

Youth policy interventions & programmes: best practices

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Andreas Karsten
Youth Policy Labs

<http://www.youthpolicy.org>

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YOUTH RESEARCH & POLICY EVIDENCE THAT MATTERS

Welcome to youthpolicy.org, the global evidence-base for youth policy!

Learn more about us



The Youth Wellbeing Index returns, with a range of methodological changes – and cautious optimism

Out from the wilderness and quietly released with little fanfare, the [Youth Wellbeing Index](#)



Officially tasked to misbehave: introducing the second Youth Envoy Jayathma Wickramanayake

In September 2017, Jayathma Wickramanayake became the second person to be the UN



Why does the global youth sector fool itself with commitments it fails to live up to?

At the First Global Forum on Youth Policies, held in 2014, the UN co-conveners – the Youth Envoy.

Knowledge | Analysis | Support

Knowledge

- Providing data and evidence on youth policy
- Youth policy fact sheets for all 200 countries
- Online youth library with > 1000 documents



Analysis

- Independent reviews of national youth policies
- Annual report on the state of youth policy
- Critical review and commentary of policies

Support

- Cooperation with agencies, governments, civil society
- Technical assistance on youth policy development
- Mentoring & development of regional youth policy think tanks

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📏

Global
▼
Youth Policy & Legislation
▼

Exit Comparing Figures

KAZAKHSTAN

| GDP per capita | HDI | GINI |
|----------------|-------|-------|
| USD 13609.75 | 0.754 | 28.56 |

Is there a national youth policy?

Yes

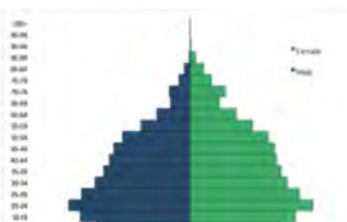
Is there a governmental authority that is primarily responsible for youth?

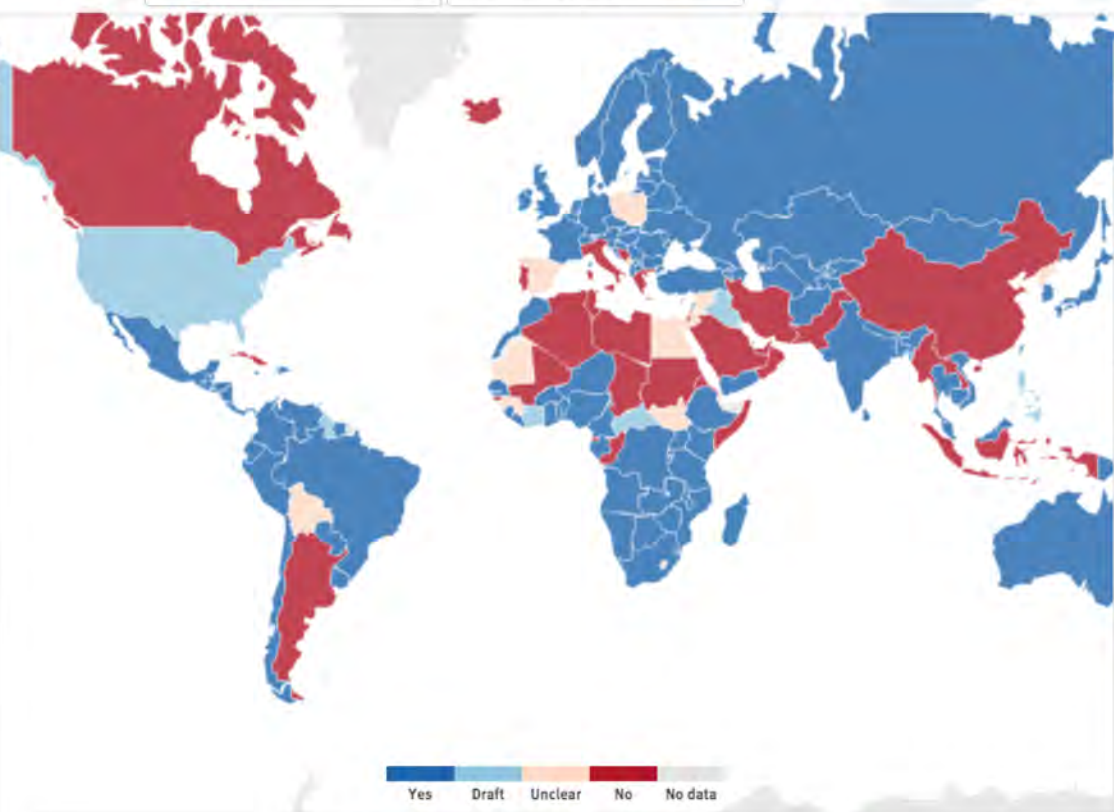
Yes

Does the country have a national youth organisation/association?

Unclear

Population by Age and Sex 2010





Is there a national youth policy? ?

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

| GDP per capita | HDI | GINI |
|----------------|-------|-------|
| USD 6353.96 | 0.769 | 29.65 |

Is there a national youth policy?

Yes

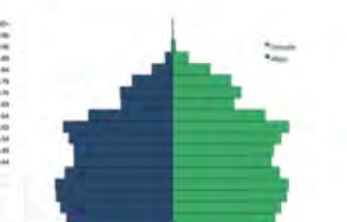
Is there a governmental authority that is primarily responsible for youth?

Yes

Does the country have a national youth organisation/association?

Yes

Population by Age and Sex 2010



**IT'S A TOUGH TIME
TO BE YOUNG**

The statistics are well-known but are well-worth repeating.

- 43% of the world's population – and 90% of youth living in developing countries
- 850 million young people live in developing countries: major economic, social & political challenges
- Over 600 million young people live in in fragile and conflict-affected areas
- 73.3 million young people unemployed in 2014 and 537 million young people underemployed;
- In 2012, 4 million more young people were unemployed than in 2007, and 6 million had given up looking for work all together
- Children account for 51% of the total 19.5 million refugee population
- Girls are forced into early marriages, where the leading cause of mortality for girls aged 15-19 in developing countries is pregnancy-related deaths
- Are recruited into armed forces and militia groups
- Suffer a legal system where 49% of children and youth live in countries where the minimum age of criminal responsibility is below the international standard

Each year, around the world:

- Between 0.5 to 1.5 billion children experience violence;
- 200,000 young people - 500 everyday - aged 10-29 are murdered
- 150 million girls and 73 million boys are raped or subject to sexual violence;
- 115 million children engaged in extremely harmful forms of work.
- 260 000 children die in road traffic accidents making it the leading cause of death for those aged 10-19 years;
- 10 million children and young people are injured in road accidents and 4 million survive a drowning but suffer severe long-term health problems.

YOUTH POLICY: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

“Developing a youth policy is first and foremost an indication of the society’s commitment towards its young citizens. It is also an important and necessary statement of a common national vision concerning its young generation.”

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations

*In 2018, of 198 countries, **162 countries (82 %)** have a national youth policy, up from 127 in 2014 and 99 in 2013.*



OUR MAIN CHALLENGE IS NO LONGER THE *DEVELOPMENT* OF YOUTH POLICIES

Our main challenge is the implementation of these policies, taking them from being nice words on paper to the streets, ensuring that young girls and boys benefit equally, that we have sufficient resources, that there are indicators and we can measure progress and hold governments accountable.

YOUTH POLICY: AMBIGUOUS AMBITIONS

1. The needs of young people
2. The rights of young people
3. The wellbeing of young people

but also

1. The control of young people
2. The constraint of young people
3. The limitation of young people



October 28th – 30th, in Baku, Azerbaijan

UN Secretary General Envoy on Youth,
UNDP, UNESCO, Council of Europe

115 governments, 70+ Ministers, 500 youth experts

PRINCIPLES OF YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

- Rights-based
- Inclusive
- Participatory
- Gender-responsive
- Comprehensive
- Knowledge-based and evidence-informed
- Fully resourced
- Accountable



The magic of cross-sectoral

YOUTH POLICY



CONVINCING GOVERNMENTS

POWER DOES NOT WORK: YOUTH DEPARTMENTS & MINISTRIES ARE GENERALLY AMONG THE WEAKER PARTS OF GOVERNMENT

*The main leverage you have is information – information about young people that other ministries do not have, and would not know how to get, either. Build youth research capacity, do youth surveys, gather knowledge, build an evidence-base! And then prepare thematic briefings, policy briefs – ensure that other ministries get **tailored, specific, relevant information**. Over time, you will create a pull-factor for your expertise on young people.*

CONVINCING YOUNG PEOPLE

INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR ORGANISATION IN YOUTH POLICY REQUIRES CONSTANT CAPACITY BUILDING

*Young people have little reason to become youth policy experts on their own – they are always experts of their own situation, and experts on issues they care about: youth participation, for example. Youth policy issues – from development to evaluation – are not typically high priority (though they arguably should be). To empower young people and their organisations to engage with youth policy, you will need to develop and implement (!) a **relevant training and empowerment** strategy.*



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andreas@youthpolicy.org

[@youthpolicy](#)