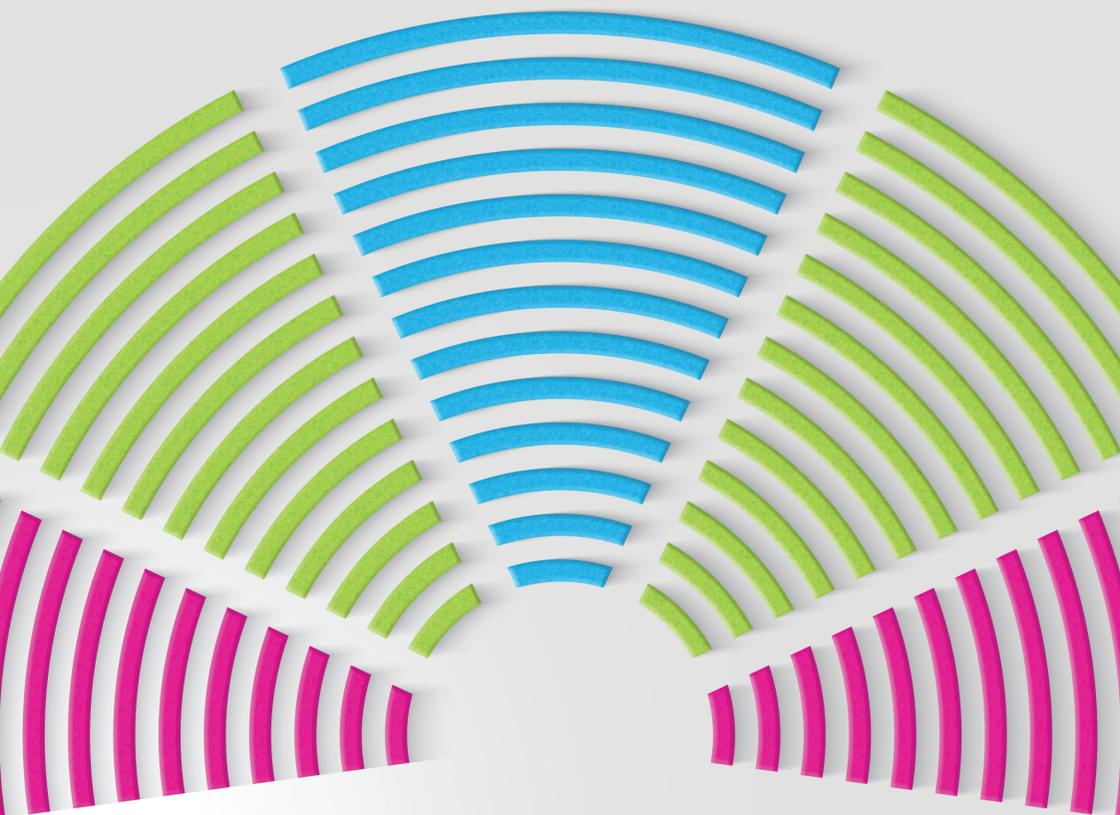


# MONITORING

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW  
ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH POLICIES



National Youth Council  
of Macedonia





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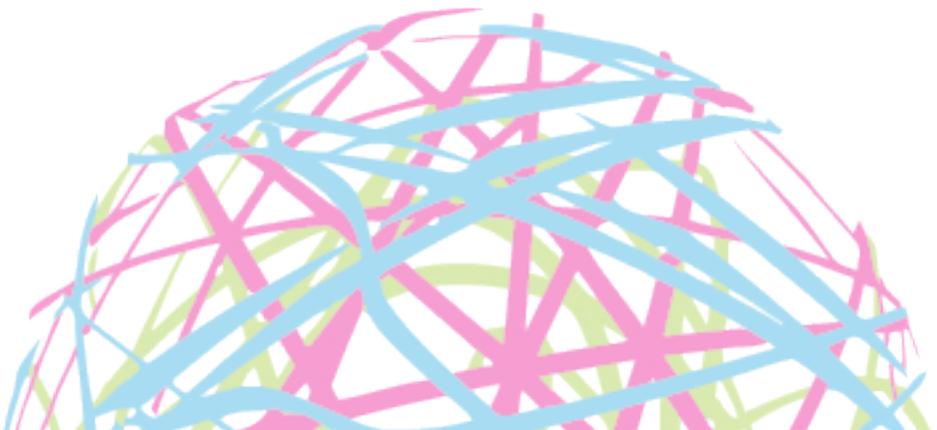
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## ON NYCM

The National Youth Council of Macedonia (NYCM) is a platform that represents the interests and needs of young people, acting as a link between all stakeholders and ensures the engagement and active participation of young people in the decision-making process at every level. The NYCM was established on June 29, 2013 by 55 organizations.

The NYCM is a representative body of youth organizations in Republic of North Macedonia. The Council unites alliances, youth organizations, organizations for young people, and youth of other organizations in order to promote and represent the youth and youth rights in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The membership of the NYCM is diverse, uniting organizations operating at national and regional level, in rural and urban areas, student organizations, branches of international organizations and other types of associations. Throughout the process of achieving its goals, the NYCM represents the interests of young people in the Republic of North Macedonia regardless of their socio-economic status, gender, race, ethnic and cultural origin, political and religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other form of difference.



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## 7 PREFACE

The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia adopted the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies on the date of January 14, 2020. The period before its adoption marks an active youth sector which in dialogue and cooperation with relevant stakeholders and international partners in North Macedonia, through consensus by all political entities managed to provide a legal framework for youth participation and youth policies. However, in spite of its adoption and the legally emphasized deadlines for the country's obligations towards the youth, the implementation of the law is still at a low level.

The two-year period after the adoption of the Law is marked by health, economic and political crises, which were regularly used as an excuse for the delayed implementation of the provisions of the Law. During this time, the youth remained a priority only in election promises, and the lack of implementation of the Law only solidifies the young people's view that they are low on the agendas of the decision makers. Based upon a survey conducted by the NYCM, in 2019, 13% of the examinees believe that their voices have not been heard by decision makers<sup>1</sup>, and with this practice of the country it will be more difficult to change this viewpoint of the young people.

To a certain extent, this monitoring report will make an effort to provide an answer regarding the scope to which the opportunities and mechanisms that young people possess to influence the policy-making and decision-making processes stipulated by the Law have been implemented, but also from the aspect of the implementation of the Law, that is, how high the youth are on the agendas of the politicians.

The monitoring report on the implementation of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policy was conducted with the support of the USAID Civic Participation Project through the Youth Policy Laboratories activity, through which data were collected locally by the NYCM Regional Offices.

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1. Cross-Sectoral Youth Assessment – North Macedonia, July 2019 (available at: [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA00WB77.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WB77.pdf))

ΓMany thanks to our regional offices, that is, Centre for Intercultural Dialogue (Northeast region), Local Community Development Foundation - Shtip (East region), Association AQUA - Struga (Southwest region), Youth Cultural Centre - Bitola (The Pelagonia Statistical Region), Regional Centre for Sustainable Development - Gevgelija (Southeast region), Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency - CPJD (Vardar region) and Centre for Education and Development (Polog region).

## 9 ON THE LAW ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH POLICIES

A process for creating a Law on Youth was initiated in 2018 on the initiative of the Club for Youth Issues and Policies in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. This process has been initiated the second time around, as in the year of 2011, the Draft Youth Law was withdrawn by the country, on the request of the youth sector. At the national level, during the law-making process, an expert working group was formed consisting of representatives of the youth sector, in order to contribute to the creation of the content of the law, based on their experiences of working with young people both at national and local level. The expert working group included members of the Parliament both from the position and the opposition, youth representatives of political parties, and representatives of the international community. The National Youth Council of Macedonia participated with five representatives, who represented the interests of the member organizations of the Council. During this process, the National Youth Council of Macedonia with the support of its member organizations and the NYCM Trainer Base conducted 17 consultations with young people at the local level in order to determine the needs of young people about what they want to be implemented with the new Law on Youth.

On January 14, 2020, the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia adopted the Law, entitled "Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies". The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies is the first legal solution in North Macedonia that guarantees youth participation and recognizes youth and forms of youth organization. As such, the Law distinguishes between a youth organization, an organization for young people and a youth umbrella organization, and delegates the obligation of the Agency of Youth and Sport to maintain a Register of forms of youth organization. In addition, for the first time, the Law defines what are a young person, youth policy, youth participation, and youth work and youth worker. Regarding youth participation, the Law provides mechanisms at national and local level for the participation of young people in policy-making and decision-making processes, i.e. the National Advisory Body for Youth Policies and local youth councils in all municipalities.

From the aspect of youth policies, the Law itself stipulates the adoption of a national youth strategy and local youth strategies, as key strategic documents for youth activities planned and implemented by institutions and municipalities. The National Youth Strategy is a strategic document that sets medium-term goals and priorities for the development of youth policies and the promotion of the interests of young people, and it is adopted within a period of five years. Local Youth Strategy is a strategic document which, in accordance with the National Youth Strategy, sets medium-term goals and priorities for the development of youth policies and the promotion of the interests of young people at the local level.

The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies also stipulates youth services, i.e. mechanisms for bringing institutions closer to young people and enabling their growth and development. As such, the Law defines youth offices and youth centres, while within the public institutions and municipalities a youth officer is appointed, i.e. a person responsible for the operation of the aforementioned youth office, as well as coordination, implementation and monitoring of issues of interest to young people within the competence of the institution. Under the Youth Services chapter, the Agency of Youth and Sport is also expected to establish a research centre on youth-related topics.

Finally, in terms of financing for the implementation of this law, funds from the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia are allocated annually in the amount of at least 0.3%, while funds from the municipalities' budgets for youth are allocated annually in the amount of at least 0.1%. The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, in the form in which it was adopted, contains many benefits for youth and youth organizations in North Macedonia, but leaves room for its expansion and promotion, especially in terms of creating mechanisms for overseeing the implementation of the Law on central and municipal level, and quality assurance of the stipulated mechanisms for youth participation and youth services, as well as for the recognition of the NYCM as a National Youth Council, which is a practice in European countries, to use the existing capacities and practices established through the NYCM to creating better and higher quality youth policies.

## 11 | METHODOLOGY

The subject of monitoring of this report is the implementation of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies. In order to determine how many of the legal obligations have been implemented, the National Youth Council of Macedonia has created a methodology based on requests for access to public information made to responsible entities at local and national level. Based on the data obtained from the conducted monitoring of the central institutions and the municipalities responsible for the implementation of the Law, it became possible to determine the extent of the implementation of youth services and mechanisms for youth participation.

The National Youth Council of Macedonia monitored the central institutions responsible for the implementation of the Law, together with the municipalities from the Skopje planning region, while the monitoring of the municipalities in the other regions was conducted by the regional offices of NYCM, i.e. Centre for Intercultural Dialogue (North-east Region), Local Community Development Foundation - Shtip (East region), Association AQUA - Struga (Southwest region), Youth Cultural Centre - Bitola (Pelagonia statistical region), Regional Centre for Sustainable Development - Gevgelija (Southeast region), Council for prevention of juvenile delinquency – CPJD ( Vardar region) and Centre for Education and Development (Polog region).

The questions submitted to the municipalities and the central institutions aimed to determine whether the youth services and mechanisms for youth participation have been implemented, whether the procedure for setting them has been followed, together with the legally defined deadline, and whether a youth budget has been planned.

Given that the data were collected in the period between September and December 2021, the NYCM made every effort, but cannot guarantee the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in the monitoring report or eliminate the possibility of anomalies given that in the period of data processing there is a possibility that the situation for certain issues has changed.





# **YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies defines the term "youth participation" as a process that enables young people to participate and jointly make policy decisions and programs that directly or indirectly shape the lives of young people.<sup>2</sup>

The law itself provides mechanisms for youth participation on a national level, i.e. the National Youth Assembly; and at the local level, i.e. Local Youth Councils.

**In terms of implementation, the National Youth Assembly, and consequently the National Advisory Body for Youth Policies have not been established yet, and there are Local Youth Councils in 11 municipalities only (13.5% of the total number of municipalities).**

## **NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY**

The National Youth Assembly is a body of forms of youth organization that elects youth representatives in the National Advisory Body for Youth Policies, creates priorities and policies for representation of youth representatives and coordinates and monitors their work.<sup>3</sup>

The National Youth Assembly convenes an initiative board of at least two thirds of the forms of youth organization from the Register of the Agency of Youth and Sport. At the moment of processing the data from the conducted monitoring, i.e. based on the data published by the Agency of Youth and Sport, up until the end of 2021, the Register consists of 63 organizations, of which 10 are youth organizations, 50 youth organizations and 3 umbrella organizations.<sup>4</sup>

**Since the adoption of the Law, the National Youth Assembly has not been formed yet.**

2. Law on youth participation and youth policies ("Official Gazette of the RNM, No. 10/2020)

3. Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies ("Official Gazette of the RNM", No. 10/2020)

4. Register of youth and umbrella organizations of the Agency of Youth and Sport (published on 15.12.2021), available at:

<http://ams.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/REGISTAR-NA-MLADINSKI -I-UMBRELLA-ORGANIZATIONS-update-15.12.2021-for-announcement-.pdf>

## NATIONAL ADVISORY BODY ON YOUTH POLICIES

The National Advisory Body for Youth Policies is a mechanism for cooperation between representatives of the youth sector and representatives of state administration bodies, which has an advisory and supervisory role in the implementation of youth policies and activities for the youth.<sup>5</sup>

The Advisory Body is composed of nine youth representatives elected by the National Youth Assembly and eight representatives appointed by the state administration bodies. It is chaired by one of the representatives of the youth sector.

**As of now, neither the National Youth Assembly has not been established yet, nor has the National Advisory Body for Youth Policy, whose members are elected by the National Youth Assembly.**

Additionally, the Government determined the institutions that will participate in this body, i.e. made a decision and obliged the Agency of Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Local Self-Government, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and Science, The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance to appoint a representative of the National Advisory Body for Youth Policy.<sup>6</sup>

## LOCAL YOUTH COUNCILS

Local youth councils are bodies of local self-government consisting of young representatives of various forms of organization in the Municipality, who have an advisory and advocacy role on issues of youth interest in local self-government. The role of the local youth councils is to guarantee youth participation at the local level, i.e. at the level of the Municipality. The Law itself stipulates the creation of a local youth council in all 81 municipalities.

5. Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies ("Official Gazette of the RNM", No. 10/2020)

6. Press release from the 86th session of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (available at: <https://vlada.mk/node/25846>)

The local youth council may commence its establishment after the harmonization, i.e. amendment or supplementation of the Statute of the municipality that establishes the body, in order to determine the establishment of the local youth council, its composition, mandate, as well as obligations and responsibilities.<sup>7</sup> After the harmonization of the Statute, the Municipality announces a Call for establishing an Initiative Board, which consists of the forms of youth organization recognized by the Law that are active in the municipality.

The Initiative Board announces the call for the constituent local youth assembly in accordance with the Statute of the municipalities, and after holding the first constitutive session of the local youth assembly, the Initiative Board is dissolved. The local youth assembly announces a public call for members in the local youth council, which is available on the municipal websites. The Youth Assembly elects members of the local youth council via direct elections by secret ballot in which the delegates from the local youth assembly have the right to vote.

The elected members of the local youth councils are verified by the Municipal Councils. The procedure defined in the Law is most applicable when it comes to creating a local youth council for the first time, but in some municipalities there is a possibility that a local youth council already exists or has existed at some point in time, and therefore the council needs to be transformed in order to be in accordance with the legal provisions.

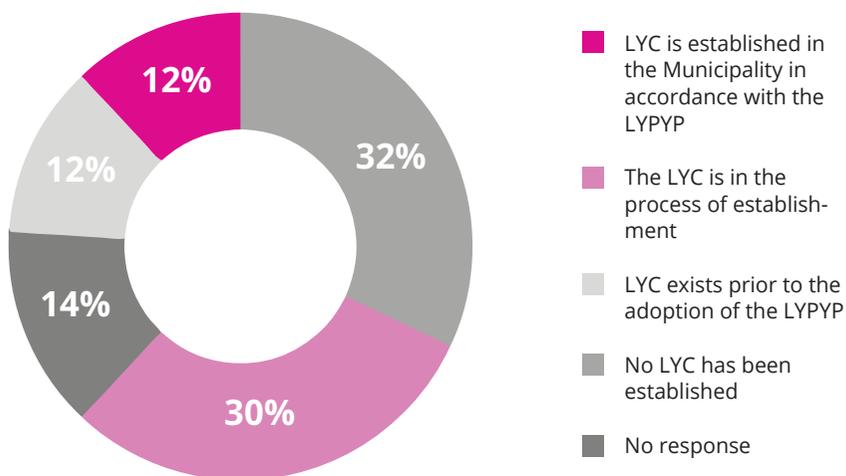
For additional support of municipalities and youth at the local level, especially towards taking the necessary steps to establish local youth councils, the Agency of Youth and Sport and the OSCE Mission in Skopje have developed a "Manual for local youth councils".

Seen from the aspect of the implementation of the Law regarding the establishment of local youth councils, only 10 Municipalities, i.e. only 12% of the Municipalities have established a Local Youth Council in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies. In this particular case, the following Municipalities responded to our questions: Valandovo, Delchevo, Kisela Voda, Kratovo, Mogila, Novaci, Ohrid, Plasnica, Sveti Nikola and Strumica.

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7. Mission of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Skopje and the Agency of Youth and Sport "Handbook for Local Youth Councils" (available at: <https://www.osce.org/files/f/ documents/a/ c / 491135.pdf>)

Some of the municipalities that answered in the affirmative additionally answered that they did not announce a public call for it, which is contrary to the steps for establishing a Local Youth Council according to the Law.





# YOUTH POLICIES

The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, in addition to youth participation, regulates youth policies at national and local level as well. Pursuant to the provisions of the Law, at the national level, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia is obliged to create and adopt a National Youth Strategy in a five year period, which also includes an Action Plan for implementation. At the local level, the Municipalities are obliged to adopt local youth strategies in a five-year period, together with Action Plans for implementation.

## NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

National Youth Strategy is a strategic document that sets medium-term goals and priorities for the development of youth policies and promotion of the interests of young people and determines organizational, financial and administrative measures for their realization.<sup>8</sup>

The National Youth Strategy of the Republic of North Macedonia (2016 - 2025) is currently in effect, and encompasses the following thematic areas: youth participation, youth information, local youth work, education, employment and pre-employment support, culture, sport, health and quality of life.<sup>9</sup>

Despite the existence of this National Strategy, the new Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies stipulates adoption of a new national youth strategy, specifically within 18 months from the adoption of the Law. **Based on information from the Agency of Youth and Sport, the process of creating the National Youth Strategy, as required by the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, will commence in 2022. The legal deadline expired on July 14, 2021.**

In order to prepare the National Youth Strategy, the Agency of Youth and Sport announced a public procurement notice for conducting research on youth trends in November 2021!<sup>10</sup>

Additionally, the Law stipulates that the National Youth Strategy should be developed through a consultative, inclusive and transparent process and that its content should be consulted with the National Advisory Body for Youth, which has not been established yet.

8. Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies ("Official Gazette of the RNM", No. 10/2020)

9. National Youth Strategy 2016-2025

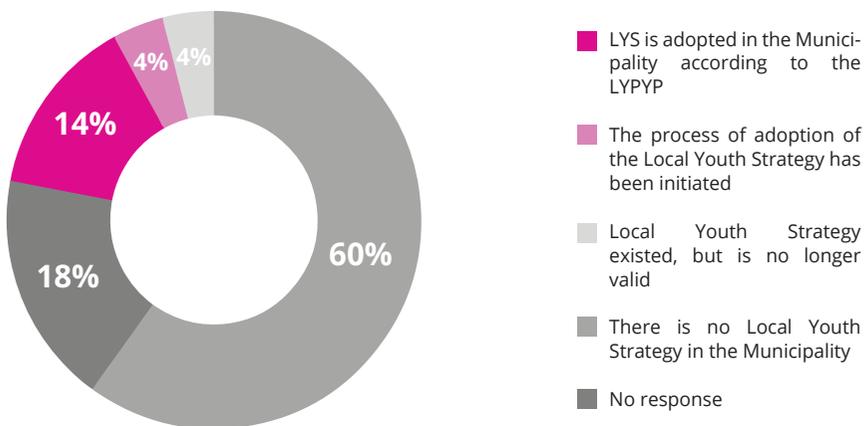
(available at: [http://ams.gov.mk/images/dokumenti/mladi/National\\_Youth\\_Strategy\\_2016-2025\\_eng.pdf](http://ams.gov.mk/images/dokumenti/mladi/National_Youth_Strategy_2016-2025_eng.pdf))

10. <https://e-nabavki.gov.mk/PublicAccess/home.aspx#/dossie/75a6ee24-db90-4828-a159-ceaa28f58bc6/14>

## LOCAL YOUTH STRATEGIES

Local Youth Strategy is a strategic document which, in accordance with the National Youth Strategy, sets medium-term goals and priorities for the development of youth policies and promotion of youth interests at the local level and determines organizational, financial and administrative measures for their realization.<sup>11</sup> It serves as the foundation for the development of local youth policies of the specific municipality within the period of five years for which the strategy was adopted. The local strategy also contains an Action Plan for implementation with defined activities, dynamics, carriers of activities and projections of budget funds, as well as conditions and evaluation indicators for the implementation of the local youth strategy. The local youth strategy, together with the action plans is developed by the municipalities in cooperation with the local youth council, and is implemented with budget funds from the specific municipality.

According to the data obtained from the conducted monitoring, consultations were conducted for the Local Youth Strategy with young people in 7 municipalities, and the Local Youth Strategy was adopted in 11 municipalities, i.e. only 14% of the municipalities, that is the municipalities of Bogovinje, Veles, Gostivar, Ilinden, Kichevo, Kochani, Kriva Palanka, Krushevo, Lozovo, Strumica and Chair. Regarding the Action Plans, only 6 municipalities answered that they have developed an Action Plan.



11. Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies ("Official Gazette of the RNM", No. 10/2020)



# YOUTH SERVICES

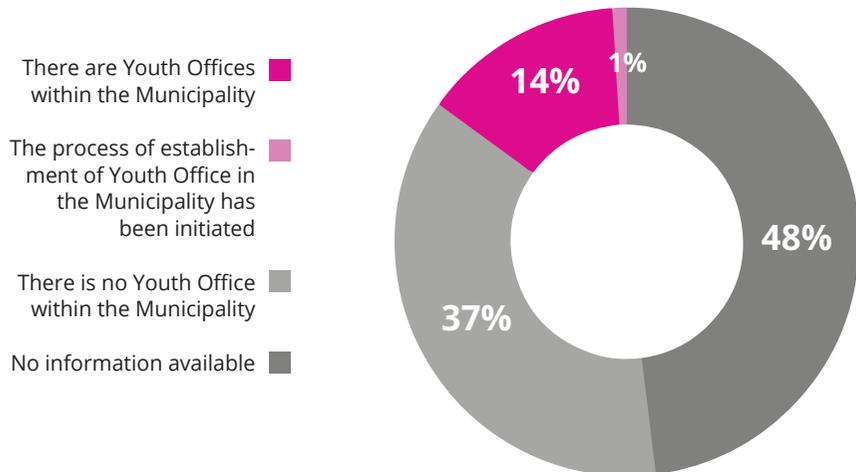
The Law on Youth Participation also regulates services for young people that will enable bringing institutions and municipalities closer to young people, through the establishment of youth offices, youth centers and the appointment of youth officers.

## YOUTH OFFICE

The youth offices are the primary point of access for the young people at the local level, and the work for the young people in the municipalities is coordinated from there.<sup>12</sup> The appointed youth officer in the municipality should to be responsible for the operation of the Youth Office. Within the municipality, the youth office is the place where all young people from the municipality can turn to and be informed about issues related to youth and within the competence of the municipality.

According to the Law, all municipalities are obliged to establish a youth office no later than one year from the day the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies enters into force.

The deadline has expired on January 14, 2021, and according to the collected data, a Youth Office has been established in only 11 municipalities (14% of the municipalities).

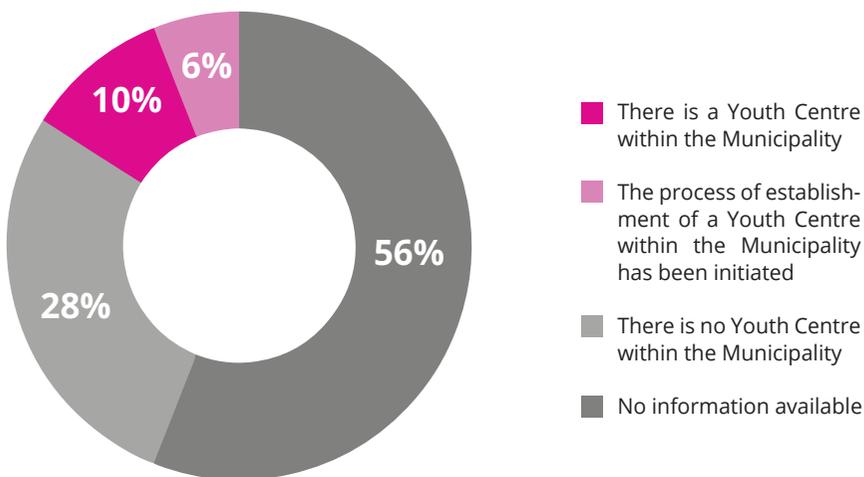


12. Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies ("Official Gazette of the RNM", No. 10/2020)

## YOUTH CENTRE

Youth centers are places where programs are prepared and implemented. They aim at improving the well-being of young people, the development of personal, social and professional life of young people, provide information of important interest to young people and other aspects of youth life.<sup>13</sup> According to the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, each municipality is obliged to establish a youth centre, within 5 years from the day the Law enters into force.

The procedure for opening youth centers and ensuring their quality is additionally determined by the Rulebook on quality standards of youth centers<sup>14</sup>, which was adopted by the Agency of Youth and Sport and developed together with the Union for Youth Work.



Hitherto, according to the responses received from the Municipalities, there are youth centers in 8 municipalities (10% of all municipalities), i.e. in the following municipalities: Gazi Baba, Gostivar, Kavadarci, Kumanovo, Ohrid, Sveti Nikole, Centar, Chair.

13. The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies ("Official Gazette of the RNM" No. 10/2020)

14. Правилник за стандарди за квалитет на младинските центри, усвоен од Агенција за млади и спорт, (достапен на: <<https://smr.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Standardi.pdf>>-)

At this point it is noteworthy to mention that only 3 of the above municipalities meet the quality standards of youth centers, adopted by the Agency of Youth and Sport, and these are the Municipalities of Kavadarci, Kumanovo and Ohrid. The youth centers in the other municipalities were opened with donor support and they function prior the adoption of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies. Additionally, the process for opening a youth centre has been initiated in the Municipalities of Bitola, Veles, Vinica, Probistip, Stip.

One of the problems that slips through the Law is the division of competencies of different stakeholders both at national and at local level. Despite the fact that the Agency of Youth and Sport has adopted the quality standards of the youth centers, it has no competence over the Municipality obliged to open a youth centre.

**The deadline for this legal obligation has not expired yet.**

## YOUTH OFFICERS

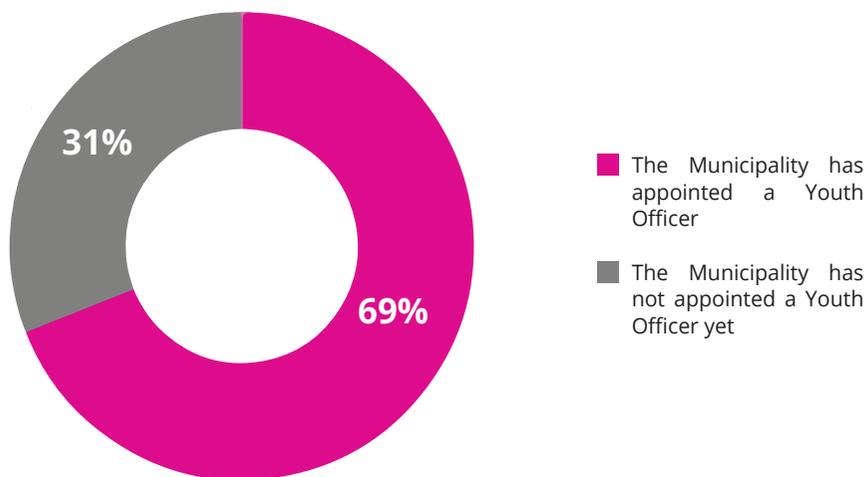
According to the Law, all Municipalities are also obliged to appoint a youth officer, i.e. a person who will be responsible for the operation of the Youth Office, as well as for coordinating, implementing and monitoring issues of interest to young people within the competence of the institution.

The appointed youth officers are available on the official website of the Agency of Youth and Sport, along with their e-mails, via which young people can contact them. Based on the published list, the institutions and the municipalities have shown the greatest interest in implementing this obligation, which primarily consists of appointing an already employed person within the institution, i.e. the municipality.

Based on the publicly available information on the youth officers<sup>16</sup>, it can be determined that so far 53 Youth Officers have been appointed in the state institutions, i.e. the state administration bodies, and 56 in the Municipalities. In percentage terms, only 69% of the Municipalities have fulfilled the same obligation.

15. The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies ("Official Gazette of the RNM" No. 10/2020)

16. Youth Officers In institutions and municipalities (published on November 2021), available at: <http://ams.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Службеници-за-млади-институции-и-општини-АМС-ВЛАДА.pdf>



This data indicates difficulties in the implementation of the Law at the local level, which is evident from the overall slow and delayed implementation of youth services in the municipalities.

What can be further indicated is that in the period after the publication of the list of youth officers on the website of the Agency of Youth and Sport, there is a change of the appointed persons after a few months. Hence, it is necessary to professionalize the youth officers in order for them to be specifically acquainted with their competencies and responsibilities, and to ensure the stability of this position and not its rotation among the employees in the institution, i.e. the municipality. Also, the criteria for appointing a person as a youth officer remains unknown to the public, in other words, it is unknown how much and whether the appointed person has any knowledge or background in the field of youth policies and work with young people.

The deadline for implementation of this legal obligation expires within one year from the day the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies enters into force, and it expires on January 14, 2021, and according to the collected data, the obligation has not been fully implemented.

## 29 RESEARCH CENTRE ON YOUTH-RELATED TOPICS AT THE AGENCY OF YOUTH AND SPORT

With regard to the creation of relevant policies for young people, the Law itself stipulates establishment of a research centre on various topics related to young people by the Agency of Youth and Sport.<sup>17</sup> The legally prescribed deadline for establishing the research centre expires one year after the entry into force of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, i.e. January 14, 2021.

**The deadline has expired, but a research centre on youth-related topics has not been established at the Agency of Youth and Sport yet.**

The explanation they provided was that the systematization of the Agency of Youth and Sport is currently being changed, and the necessary consents are being expected from the other institutions before the process of establishment of a research centre could be initiated, which will be in the Youth Sector within the Agency.

### FINANCING

The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies defines that for the implementation of this law, funds in the amount of at least 0.3% are allocated annually from the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia. Additionally, funds in the amount of at least 0.1% are allocated annually from the budgets of the municipalities, the municipalities in the City of Skopje and the City of Skopje for youth.<sup>18</sup>

As part of the research, we addressed the General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, but our question about the amount of funds allocated for youth was transferred to the Agency of Youth and Sport. To this, the Agency for Youth and Sport responded that they have no information about the allocated budget for youth at the national level, because in other state institutions the funds for youth are not allocated on separate items.

17. The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies ("Official Gazette of the RNM", No. 10/2020)

18. Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies ("Official Gazette of the RNM", No. 10/2020)

Hence, we can determine that in the Law itself there are ambiguities about which responsibility belongs to which entity, and that in itself contributes to the delayed implementation or non-implementation of the Law.

In terms of financing at the local level, the Municipalities are obliged to allocate at least 0.1% of the municipal budget on an annual basis. Based on the questionnaire submitted to the Municipalities, 29 municipalities answered that they have allocated the stated amount. Despite such an answer, there is no mechanism that can verify this statement unless there is a separate budget item for young people. In practice, funds allocated to youth are spent within different budget categories (education, social, sports).

**In order to ensure transparency and accountability towards the youth, we propose the Municipalities to create a special item for the youth within the planning of their budgets.**



# **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

## 33 CONCLUSIONS

- Youth and youth organizations are not a priority of the state institutions, given the fact that two years after the adoption of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, many of the stipulated mechanisms for youth participation and youth services have not been implemented yet;
- Municipalities show little interest in implementing legal obligations (13% of municipalities have established a local youth council, youth office and / or youth centre), except for the appointment of a youth officer (69% of municipalities have appointed a youth officer);
- From the aspect of the implementation of the mechanisms for youth participation, the National Youth Assembly, and consequently the National Advisory Body for Youth Policies have not been established yet, and there are Local Youth Councils in only 10 municipalities (12% of the total number of municipalities).
- The process of adopting the National Youth Strategy, as an obligation of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, according to information obtained from the Agency of Youth and Sports will commence in 2022. The legally defined deadline for it expired on July 14, 2021.
- The Local Youth Strategy was adopted in only 11 municipalities, i.e. only 14% of the municipalities, and only 6 municipalities have prepared an action plan.
- The deadline has expired on January 14, 2021, and according to the collected data, a Youth Office has been established in only 11 municipalities (14% of the municipalities).

- So far, there are youth centers in 8 municipalities (10% of all municipalities). Only 3 of the municipalities meet the Quality Standards of the youth centers, adopted by the Agency of Youth and Sport, namely Kavadarci, Kumanovo and Ohrid.
- Based on the publicly available information on the youth officers, it may be determined that up to this point 53 Youth Officers have been appointed in the state institutions, that is to say, the bodies of state administration, and 56 in the Municipalities. In percentage terms, only 69% of the Municipalities have fulfilled the same obligation.
- The deadline has expired, and a research centre on youth-related topics has not been established at the Agency of Youth and Sport.
- There are ambiguities in the Law itself as to which competence belongs to which entity and that in itself contributes to the late implementation, inadequate implementation or non-implementation of some of the provisions of the Law.

## 35 | RECOMMENDATIONS

- Urgent implementation of the provisions in the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, especially at the municipal level;
- Convening and conducting an oversight hearing on the implementation of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia;
- Creating mechanisms for supervising the implementation of the Law at central and municipal level;
- Professionalization of the Youth Officers in order for them to be specifically acquainted with their competencies and responsibilities, while ensuring the stability of this position and not its rotation among the employees in the institution, i.e. the municipality.
- Creation and implementation of programs for capacity building of the representatives of the Local Youth Councils and the youth officers.
- Creation of manuals for the administrative procedures for establishment and management of the mechanisms and services under the competence of the Units of local self-government.
- Opening public hearings in order to amend the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies and to improve the legal text, based on the lessons learned from the last two years.
- Introduction of a special budget item for young people within the budgets of the municipalities and the state institutions, in order to achieve transparency and accountability towards young people in terms of how they are spent and whether the funds defined in the law are really allocated.





# APPENDICES

## 39 | QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO MUNICIPALITIES

1. Has a Local Youth Council been established within the Municipality? If yes, how many members does the council have?
2. Is (was) there a public call for members? If so, was the public call publically announced? Was it published on the website of the municipality? When was the call announced? (exact date and time of the application)
3. What form of youth organization do the members of the Youth Council come from? (youth organizations, organizations for young people, students, political youth, etc.)
4. Have Local Youth Strategy consultations ever been conducted? Has the strategy been adopted and have action plans been made for it?
5. Has a youth office been established within the Municipality of Kisela Voda? If yes, when was it formed? (date, decision?)
6. Has a youth centre been established within the Municipality? State the decision. If yes, have programs been created (where were they established)?
7. Is there an appointed youth officer within the Municipality? If so, when were they appointed? (date, decision?) If the Municipality has an appointed official, provide their contact information.
8. What is the amount of the allocated budget for youth within the Municipality (exact number +% of the budget). Is that percentage in the amount of 0.1%?
9. Is there a special budget for young people or is there a budget within different budget categories (education, social, sports ...)?

## QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE AGENCY OF YOUTH AND SPORT

1. How many youth organizations, organizations for young people and umbrella organizations are registered in the Register of forms of youth organization?
2. How many organizations have applied for registration in the Registry and how many applications have been successfully accepted?
3. Has a National Youth Assembly been established? If so, has the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly been adopted? Are representatives elected in the advisory body?
4. Has the Agency of Youth and Sport established a Research Centre? (When - date / decision?) If yes, who takes part in the Research Centre (staff or newcomers)? How is the work of this centre regulated?
5. Have consultations been conducted on the National Youth Strategy? Has the strategy been adopted? Has Action Plans been made for the National Youth Strategy?
6. What is amount the allocated budget for youth at the national level? (Exact number +% of the budget) Is that percentage in the amount of 0.3%?
7. Is there a special budget allocated for young people or is there a budget within different budget categories (education, social, sports ...)?

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