participation</td>
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### Strategic objective 3: To develop the healthy lifestyles among young people

Taking into account the information collected and processed, analysis conducted, needs and problems identified, the Youth Policy considers the area of development of healthy lifestyles through the following three topics:

- **Health of young help** – covers issues of proper and healthy diet, consumption of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs, sexual and reproductive health, mental health, emotional health, environmental awareness, hygiene;
- **Physical activity of young people** – includes issues of availability of the field of sports and recreation, the availability of sport and recreational activities, both for the youth population as well as for a specific group of young people such as the school-aged population, student population and population of young people with disabilities;
- **Safety of young people** – covers the issues of various security challenges, threats and risks to young people, issues of young people who are exposed to some of the negative phenomena in society or, are the perpetrators of the same, the issues of environment and sustainable living environment.

**Operational objectives** are set out in the framework of these topics:

- Operational objective 3.1.: **To encourage the patterns of healthy behaviour among young people**
- Operational objective 3.2.: **Interested and physically active young people**
- Operational objective 3.3.: **Developed healthy and safe living environment for young people**

Corresponding **measures** are determined for each operational objective:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Operational objective</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>work and active involvement of young people in decision-making process</td>
<td>involvement of young people in decision-making process</td>
<td>2.2.3. Creation of mechanisms and standards for work with young people at the local level</td>
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<td>2.2.4. Providing the support for continuous activities for young people</td>
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<td>2.2.5. Adaptation and improvement of existing legislation in the field of youth work and participation of young people in decision-making process</td>
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<td>2.2.6. Improvement of the system for support to marginalized groups of young people</td>
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<td>2.3. Increased voluntary engagement of young people</td>
<td>2.3.1. Establishment of new and development of existing local voluntary services</td>
<td>2.3.2. Promotion of volunteering in the community</td>
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<td>2.3.3. Promotion and increase of the mobility of volunteers within and outside the country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic objective</td>
<td>Operational objectives</td>
<td>Measures</td>
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</table>
| Develop healthy lifestyles among young people            | 3.1. To encourage the patterns of healthy behaviour among young people                  | 3.1.1. Raising the awareness of young people in relation to the proper and healthy diet  
3.1.2. Raising the awareness of young people of sexual and reproductive health  
3.1.3. Raising the awareness of young people of harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco, and abuse of narcotic drugs  
3.1.4. Support for the programs dealing with the improvement of mental health of young people  
3.1.5. Support for the programs dealing with human rights, peace building, tolerance of diversity, social inclusion, homophobia, gender equality, non-violent means of communication and non-discrimination  
3.1.6. Raising the awareness of young people about the harmful effects and risks of gambling |
|                                                        | 3.2. Interested and physically active young                                              | 3.2.1. Improvement of the sports infrastructure with a focus on rural areas  
3.2.2. Support for the projects of mass recreation of young people  
3.2.3. Support for sports activities of young people with disabilities  
3.2.4. Support for school and student sports activities |
|                                                        | 3.3. Developed healthy and safe living environment for young people                     | 3.3.1. Raising the awareness of young people about the security challenges, threats, risks and safe behaviour  
3.3.2. Work with young people who have committed crimes and misdemeanours  
3.3.3. Work with young people who are victims of violence  
3.3.4. Raising environmental awareness among young people  
3.3.5. Promotion of sustainable and information and architecturally accessible forms of transport in young |

**5.4 Strategic Objective 4: To provide the support to the development of youth excellence**

Collected and processed information and conducted analysis indicate that, unlike the Republic of Srpska, the neighbouring countries have clearly prescribed method of identification of excellent young people, as well as measuring instruments that apply.

Therefore, this strategic objective is aimed primarily at early detection, monitoring, encouragement and education of the excellent, and the establishment of an effective system to support the development of excellence. In order for the general public to understand the importance of excellence, the benefits which the company may have of excellent young
people, in the framework of this strategic objective will also work on the sensitization of the public on this topic.

The following **operational objectives** are determined within this strategic objective:

- Objective 4.1: **Established mechanisms of early recognition of excellence**
- Objective 4.2: **Established system of effective support to the development of excellence**
- Objective 4.3: **Sensitised public about the benefits that society has of excellent young people**

The corresponding measures are determined for each operational objective:

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<tr>
<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Operational objective</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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</table>
| 4. To provide the support to the development of youth excellence | 4.1. Established mechanisms of early recognition of excellence | 4.1.1. Establishment of intersectoral bodies to support the excellence (consisting of representatives of Governmental institutions and expert public)  
4.1.2. Establishment of working group for early recognition and support of excellence  
4.1.3. Development of the methodology and procedures for early recognition and identification of the excellent in various fields  
4.1.4. Development of modalities of non-formal education of teaching staff, professional services and parents |
| | 4.2. Established system of effective support to the development of excellence | 4.2.1. Development of an integrated program of the Government of the Republic of Srpska for support of excellence, based on harmonization of existing sectoral programs of support to excellence and programs at the local level  
4.2.2. Development of program for the development of excellent young people on the basis of public-private partnerships  
4.2.3. Improvement of the legal framework for the application of methodology and procedures for early detection and identification of excellence, as well as for support to the development of excellence through the implementation of an integrated program of the Government of the Republic of Srpska  
4.2.4. Development of partnerships with foreign donors, the private and NGO sector for implementation of programs to support the development of excellence  
4.2.5. Development of cooperation with foreign entities engaged in this issue |
| | 4.3. Sensitised public about the benefits that | 4.3.1. Development of modalities for informing the public about the benefits that the society has of excellent young people |
5.5. Strategic objective 5: To improve the opportunities for quality free time of young people

The conducted analysis, identified needs and problems clearly indicate that in the context of this objective, it is necessary to work on the development of infrastructure and contents that provide opportunities for quality free time. Also, it is necessary to work on the development of human resources in organizations and institutions which are holders of free time activities (youth workers, employees in state administration, NGOs), as well as on networking of the very holders (organizations, institutions).

Youth mobility or lack of mobility of young people is visible in almost all areas (leisure, employment, active participation). The idea is to pay attention to solving the problem of mobility through this strategic objective, which would result (which result) in greater participation of young people from the Republic of Srpska in international projects (art colonies, volunteer camps, youth exchanges…), development of infrastructure and facilities for youth tourism, improvement of the mobility of persons with disabilities, as well as the development of networks that contribute to increasing the mobility of young people.

Because of all of the above, within the framework of this strategic objective, the following operational objectives are set:

- Operational objective 5.1: Developed infrastructure and contents required for quality free time
- Operational objective 5.2: Developed human resources
- Operational objective 5.3: Networked holders of free time activities and included young people
- Operational objective 5.4: Improved opportunities for youth mobility

The corresponding measures are determined for each operational objective:

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<tr>
<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Operational objective</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. To improve the opportunities for quality free time of young people</td>
<td>5.1. Developed infrastructure and contents required for quality leisure time</td>
<td>5.1.1. Ensuring the functioning of buildings and contents for improving the quality of spending free time while respecting equal opportunities</td>
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<td>5.1.2. Monitoring, evaluation and strengthening of work of youth centres</td>
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<td>5.1.3. Improvement of existing and creation of new programs and contents for quality leisure time</td>
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<td>5.1.4. Improvement of the infrastructure and contents in the field of culture for young people while respecting equal opportunities</td>
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| | 5.2. Developed human resources | 5.2.1. Development and implementation of programs of informal education of workers of the
<table>
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<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Operational objective</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Republic and local government</td>
<td>5.2.2. Development and implementation of training programs and mechanisms for formal recognition of youth workers</td>
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<td>5.2.3. Development and implementation of training programs for non-governmental youth sector</td>
<td>5.3.1. Development of existing and establishment of new networks and partnerships</td>
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<td>5.3.2. Development of existing and establishment of new programs for the inclusion of young people in free time activities</td>
<td>5.3.3. Development of existing and establishment of new programs for inclusion of young people from vulnerable groups in free time activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.3. Networked holders of free time activities and included young people</td>
<td>5.4.1. Support to the mobility of young people and representatives of youth organizations for young people at local and international level</td>
<td>5.4.2. Improvement and development of the infrastructure and contents for youth tourism in the Republic of Srpska</td>
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<td>5.4.3. Improvement and development of the networks for mobility of young people in the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td>5.4.4. Improvement of opportunities for mobility of persons with disabilities</td>
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<td>5.4. Improved opportunities for youth mobility</td>
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6 IMPLEMENTATION

Most of the measures, programs, projects and activities defined by this document will be implemented by each of the above holders and partners within their institutions, organizations, departments and services. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports is the main coordinator for planning, implementation and control. In addition, inter-sectoral team will be established to develop and implement the Action plan for implementation of Youth Policy in order to ensure that:

- this document is project-driven, that the activities and work relating to the implementation are coordinated,

- analytical, managerial and communication capacities are provided in order to successfully work on the achievement of set objectives,

- planning and reporting are coordinated,

- the constructive involvement of stakeholders (youth organizations, civil society organizations, business sector, international organizations, representatives of the expert public in these areas and other key stakeholders) is supported during the development and implementation of the action plan,

- the efficient work of the implementing structures is provided through centralized coordination and support, which includes the development of programs, reports, analysis, organization of meetings.

Action plan for implementation of youth policy is made within 30 days of the adoption of the budget for the year in which the action plan is adopted. Funds for the implementation of the program which are determined in the action plan for implementation of youth policy will be planned in the budget of the Republic of Srpska within the framework of ministries and other holders of predicted activities and measures in the amount and measures determined in budget documents and budgets of international donors.
6.1 Strategic objective 1: To improve the employability of young people

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<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Holders and partners</th>
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<tr>
<td>Operational objective 1.1. Ensured greater connection between educational system and labour market;</td>
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<td>1.1.4. Development of local councils for education and employment</td>
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<td>1.1.5. Improvement of systems and mechanisms of communication of key actors</td>
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<td>Operational objective 1.2.: Developed work culture and work ethic</td>
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<td>1.2.1. Promotion of student and youth cooperatives</td>
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<td>1.2.4. Promotion of positive examples</td>
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<td>1.2.5. Work on raising the awareness of the working potentials of young people with disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.6. Promotion of the idea that the employment is not the state of consciousness, Wake up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operational objective 1.3.: Provided stimulating professional and business environment for young people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.1. Support for the development of students’ entrepreneurship</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.2. Development of the integrated system of support for employment of young people</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.3. Development of the system of integrated support for youth, social, women’s entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurship of young people with disabilities</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.4. Development of crowd funding system for financing entrepreneurial ventures of young people</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures</td>
<td>MFYS</td>
</tr>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.5. Development and strengthening of the capacities of Employment Institutes, which are aimed at young people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.6. Improvement of the system of support for employment and self-employment of young people with disabilities (without discrimination on grounds of causes of disability)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational objective 1.4.: Improved educational, professional and geographical mobility of young people</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.1. Improvement of employment and self-employment in rural and underdeveloped areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.2. Development and implementation of training for improving the employability of young people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.3. Capacity building and strengthening of the Examination Center at the Adult Education Institute</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.4. Development of the system of support for young people when they move for employment in the territory of the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational objective 1.5.: Help provided to young people during the purchase or construction of housing unit with the possibility of working</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.1. Support for the improvement of housing credit lines for young people</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.2. Inclusion of young people with disabilities in the privileged group in granting housing loans</td>
<td>√</td>
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</table>
6.2. **Strategic objective 2: To improve the opportunities for active participation of young people**

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<thead>
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<th>Measures</th>
<th>Holders and partners</th>
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<td>MEC</td>
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<tr>
<td>MALSG</td>
<td>MHSW</td>
</tr>
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<td>Assembly of the RS</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSGU</td>
<td>YCRS</td>
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<td>MOCArt</td>
<td>VSRS</td>
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<tr>
<td>LVS</td>
<td>Private sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Political organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student representative bodies</td>
<td>Student Council offices for youth Government of the RS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YC (LSGU)</td>
<td>Student organizations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Operational objective 2.1: Developed awareness of the importance of active participation of young people in society and decision-making

| 2.1.1. Improvement of conditions for better information and education of young people | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2.1.2. Improvement of political education of young people | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2.1.3. Initiations and promotion of intersectoral dialogue between the private sector, youth initiatives and decision-makers in order to develop active participation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2.1.4. Promotion of active participation of young people in decision-making | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Operational objective 2.2: Developed capacities in the sector of youth work and active involvement of young people in decision-making process

| 2.2.1. Strengthening of human resources in the field of youth work (public sector, CSOs, youth) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2.2.2. Improvement of mechanisms of active involvement of young people in decision-making process | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2.2.3. Creation of mechanisms and standards for work with young people at the local level | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2.2.4. Providing the support for continuous activities for young people | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2.2.5. Adaptation and improvement of existing legislation in the field of youth work and participation of young people in decision-making process | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2.2.6. Improvement of the system for support to marginalized groups of young people | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Operational objective 2.3: Increased voluntary engagement of young people
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<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Holders and partners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MFYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1. Establishment of new and development of existing local voluntary services</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2. Promotion of volunteering in the community</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3. Promotion and increase of the mobility of volunteers within and outside the country</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- **Strategic objective 3**: To develop the healthy lifestyles among young people

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Holders and partners</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>MFYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1. Raising the awareness of young people in relation to the proper and healthy diet</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2. Raising the awareness of young people of sexual and reproductive health</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3. Raising the awareness of young people of harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco, and abuse of narcotic drugs</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4. Support for the programs dealing with the improvement of mental health of young people</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.5. Support for the programs dealing with human rights, peace building, tolerance of diversity, social inclusion, homophobia, gender equality, non-violent means of communication and non-discrimination</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.6. Raising the awareness of young people about the harmful effects and risks of gambling</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Operational objective 3.1**: To encourage the patterns of healthy behaviour among young people

**Operational objective 3.2**: Interested and physically active young people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operational objective 3.2</th>
<th>Operational objective 3.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1. Improvement of the sports infrastructure with a focus on rural areas</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2. Support for the projects of mass recreation of young people</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.3. Support for sports activities of young people with disabilities</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures</td>
<td>Holders and partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MFYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.4. Support for school and student sports activities</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Operational objective 3.3**: Developed healthy and safe living environment for young people

| 3.3.1. Raising the awareness of young people about the security challenges, threats, risks and safe behaviour | ✓    | ✓   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   | PHI Public Health Institute of the Republic of Srpska | ✓    | ✓     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓ | Ombudsman for Children | ✓   | ✓   |             |              | ✓ |
| 3.3.2. Work with young people who have committed crimes and misdemeanours | ✓    | ✓   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   | Inspectorate | ✓    | ✓     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓ | CSO |                             | ✓   | ✓   |             |              | ✓ |
| 3.3.3. Work with young people who are victims of violence                | ✓    | ✓   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   |                             | ✓    | ✓     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓ |                             | ✓   | ✓   |             |              | ✓ |
| 3.3.4. Raising environmental awareness among young people               | ✓    | ✓   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   |                             | ✓    | ✓     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓ |                             | ✓   | ✓   |             |              | ✓ |
| 3.3.5. Promotion of sustainable and information and architecturally accessible forms of transport in young | ✓    | ✓   | ✓    | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   |                             | ✓    | ✓     | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓ |                             | ✓   | ✓   |             |              | ✓ |
8.4. Strategic objective 4: To ensure the support to the development of excellence of youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Holders and partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MFYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational objective 4.1: 4.1. Established mechanisms of early recognition of excellence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1. Establishment of intersectoral bodies to support the excellence (consisting of representatives of Governmental institutions and expert public)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.2. Establishment of working group for early recognition and support of excellence</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3. Development of the methodology and procedures for early recognition and identification of the excellent in various fields</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.4. Development of modalities of non-formal education of teaching staff, professional services and parents</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational objective 4.2: Established system of effective support to the development of excellence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1. Development of an integrated program of the Government of the Republic of Srpska for support of excellence, based on harmonization of existing sectoral programs of support to excellence and programs at the local level</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.2. Development of program for the development of excellent young people on the basis of public-private partnerships</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.3. Improvement of the legal framework for the application of methodology and procedures for early detection and identification of excellence, as well as for support to the development of excellence through the implementation of an integrated program of the Government of the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.4. Development of partnerships with foreign donors, the private and NGO sector for implementation of programs to support the development of excellence</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2.5. Development of cooperation with foreign entities engaged in this issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Holders and partners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MFYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.5. Development of cooperation with foreign entities engaged in this issue</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Operational objective 4.3:** 4.3. Sensitised public about the benefits that society has of excellent young people

| 4.3.1. Development of modalities for informing the public about the benefits that the society has of excellent young people | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   |       | ✓  | ✓             | ✓               |                           | ✓   | ✓     | ✓             | ✓      |
| 4.3.2. Development of the modalities for the implementation of projects of social interest aimed at developing youth excellence in various fields | ✓    | ✓   | ✓   |       | ✓  | ✓             | ✓               |                           | ✓   | ✓     | ✓             | ✓      |

**Strategic objective 5:** To improve the opportunities for quality free time of young people
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operational objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>MFS</th>
<th>MALS</th>
<th>MEC</th>
<th>MST</th>
<th>MWV</th>
<th>HSW</th>
<th>MTC</th>
<th>ATM</th>
<th>LSGU</th>
<th>CSO</th>
<th>YCBM</th>
<th>MOC</th>
<th>MT</th>
<th>YCRS</th>
<th>TSA</th>
<th>AMC</th>
<th>AO</th>
<th>Higher education</th>
<th>Private-sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1.1.</td>
<td>Ensuring the functioning of buildings and contents for improving the quality of spending free time while respecting equal opportunities</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2.</td>
<td>Monitoring, evaluation and strengthening of work of youth centres</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3.</td>
<td>Improvement of existing and creation of new programs and contents for quality leisure time</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1.4.</td>
<td>Improvement of the infrastructure and contents in the field of culture for young people while respecting equal opportunities</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1.</td>
<td>Development and implementation of programs of informal education of workers of the Republic and local government</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5.2.2.</td>
<td>Development and implementation of training programs and mechanisms for formal recognition of youth workers</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.2.3.</td>
<td>Development and implementation of training programs for non-governmental youth sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.3.1.</td>
<td>Development of existing and establishment of new networks and partnerships</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.3.2.</td>
<td>Development of existing and establishment of new programs for the inclusion of young people in free time activities</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>5.3.3.</td>
<td>Development of existing and establishment of new programs for inclusion of young people from vulnerable groups in free time activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.4.1.</td>
<td>Support to the mobility of young people and representatives of youth organizations for young people at local and international level</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.4.2.</td>
<td>Improvement and development of the infrastructure and contents for youth tourism in the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5.4.3. Improvement and development of the networks for mobility of young people in the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.4.4. Improvement of opportunities for mobility of persons with disabilities</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</table>
7 INDICATORS

The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports will evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed Youth Policy periodically by monitoring the progress of its implementation. Some of the identified key indicators are measured annually, and some once in three or four years. It is obvious that a complete picture of the young people in the Republic of Srpska cannot be gained with these indicators, but it is possible to measure the progress in the identified key areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objective</th>
<th>Key indicators</th>
<th>Values</th>
<th>Sources of verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Basic value</td>
<td>2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>as</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic objective 1: To improve the employability of young people</td>
<td>Activity rate of young people (15 – 24 years)</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employment rate of young people (15-24 years old)</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unemployment rate of young people (15-24 years old)</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of unemployed young people in the category of the long-term unemployed (more than one year)</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of young people included in programs of help during the purchase or construction or adjustment of residential units</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic objective 2: To improve the possibilities for active participation</td>
<td>Number of youth organizations and organizations for young people</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of implemented youth projects supported by the ILAC and JLS</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of young MPs (to 35 years old)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of young city/municipal assembly members (to 35 years old)</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

48 Data collected on annual level for 2014.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objective 3: To develop healthy lifestyles among young people</th>
<th>Number of local volunteer services included in the Volunteer Service of the Republic of Srpska</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>↑</th>
<th>MFYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of registered volunteers in the Volunteer Service of the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>MFYS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of surveyed young people (14 – 35 years old) who use cigarettes</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>Survey of MFYS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of surveyed young people (14 – 35 years) who use alcohol</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>Survey of MFYS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coefficient of observations of the use of narcotics by other people (marks on a scale from one to four) given by the surveyed young people (14–35 years old)</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>Survey of MFYS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of teenage pregnancies</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>Statistics Institute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of young people affected by sexually transmitted diseases</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>PHI Public Health Institute of the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of young people suffering from cardiovascular diseases and diabetes</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>PHI Public Health Institute of the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of criminal offences of bullying (14–18 years old)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>Reports of MIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of criminal offences committed by minors (14–18 years old)</td>
<td>336 (3.24%)</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>Reports of MIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of young people killed and injured in traffic (15–30 years old)</td>
<td>1177</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>Reports of MIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic objective 4: To ensure support to the development of youth excellence</td>
<td>Number of projects of social interest aimed at developing youth excellence in various fields</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>MFYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of excellent young people involved in programs for development of youth excellence</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>MFYS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of implemented programs for development of youth excellence</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>MFYS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Objective 5:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>-----------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>To improve the</td>
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<tr>
<td>possibilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>for quality free</td>
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<tr>
<td>time of young</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of youth centres</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>MFYS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of cultural institutions</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>Statistics Institute of the Republic of Srpska</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of youth centres involved in M.O.C.A.R.T</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>MFYS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of users of youth centres involved in M.O.C.A.R.T</td>
<td>11,374</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>MFYS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of young people from vulnerable groups included in the programs of youth centres</td>
<td>1305</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>MFYS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8 PROCESS OF DRAFTING THE DOCUMENT

The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports in the mid-2014 began the process of drafting a third Republic of Srpska Youth Policy 2016 – 2020, and conducted a survey on the needs of young people in collaboration with the Youth Council of Republic of Srpska and Youth Communication Center.

The basis of research methodology was a survey study of youth attitudes, their perception of the social environment, as well as the idea about possible solutions to some of the perceived problems. The survey was designed based on the Eurostat indicators and recommendations established by the research project team. The survey contained 69 questions and assessment scales, which are grouped by areas: socio-demographic information, education, professional life, social life, social activism, health, environment and youth mobility. Before conducting field research, trial survey was tested on a suitable smaller sample of young people in Banja Luka.

Pursuant to the Law on Youth Organization, the youth and young people are persons aged 15 to 30 years of age. The sample of respondents was slightly wider and included young people aged 14 to 35 years (average 21 years) from the area of Republic of Srpska. There was a total of 2,066 respondents from 27 LSGU in the Republic of Srpska. The sample was created in proportion to the size of LSGU, which means that the majority of respondents were from larger LSGU when it comes to population, such as Banja Luka, Bijeljina and Prijedor. The sample included 55% female and 45% male respondents and 53% from urban and 47% from rural areas.

Field interviewing was conducted by volunteers from youth organizations throughout the Republic of Srpska, whose found respondents by suitable manner, in schools, in employment services, on the streets, in cafes and similar. The interviewers were trained to apply the survey in order to ensure consistency of the testing process in different environments. The respondents filled out the survey individually, paper-and-pencil method. Field research was conducted from October 2014 to January 2015.

Upon completion of the field interviewing, the data were entered into a database by trained volunteers, using appropriate statistical applications. Review of the data and statistical analyses were carried out using various descriptive methods, statistical tests and graphical presentations with the help of SPSS statistical package and MS Excel spreadsheet.

The results of this research were presented to the public during the two-day conference Dialogue with Youth: Republic of Srpska Youth Policy 2016 – 2020, which was intended to open a dialogue between young people and all relevant stakeholders involved in youth issues, to set the priorities for improving the situation of young people, which will be the basis for preparation of the document of Republic of Srpska Youth Policy. The conference was held in May 2015 and brought together about 70 participants, representatives of the ministries of the Republic of Srpska Government, youth organizations, student councils, local authorities, international organizations and other key stakeholders. The participants worked on creating a vision of the Republic of Srpska Youth Policy until 2020, and defined the priorities of importance to young people (to improve the employability of young people, develop healthy lifestyles, improve possibilities for quality free time and active participation of young people, provide support for excellence and support to vulnerable groups of young people) based on which working groups were later created.
After the conference, a public call for the election of members of the Working Group for development of Youth Policy was published, based on which the 22 representatives of the public in these areas were elected, who, together with the previously appointed representatives of institutions who worked on the preparation of preliminary draft document. The call was open to all interested members of the professional community in these areas, youth organizations, civil society organizations, business sector, international organizations and other key stakeholders.

Members of the Working Group:

1. Aleksandra Petković, Gender Centre of the Republic of Srpska
2. Andrej Subotić Popović, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
3. Ante Jurić Marjanović, Youth Communication Center
4. Arsen Vuković, the Association for the promotion of education for Roma Otaharin
5. Bogdan Vicanović, Youth Council of the Republic of Srpska
6. Bojan Bajić, Adult Education Institute
7. Borislav Durić, Youth Organization Centar
8. Branislav Ristić, Association of Citizen Hi Neighbour
9. Branka Malešević, Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports
10. Vanja Kukrika, Volunteer Service of the Republic of Srpska
11. Goran Lolić, Ministry of Internal Affairs
12. Gorica Bilak Moconja, Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports
13. Danijela Topić, Youth Council of the Republic of Srpska
14. Dean Arežina, Statistics Institute of the Republic of Srpska
15. Dejan Pilipović, LL.M.
16. Denis Turkanović, Ministry of Science and Technology
17. Adamović Dragan, Institute for Youth and Community Development Perpetuum mobile
18. Dragan Vulin, Ministry of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation
19. Dragan Kuprešanin, Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports
20. Drazen Barišić, the Council of Youth organizations Banja Luka
21. Duško Jovović, Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports
22. Zeljko Milić, Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Srpska
23. Zoran Babić, Employment Institute of the Republic of Srpska
24. Igor Trivić, Association Most (coordinator for the area of active participation)
25. Ilija Trninić Institute for Youth and Community Development Perpetuum mobile (coordinator for the area of Excellence)
26. Jasmin Jašarević, Proni Center for Youth Development (Coordinator for the area of Healthy Lifestyles)
27. Jelena Gavrilović, the Ministry of Trade and Tourism
28. Jelena Karić, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports
29. Ljubica Mladenović, Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Republic of Srpska
The Working Group has had three two-day meetings, during which operational objectives, measures, indicators and key players were defined for five areas: healthy lifestyles of young people, excellence, leisure, active participation of young people and youth employability. Because of the specificity of each area, the members of the Working Group were mainly organized in small groups, which were coordinated by the coordinator of each area. During these working meeting, the members of the Working Group presented a number of relevant factors, data and researches, which along with the previous ones, served as a starting point for the analysis of the situation in all relevant areas affecting the situation of young people in the Republic of Srpska: Researches of the needs and attitudes of young people in the Republic of Srpska, 2015, results of the research of the Association INFOPART Proposals for Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska 2016 – 2020*, 2014, Voices of Youth research conducted in the framework of the UN program Youth Employment and Retention Programme, 2012,
Special report of the Ombudsman for Children and Youth Network Advisor *Reproductive Health – Attitudes of Young People*, 2012, and other reports and analyses of the ministries of the Republic of Srpska Government and other relevant institutions. The legislative and executive acts and strategic documents related to the field of youth policy were analysed together with the data.

The general public had the opportunity to be involved in this process during the public consultation, when the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, in accordance with the Guidelines for acting of republic administrative authorities on the public participation and consultations in drafting of laws (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 123/08 and 73/12), published a preliminary draft of the document *Republic of Srpska Youth Policy 2016 – 2020* on the website and invited all interested parties to participate in the consideration of the Preliminary draft of the document and submit their comments and proposals. This material was presented during public consultations on regional and public events, which were organized in Banja Luka, Trebinje, East Sarajevo, Doboj and Bijeljina, which were attended by over 200 young people and other interested parties.
### 9. TERMINOLOGY AND ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSSP</td>
<td>Board of Secondary School Principals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSA</td>
<td>Traffic Safety Agency of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AARS</td>
<td>Automobile Association of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSRS</td>
<td>Voluntary Service of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCRS</td>
<td>Gender Center of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSEI</td>
<td>Employment Institute of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEIRS</td>
<td>Adult Education Institute of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDBRS</td>
<td>Investment and Development Bank of the Republic of Srpska,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI PHIRS</td>
<td>Public Health Institution Public Health Institute of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSGU</td>
<td>Local self-government unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YC (LSGU)</td>
<td>Youth Commission (local self-government unit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERRC</td>
<td>Ministry of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSPCE</td>
<td>Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHSW</td>
<td>Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MST</td>
<td>Ministry of Science and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.O.C.A.R.T.</td>
<td>Network of youth centres for animation, development and training of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MJ</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEC</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFYS</td>
<td>Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAFWM</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLWVDPP</td>
<td>Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled People's Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mRESURS</td>
<td>Network of Student Councils of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTC</td>
<td>Ministry of Transport and Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTT</td>
<td>Ministry of Trade and Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALSOG</td>
<td>Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIA</td>
<td>Ministry of Internal Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC</td>
<td>Teaching curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSCE</td>
<td>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YCC</td>
<td>Youth Communication Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPC</td>
<td>Republic of Srpska Youth Policy 2016-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YCRS</td>
<td>Youth Council of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
</tr>
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<td>--------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSCC</td>
<td>Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>Pedagogical Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RARS</td>
<td>Agency for Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSAGC</td>
<td>Administration for Games of Chance of the Republic of Srpska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM</td>
<td>Association of Towns and Municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITA</td>
<td>Indirect Taxation Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AO</td>
<td>Association of operators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFY</td>
<td>Association of Officers for Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CICT</td>
<td>Centres for information, counselling and training</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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INDICATORS

PROCESS OF DRFTING THE DOCUMENT

TERMINOLOGY AND ACRONYMS
EXPLANATION OF THE
PROPOSAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA YOUTH POLICY FROM 2016 TO 2020

I CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS FOR ADOPTION

Constitutional basis for adoption of the Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska from 2016 to 2020 is contained in Amendment XXXII to Article 68 point 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Srpska, according to which the Republic, inter alia, regulates and takes care of children and youth and point 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Srpska, according to which the Republic of Srpska regulates and provides other relations of interest to the Republic in accordance with the Constitution.

III COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION, LEGAL SYSTEM AND RULES OF NORMATIVE-LEGAL TECHNIQUES

In the opinion of the Republic Secretariat for Legislation No. 22/03-021-353/16 of 27 April 2016, the constitutional basis for the adoption of this policy is contained in Amendment XXXII to Article 68 item 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Srpska, according to which the Republic, inter alia, regulates and provides care for children and youth.

Republican Secretariat for Legislation gave a positive opinion on the draft Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska from 2016 to 2020, document No. 22/03-021-880/15 of 4 December 2015.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska at the Ninth regular session adopted conclusion No. 02/1-021-160/16, ordering the organization of a public consultation on the Draft Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska since 2016 to 2020. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports organized a public consultation that took place in the period from 21 to 28 March in Trebinje, East Sarajevo, Bijeljina and Banja Luka.

During the public discussions any substantive remark was not made concerning the text of the Draft Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska from 2016 to 2020. The only changes in the Draft Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska from 2016 to 2020 in relation to the draft Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska from 2016 to 2020 had a technical character.

Given that there is a constitutional basis for the adoption of Youth Policy, and that the text is harmonized with the Rules for drafting laws and other regulations of the Republic of Srpska, the opinion of the Secretariat is that the Proposal Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska from 2016 to 2020 may be sent further for consideration.

III COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL ORDERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

According to the Ministry of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation Opinion No. 17.03-020-945/16 of 11 April 2016, and after examining the regulations of the European Union and analysis of the Draft Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska from 2016 to 2020, it was found that European Union law contains resources relevant to the subject matter of the Proposal and that the processor took them into account when drafting, which is why the score "complied" is written in the Statement of Compliance. Please note that the adoption of the Youth Policies will contribute to the fulfilment of the obligations contained in Article 100 of the SAA relating to the cooperation of the contracting parties in the field of education and training.
IV  REASONS FOR ADOPTION

Pursuant to Article 11 of the Law on Youth Organization (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska", No. 98/04, 119/08 and 01/12) the care of youth is of general interest for the Republic of Srpska. The general interest is achieved by regulating and creating conditions for youth organization and care of young people, i.e. by adoption and implementation of the specified document Youth Policy at the levels of the Republic and local self-government units. On the basis of Article 13 and 14 of the Law on Youth Organization, the Youth Policy is adopted in the Republic of Srpska and local self-government unit for a period of five years, and based on the adopted youth policy, the Republic of Srpska and LSGUs make an action plan for the implementation of the Youth Policy for the period of one year. Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska (2010-2015) expires on 31 December 2015, and it is necessary to adopt a new document. Youth Policy adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska, and the Action Plan implementing the Youth Policy adopted by the Government of the Republic of Srpska, at the proposal of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports. Action Plan for the implementation of Youth Policy is adopted within 30 days after the adoption of the budget for the year for which the action plan is adopted. Proposal youth policy and action plan for the implementation of Youth Policy is prepared by the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports in cooperation with the Council for Youth of the Republic of Srpska.

IN  DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ROPOSAL COMPARED TO THE DRAFT

By the Conclusion of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska No. 02/1-021-160/16 adopted at the Ninth session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports organized a public debate on the Draft Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska for the period from 2016 to 2020 that took place from 21 to 28 March 2016 in Trebinje, East Sarajevo, Bijeljina and Banja Luka.

The session of the Youth Council of the Republic of Srpska as an advisory body to the Government was held during which this strategic document was discussed, and it unanimously supported and the decision was adopted to send it for the parliamentary procedure. The suggestions of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republic of Srpska and the Ministry of Trade and Tourism on the Proposal Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska for the period 2016-2020 were accepted, the positive opinions were given by the Secretariat for Legislation, the Ministry of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation, and six other ministries to which the document was submitted for consideration.

After the interested parties considered the Draft of has been established that the document did not undergo substantial changes. No substantive objection or suggestion was identified at the public consultation, and it was noted that the amendments of draft presented in the form of the Draft Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska for the period 2016-2020 should be only those of technical character.

VI  EXPLANATION OF THE PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska 2016–2020 represents a strategy that ensures the systematic improvement of the situation of a large number of areas of interest of young people. Activities that are important for improving the situation of young people in the Republic of Srpska and which are implemented with the youth and/or youth are the
responsibility of different institutions, and the cross-sectoral approach is necessary during their planning and implementation, which can be realized through this strategic document, which is unique and common to all entities whose work affects the young population. Vision of the Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska: young, as an equal and active partner of the institutions of the Republic of Srpska, live in a safe society of equal opportunities, which encourage them to realize their potentials. Vision of the Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska from 2016-2020 will be implemented through five strategic objectives:
- Strategic objective 1: To improve the employability of young people,
- Strategic objective 2: To improve the opportunities for active participation of young people,
- Strategic objective 3: To develop healthy lifestyles among young people,
- Strategic objective 4: To ensure support to the development of youth excellence
- Strategic objective 5: To improve the opportunities for quality free time of young people.

Each of these stakeholders and partners will implement the majority of the measures, programs, projects and activities defined by this document within their institutions, organizations, departments and agencies. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports is the main coordinator for the planning, implementation and control. In addition, cross-sectoral team will be established to prepare and implement an action plan for the implementation of Youth Policy composed of representatives of the ministries in the Government of the Republic of Srpska.

VII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION IN THE CREATION OF YOUTH POLICY

Several activities with a view to producing a quality document were realized in the process of drafting. The Ministry, in cooperation with the Youth Council of the Republic of Srpska and Youth Communication Centre conducted a survey on the needs of young people, on a sample of 2,066 respondents from 27 local self-government units in the Republic of Srpska, organized a two-day conference on Dialogue with Youth which the aim to open up a dialogue between young and all relevant actors that deal with youth issues (70 participants - representatives of ministries in the Government of the Republic of Srpska, youth organizations, student councils, local governments, international organizations and other key actors), to be the priorities for improving the situation of young people on the basis of which the document will be generated, and then, through public call, invited interested representatives of the expert public (youth organizations, civil society organizations, the business sector, international organizations and other key stakeholders) to be involved together with the appointed representatives of institutions in the process of preparation of document during meetings of working groups. The general public had the opportunity to be involved in this process during the public consultation, when the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport, in accordance with the Guidelines for acting of republic administrative authorities on public participation and consultation in the drafting of the law (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No.. 123/08 and 73/12), published a preliminary draft Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska from 2016 to 2020 on the website and invited all interested parties to participate in the consideration of the preliminary draft of the document, and to send their comments and suggestions. This material was presented during the public consultation also at regional public events, which are organized in Banja Luka, Trebinje, East Sarajevo, Doboj and Bijeljina and which were attended by more than 200 young people and other interested persons.
VIII FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION OF ADOPTION OF YOUTH POLICY

The implementation of this document does not require additional funds from the budget of the Republic of Srpska. The measures planned by this document will be implemented within the existing budget items of actors responsible for implementation, and any possible funds can be discussed during the specific implementation of activities through annual action plan for the implementation of Youth Policy of the Republic of Srpska, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Srpska. The additional sources of funding are international funds and institutions, domestic donors (individuals and organizations) and other alternative ways of raising funds.