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on

**YOUTH AS PART OF THE EU PUBLIC DIPLOMACY**

by

Gulnara IUSUPOVA

(MA student)

 Supervisor:

 Associate professor,

 Ph.D American studies dep.

 Tsvetkova N. A.

Student

Supervisor

**ЮСУПОВА ГУЛЬНАРА**

**МОЛОДЕЖЬ В ПУБЛИЧНОЙ ДИПЛОМАТИИ ЕВРОПЕЙСКОГО СОЮЗА**

**Аннотация.** В данной работе рассматривается опыт Европейского Союза в реализации молодежной дипломатии, где молодежь видится не только ценным ресурсом для существования и благополучия Союза, но и как отличный инструмент для укрепления отношений с соседними государствами и влияния на создание благоприятного имиджа Европейского Союза. Особое внимание уделяется проблемам молодежи, а также задачам и векторам молодежной политики для улучшения молодежной среды и интеграции молодежи в Европейское общество.

**Ключевые слова:** Европейский Союз, молодежь, молодежная политика, публичная дипломатия, молодежные программы

**IUSUPOVA GULNARA**

**YOUTH AS PART OF THE EU PUBLIC DIPLOMACY**

**Abstract.** This paper examines the experience of the European Union in the implementation of youth diplomacy, where youth is seen not only as a valuable resource for the existence and well-being of the Union, but also as an excellent tool for strengthening relations with neighboring states and influencing the creation of a favorable image of the European Union. Particular attention is paid to the problems of youth, as well as the tasks and vectors of youth policy for the improvement of the youth environment and the integration of youth in the European society.

**Keywords:** European Union, youth, youth policy, public diplomacy, youth programs

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**INTRODUCTION**

The youth policy is one of the priority directions of the state policy of the majority of the developed countries of the world. This is primarily due to the fact that it is the younger generation that is considered by the state, firstly, as a resource for successful development in the future, and on the other hand, as an important element of modern society, which already today can make a significant contribution to its modernization and comprehensive improvement. For the European Union, the support of young people and the creation of favorable conditions for the development of youth are recognized as integral parts of the economic and social stability of the integration association. What are the conceptual foundations of the EU youth policy and how they are being implemented - the research questions to which this work is intended to answer.

The EU youth policy was developed on the basis of the basic principles and basic provisions of the European legislation contained in the official documents of the European Parliament and the Council. The basic principles of the youth policy were laid down already in the main provisions of treaties governing education and training issues, therefore the main sources of this study were official documents of the European Union and European youth organizations.

In today's world, growing international ties of youth are diverse and can be considered, in particular, as the formation of a new youth protection, which has social, humanitarian borders, internal and external dependencies, a set of institutions and mechanisms for cooperation and development. The practice of the last few decades, full of social and political changes in the world, showed that modern youth environment is a significant factor that influence social and cultural space. Therefore, we can consider youth as one of the components of the public diplomacy.

In recent years, European Union started to focus attention on soft policy and enlarge this campaign through different spheres. Youth diplomacy became a part of this strategy and it is developing rapidly from year to year.

**The aim** of this work is to reveal specifics in the development of youth diplomacy as an instrument of public diplomacy in the European Union.

**Objectives:**

1. To define the main means of realization of youth diplomacy;
2. To estimate how young people contribute to the development of relations between the European Union and other countries
3. To investigate existing problems of the youth within EU.

In the basis of this scientific work are such **methods** as observation and system and documentary analyses. Thanks to the study of materials not only in English, but also in Russian, French and German, we were able to objectively assess the realities of the existing situation, as well as to consider all the existing points of view. The principle of systematization helped to establish the interrelation of multiple fragments of the problem and to reveal the appropriateness of historical processes and events. In the fourth chapter we include case study thus to show the EU Youth Policy in more detailed way taking the examples of Germany and France.

 In the course of research work, we have used collection, analysis and synthesis of documents, monographs, scientific articles, publications of periodicals, comparison and study of materials based on the work of scientists dealing with the question of youth policy, summarizing the information received as objective research.

It is worth mentioning that, unfortunately, the historiography on EU youth policy is remarkably thin. However, there are some investigations relative to our theme in the scholarship. We have divided existing **literature** into following three groups.

Firstly, we had to mention publications concerning European Union’s smart policy. Such authors as Lucian-Dumitru Dirdala[[1]](#footnote-1), Sigita Kavaliunaite[[2]](#footnote-2), Khauer-Tyukarkina[[3]](#footnote-3) analyze the core basis of the soft power of the EU as a supranational actor and their works are mostly based on political, economic and legislative actions.

Second group is the biggest one; Tanja Dibou[[4]](#footnote-4) focuses in the article on governance of youth policy of the European Union, providing an overview of the historical development of the youth policy, the administrative structure and the main methods of the EU institutions in the youth field. Danilina M.V.[[5]](#footnote-5), Nelsen Brent F.[[6]](#footnote-6), Nikitenko A.I.[[7]](#footnote-7), Claire Wallace[[8]](#footnote-8) describe youth programs, the organization of youth sector and the main purposes of youth policies. These researches offer the full comprehension of internal situation within European Union and, unfortunately, escape impact of the EU’s youth policy in the world arena.

Finally, the least group combines authors that provide with information and analysis of Europe’s youth diplomacy. For instance, N.Smirnov[[9]](#footnote-9) discusses the utility of soft power in world politics, but focusing mostly on the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Asadov’s[[10]](#footnote-10) article is devoted to the analysis of the increasing role of the youth programs of the EU. Rostovskaya[[11]](#footnote-11) sees youth as a strategic resource of the future politics; however, booth authors do not look at youth programs as an instrument of soft power.

The survey of literature has shown that studies on European Union’s Youth diplomacy started only a few years ago. We can argue that authors did not touch the question of influence of Youth diplomacy on the image of the EU in the world.

**Documentary basis for the research.** There are a plenty of documents relative to the Youth policy of European Union.

We can divide existing documents into two parts: concerning changes in youth policy and concerning the development of youth diplomacy.

The first group helps us to understand how the government supports the youth and tries to solve important problems. The Joint Report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)[[12]](#footnote-12) is aimed on including employment & entrepreneurship, education & training and social inclusion, to develop multi-faceted solutions in support of young people. The European Commission think that this document should in the first place address the challenges facing young people due to the crisis.

Another highly important strategy is the **Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - An EU Strategy for Youth: Investing and Empowering, adopted in 27th of April 2009[[13]](#footnote-13). Here we can find the goals of the EU supranational agencies in such spheres as** education, employment, inclusion and health, further combined to problems in finance, housing or transport.

Second group includes reports on how to engage EU youth into world politics and, in addition, this document raise the question of the inclusion of the youth of non-EU countries into the work of different EU-youth organizations.

For instance, Council Resolution of 27 November 2009[[14]](#footnote-14) underlines the importance of implementation for the new framework of cooperation between EU youth and the world and calls for mobilization of EU Programmes and Funds.

The analysis of the conceptual foundations and mechanisms for the implementation of the youth policy should be carried out proceeding from a systematic approach, since it allows considering the youth policy as a system of targeted measures integrated into the general system of state and supranational management, and also to analyze the youth policy at two main levels of its implementation within the EU framework : Supranational and National. Therefore, the system approach is the theoretical and methodological basis of this study.

**Structure**

This work consists of introduction, four chapters, conclusion and the list of documents and literature.

The first chapter analyses main documents concerning youth policy within the EU. Second chapter discusses the main youth organizations aiming to deal with problems of the younger generation, unite the youth from Europe and the rest of the world and form a good image of the European Union. In the third chapter we define existing youth problems including immigration one, attitude of the European youth to them, and the policy of the EU that deals with them with the help of existing instruments and youth initiative. Fourth chapter shows national youth policy in Germany and France.

*Young people are our present and our future, and we need to coordinate efforts to open as many roads for our young people as possible, especially in the light of the current economic and financial crisis. The key to resolving the issue is to enable our youth to address the challenges of a global peace. Our new strategy is a timely response to these challenges; it opens the door to a new era of youth policy development in the European Union[[15]](#footnote-15).*

 Jan Figel, former European Commissioner for Education,

Training, Culture and Youth

**CHAPTER 1. THE EU YOUTH POLICY: MAPPING THE THEME AMONG PRIMARY DOCUMENTS**

In 1993, when the Maastricht Treaty[[16]](#footnote-16) was signed, it was already mentioned in articles 126 and 127 that the EU should encourage the development of youth in the area of ​​youth exchanges and facilitate access to vocational training. Beginning with the Lisbon Treaty, the European Union reaffirms its commitment to the promotion and further development of a pan-European policy in the fields of education, vocational training, youth and sports.

In addition, already in 1988, within the framework of the Single European Act[[17]](#footnote-17), Europe began to implement its first program, aimed exclusively at young people across Europe, entitled "Youth for Europe". At the same time, since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, "the legislative basis for youth policy is article 165 of the Treaty about the Functioning of the EU.

Among the basic documents, we also should mention the Treaty about the establishment of the European Union[[18]](#footnote-18). Article 149 of this normative act determined that within the EU a number of international cooperation programs will be carried out, including the field of youth policy. In particular, the article says that Community actions should be aimed at encouraging the development of youth exchanges and exchanges between teachers[[19]](#footnote-19).

The basic documents that determined the main conceptual foundations and ways of implementing youth policy in the countries of the European Union were: The White Paper, "The New Incentives for the Youth of Europe" (2001), the European Youth Pact (2005), **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Promoting young people's full participation in education, employment and society (2007),** Youth Policy Strategy" Youth - Investing and Empowerment "for the period 2010-2018. These documents also laid the foundations of a pan-European youth policy and became the stages of the evolution of the conceptualization of youth policy in the EU.

The first stage was the creation of the **"White Paper"** "New incentives for the youth of Europe", which contains the main priority directions for the development of youth policy in Europe for the near future.

Above we will briefly describe main documents, papers and action plans concerning the EU Youth Policy and try to analyze their role in the development of the youth policy as a part of the EU public diplomacy. We divided existing documents into different groups according to the specific spheres of the youth policy.

**EU initiatives**

Eurodesk gives the following diagram of the key events of the European Youth Policy[[20]](#footnote-20):

a) **The White Paper on Youth[[21]](#footnote-21)**. November 21, 2001, the European Commission (COM (2001) 681) adopted a White Paper entitled as "A new impetus for European youth", defining the framework for cooperation in the field of youth policy. Its priorities are to promote participation, active civic and volunteer activities of youth. It also designed to improve the quality of information for young people on European issues and to raise awareness on issues related to youth.
In European sources, it assumed that the White Paper has given impetus to the development of European cooperation in the youth field. Development Mechanism has become “open method of coordination”, which means defining common objectives and translating them into national policies. Since this is the third policy area where the EU has no competence to make decisions for the Member States or even in conjunction with Member States, this mechanism is very important.

b) The **European Pact for Youth[[22]](#footnote-22)**. At its spring summit in March 2005, the European Council adopted the European Pact for Youth as part of the Lisbon strategy. European Commission briefly characterizes the purpose of this document: to develop the participation of all young people in education, employment and society. It gives the description of the goal: improving education and training, mobility, integration of Europe's young people in the workplace and social integration. Commission called for action in various areas for greater consistency. For example, the Commission suggests that Pact objectives must further be integrated in the profile and strategies, particularly in the European employment strategy. The Commission also adopted a Communication (COM (2005) 206), which determines how the Pact should be implemented. Three years later, the issues of education of young people and their integration in the labor market were still relevant. In the communique, "Promoting young people's full participation in education, employment and society" (COM (2007) 498), the Commission takes as the theme of its control issues of youth unemployment and poor education received a large number of young people. In connection with the situation, the Commission called for closer coordination in all policy areas, which have an impact on young people. It proposes a number of new initiatives aimed at creating more effective mechanisms linking education and employment, and improve the participation of youth in European decision-making processes.

c) **The European Youth Week[[23]](#footnote-23)**.

In light of the success of this format as the "European Youth Week", the European Parliament called for the inclusion of it as an integral part of European youth policy. To date, this format has become part of the program "Youth in Action".

d) **The Structured dialogue[[24]](#footnote-24) (constructive).**In a resolution adopted in 2005, the EU Council called for a constructive dialogue with young people, and often repeated it in subsequent years. Constructive dialogue means that the EU institutions and national governments discuss selected themes with young people. The most specific content, this initiative has received since 2008 under the name **"Future challenges for young people"**. For professionals and policy makers related to the youth policy, the experience is of great interest as a preparatory stage of discussion and development of a new youth strategy with young people. It should also be understood that to date youth policy belonged to the second group of EU competences (negative), i.e. decisions are taken at the national level and the EU's influence is limited to complement and support of the Member States. That is why experts also note the importance at this stage of a constructive dialogue in order to facilitate evaluation of the youth participating in politics.

**EU Action Plans.**

The first program is called "Youth for Europe"[[25]](#footnote-25) - Youth Exchange Program (1988). After it in 1996, the "European Voluntary Service" has been further adopted**.**Since 2000, these two programs were merged into a single EU program of action for young people: **Youth** (2000-2006). The program was complemented by other areas:

* "Initiative for Youth" **-** to support creative innovation projects for the social integration of young people;
* "Joint Actions" - this includes Sokratos and Leonardo da Vinci programs.
* "Accompanying Measures" - supports joint activities with third countries through the Euro-Med Youth program, been supporting the cooperation with South-East European countries (SEE), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Latin America (LA).

In November 2006, Decision 1714/2006/EU, the program **"Youth in Action"** was adopted for the period of 2007-2013 as a continuation of the program "Youth". The aim of the program was to strengthen active citizenship of young people’s position, the development of the solidarity and assistance of the European youth policy cooperation. These objectives were based on the White Paper "A new impetus for European youth". The program had five areas of activity, including the European Voluntary Service, exchanges between young people and political cooperation. The budget of the program amounted to € 885 million. Compared with the previous program "Youth in Action" was more focused on young people of the European Union.

**Program to promote bodies operating at European level in the youth field**.

The program was created on April 21, 2004 (Decision 790/2004 / EU) for the period from 2004 to 2006, with a budget of € 13 million. It supported the activities of the organizations that contributed to the strengthening of Community action and its effectiveness, in particular through youth exchanges, education and action in the field of training, discussions on youth policy, dissemination of information on Community policy and measures to promote the participation and the initiative of youth. This direction was included into the program "Youth in Action" from January 1, 2007

**Protecting the rights of children and young people.**

a) **The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child[[26]](#footnote-26)**. The European Commission has approved 04.07.06 Communique "Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child" (COM (2006) 367). The main idea was to introduce a child rights protection system both in foreign and domestic policy of the EU, as well as support Member States in this area. It provides a single phone number for the needy, missing and abused children throughout the EU. As a result of the communiqué was the creation in 2007 of the European Forum on the Rights of the Child to exchange information on best practices and collaboration of various institutions in order to improve the situation of children in Europe.

b) **Preventing and combating violence against children and youth**. Since 2000, the EU has funded projects and actions to combat violence against children, young people and women with the "Daphne" program[[27]](#footnote-27). Target groups are children and young people under the age of 25. From 2007, the program "Daphne" became part of the General program "Fundamental Rights and Justice". The aim of the program is to "assist in the protection of children, young people and women against all forms of violence and to achieve a high level of health protection, well-being and social cohesion (Decision 779/2007 / EU). Program also applies to the fight against trafficking and sexual exploitation. Total funding for the program is € 116 million for the period of 2007-2013.

c) **Young people and the media.** Protecting young people becomes a key element of audiovisual policy at European level and has acquired special urgency in connection with the development of non-linear media services.

**The new EU youth strategy.**

The way to create "an updated framework of European cooperation in the youth field" ( **Renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)**) looks like[[28]](#footnote-28):

- 2002 (OJ C 168, 13. 07.2002) have been identified within the European cooperation in the youth field (EU Council Resolution and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States), which provides the use of the open method of coordination and mainstreaming of youth in other policies;

- 2005 (7619/1/05) - approval by the European Council of the European Youth Pact as one of the tools for achieving the objectives of the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs.

- 2008 (11517/08) - adopted an updated Social Agenda, which identified children and young people as the main priorities.

- 2009 (27.04.09, COM (2009) 200 final) - the final version of the Strategy for the European Commission transmitted to the Council, Euro Parliament and committees.

- 2009 (11.05.09) - the conclusions of the assessment of existing European cooperation frameworks updated prospects, adopted by the EU Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States.

- 2009 (27/11/09) - The EU Council approved the new framework for European
cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018).

Within the framework of the decisions taken by co-decision procedure, the Commission is developing draft documents for their subsequent approval. It should be noted that the Commission was planning to propose new priorities and methods for the future of youth policy in Europe in early 2009 on the basis of the constructive dialogue results. April 27, the European Commission gave a new strategy for the EU Council, and Euro Parliament committees. Exactly seven months later (27/11/09), the EU Council by its resolution adopted renewed framework of European cooperation in the youth field for the period 2010-2018.

**Brief description of the new European framework for cooperation[[29]](#footnote-29)**(hereinafter - the Framework Strategy).

European Council notes that the framework strategy has received two new goals:

1. The creation of equal opportunities for all young people in education and the labor market;
2. Promoting active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity.

Initiatives systematically in eight main areas of activity: 1) education and training, 2) employment and entrepreneurship; 3) health and welfare; 4) participation; 5) volunteer activities, 6) social integration; 7) youth and the world, 8) creativity and culture. Now they are called as "core policy".

The Framework Strategy is divided into three three-year cycles, for each will be established own priorities. Resolution defines following priorities: first half of the 2010 - social inclusion, second half of the 2010 - work with young people, first half of the 2011 - active citizenship and participation. It is noted, that the overall priority for all period is youth employment.

The first stage was the creation of the **"White Paper"** "New incentives for the youth of Europe", which contains the main priority directions for the development of youth policy in Europe for the near future. Among the main tasks that were set in it were the application of an open method of coordination in the field of youth policy and the consideration of the youth agenda in the development of other policies directly relating to youth[[30]](#footnote-30)

The preamble to the document notes that most of the proposals mentioned in it are addressed to the Member States and regions of Europe, which bear the brunt of the implementation of various measures related to youth. Member States should create such living conditions in which, "young people can see the results of their personal commitments and that their active civic position becomes a reality. “Taking part in the life of the school, district or association, young people can gain experience and confidence they need to go a step further, either now or later, in public life of their countries, as well as at the European level”[[31]](#footnote-31). As a result, the White Paper proposed a new strategy for European cooperation in the field of youth policy, which includes two main aspects: an open method of coordination in a specific area of ​​youth policy and a greater consideration of youth issues in the implementation of other policy directions.

The White Paper noted that the imbalance between the younger generation and the rest of the population is growing, therefore, youth policy should take into account the fact that the aging of the population will also lead to the need to attract human resources from outside the European Union in order to compensate the shortage of workers force. It means that, it should actively include in its agenda the questions of integration of migrants into the European environment.

Among the conceptual bases of the youth policy developed in the White Paper, it is worth noting the recognition of such important aspects of the life of young people as the fact that youth now lasts much longer, the social roles of youth have changed: it is becoming increasingly individualized.

The authors of the document noted that modern youth in Europe is rather poorly involved in the social life of the region, while it itself strives for it, but does not find ways to realize its potential. Therefore, the youth policy should solve the following tasks:

- increase the participation of young people in public life of the EU-member states; improve youth information on European affairs;

- develop volunteerism among young people include youth problems in other areas of policy;

- promote the development of continuing education and educational mobility, youth employment, social integration of the younger generation;

- develop among young people immunity to racism and xenophobia;

- strengthen common European values;

- develop international cooperation in the field of culture.

As a result, the White Paper proposed four key messages, which can be viewed as a kind of goal or priority for the European youth policy of the early 21st century:

- active citizenship of the youth;

- expansion of areas and opportunities for experimentation;

- development of independence of the younger generation;

- the strengthening of European values ​​in the youth environment (the European Union as a vehicle for values).

In addition, the document contained, as annexes, specific recommendations for the implementation of the pan-European principles of youth policy. So, it was about the Youth Council of Europe, which was supposed to cover both the supranational level and the national one. There was also a point about the importance of the role of the European Youth Forum, which had a goal to unite the various youth organizations in Europe to coordinate activities and their further development at the international level.

**The European Youth Pact[[32]](#footnote-32)**, which was adopted in March 2005 by the European Council, was the next document that laid the conceptual foundations and directions of the pan-European youth policy. The pact in many ways developed the ideas laid down in the White Paper, and was its logical development. Its main ideas were related to the improvement of the quality of education and training of the younger generation, increasing opportunities for social mobility, creation of the conditions for professional employment and social inclusion of European youth in socio-political, socio-economic and cultural processes in Europe. The main directions of the youth policy, laid down in the European Pact, concerned issues of employment, integration and social development. The Pact as well as the White Paper paid much attention to revitalization of civic engagement of youth, its involvement in social processes[[33]](#footnote-33), as a necessary element of social adaptation of the young generation and its attraction to solving important issues including the sphere of youth policy.

Adoption of the European Youth Pact was an important legislative step on the way to the formation of a European youth policy. If the White Paper was not so much an official document as a concept of a future youth policy, the Covenant was a real normative legal act that operated within the European Union.

In 2007, the Communiqué of the European Commission "Supporting the full participation of young people in education, employment and society" was published, which laid the foundations for better support of youth through increased funding for educational programs, academic and scientific mobility programs, and employment.

Finally, in April 2009, the European Commission approved a **new European Union Youth Policy Strategy[[34]](#footnote-34)** for the next decade, based on previous experience (The White Paper, European Youth Pact), as well as awareness of the need to increase youth support with the emergence of the new challenges for the EU - Youth Policy Strategy "Youth - Investing and Empowerment".

First of all, this document is based on two main provisions, which boil down to the following:

- Young people are one of the most vulnerable social groups, especially in the current economic crisis;

- Youth is the most valuable resource in Europe, taking into account the demographic trends of its aging.

Therefore, the EU Youth Policy Strategy is based on a two-pronged approach: “on the one hand, investing in youth - increasing the amount of resources provided for the development of industries that have a daily impact on young people and ensure their well-being; On the other hand, the empowerment of young people rights and powers - the development and utilization of the potential of young people for the renewal of society, the implementation of European goals and values.”[[35]](#footnote-35)

The current strategy of the EU youth policy is developed taking into account the crisis phenomena observed in Europe today. According to the European Commission's 2012 report on youth[[36]](#footnote-36): “Europe is going through a crisis that has hit young Europeans and has expressed itself in an unprecedented level of unemployment and the risk of rising poverty. Europe 2020, the EU strategy for sustainable and inclusive growth sets out a framework to coordinate the European response, in order to emerge stronger from the crisis and come out ... Europe 2020 focuses on young people”.[[37]](#footnote-37)

The problem of the implementation of the youth policy strategy is directly related to the development of mechanisms and specialized political institutions that allow the implementation of the tasks set in the documents on youth policy and their effectiveness. In the European Union in recent years, a full-fledged system of youth policy management has emerged, which has found expression in a number of institutions and organizations responsible for its implementation.

Youth policy in the European Union is implemented at two levels: supranational (pan-European) and national. At the same time, the so-called "open method of coordination" is the basic one in the context of taking managerial (including political) decisions. In other words, we are talking about the widespread subsidiarity principle in Europe today in Europe, when the center deliberately transfers part of the management authority to the lower level, in order to avoid unnecessary centralization of processes and to allow participation in the management of the maximum possible number of actors, which facilitates a flexible approach to the youth sphere.

Speaking about the pan-European level of governance and decision-making, it should be noted that the institutions of the Council of Europe play a significant role within the EU. As Georgienko says, “The Council of Europe is well integrated into the sphere of youth policy of the EU through the European Knowledge Centre of Youth - a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission.”[[38]](#footnote-38)

Among the main institutions of the Council of Europe that make decisions in the field of youth policy and implement them in practice, there are:

- Directorate for Youth and Sports (part of the Directorate General for Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe).

- European Steering Committee on Youth Affairs (CDEJ).

- Advisory Council on Youth (includes 30 representatives of non-governmental youth organizations).

- The Joint Council on Youth is a body of joint decision-making that brings together the CDEJ and the Advisory Board.

- The Programming Committee on Youth, which is a body of joint decision-making, consisting of 8 members from each of the CDEJ and the Advisory Board. Its tasks include the establishment, monitoring and evaluation of the European Youth Centres and European Youth Foundation[[39]](#footnote-39).

- European youth centers. The first of them was created in 1972 in Strasbourg. In 1995, the second youth center was created in Budapest. European youth centers annually hold trainings in cooperation with European youth organizations. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has established financial support centers for financing international events that are held by young people for young people. Due to the work of the centers, youth organizations can implement multilateral projects. The general council makes decisions taking into account the programs of the youth centers, and sets general political directions. This council consists of 12 representatives of the governments of the participating countries and 12 representatives of youth organizations. Each has one vote[[40]](#footnote-40).

- European Youth Foundation (EYF). This organization provides financial support to youth activities, with an annual budget of about € 3 million.

- Conference of European Ministers for Youth. The first European Ministerial Conference on Youth was held in Strasbourg in 1985.

Thus, we see a sufficiently branched and developed apparatus for managing youth policy at the level of the "Greater Europe", which actively functions directly within the European Union. Nevertheless, the EU has its own institutions, which are responsible for carrying out youth policy and various activities in the field of youth development.

Chief among them - the European Parliament - a representative and consultative body of the EU on environmental protection issues, culture, education and youth policy.

A significant role in decision-making in the field of youth policy in the European Union plays the European Commission.

It is responsible for the direct implementation of some of the youth programs. Its functions include budget management and prioritization, as well as the definition of the target audience.

In its activities, the European Commission relies on the Executive Agency for audiovisual, educational and cultural issues. It was created in 2005[[41]](#footnote-41). The Agency is responsible for the various competitions, accepting applications for volunteer insurance and work with volunteers as part of various youth programs of the EU.

To implement the certain EU youth programs at national level there were specially created National Agencies.

In addition to structures related directly to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, there are a number of specialized institutions of the European youth policy. For example, for the information support of youth policy meets the "European Agency for Youth Information and advice» (ERYICA), whose main task is to promote cooperation between national youth information and advisory networks, as well as their representation at the European level[[42]](#footnote-42).

Of course, important element of the implementation and development of youth policy in the European Union is the Youth itself. Its main instrument in this case is the **European Youth Forum (EYF)**. The Forum is aimed, first and foremost, on the active involvement of young people in public life in Europe. With the help of various member organizations and their direct representation function Forum seeks to improve the living conditions of European young people in today's world. For this purpose, the Forum is working with the EU authorities to provide a real account of the views and interests of young people in making certain decisions in the European Union and the implementation of youth programs. Thus, in particular, EYF acted as a partner of the European Commission in the process of writing a "White Paper" on the youth policy. In addition, the Forum coordinates and ensures the representation of young people in the structure of the youth sector of the Council of Europe. “In accordance with the structure of the co-management of about one-third of members of the highest political authority of the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe shall be elected from among the representatives of non-governmental youth organizations, members of the EYF at EYF assemblies”[[43]](#footnote-43).

The highest authority of the Forum is its General Assembly. It consists of representatives of the member organizations (two persons from the full members and one person from the candidates and observers). The Assembly commends the work of the Forum, defines the direction of its future activities and adopts a work plan for two years. The General Assembly shall also decide the EYF membership. It should be noted that the adoption of decisions by the Assembly takes place on the "ward" principle: 50% of the votes have national youth councils, 50% - international youth organizations.

Today it is the European Youth Forum that is one of the main critics of the current EU youth policy management model. It also tries to launch a process of its change and improvement. In particular, today, Forum actively requires the creation of so-called inter-service groups within the European Commission, to take into account the interests of young people.

In this context, it should be noted that youth participation in European affairs is one of the most important priorities of the youth policy of the EU as a whole. The authors of the document “Youth, political participation and decision-making” noted that after the "Arab spring," many young people in Europe have become “more politically active, but their activities they realize now through political movements and not political parties ... As a result, the youth political activity becomes organized not in an accordance with the principles of formal groups”[[44]](#footnote-44). In other words, more and more young people prefer to organize themselves, and not to enter into formal party structures (e.g. youth organizations).

The heterogeneity of modern European youth forced European politicians to seek ways and develop measures for the most versatile line of youth policy. So, recently conducted by eight EU member survey[[45]](#footnote-45) showed significant differences among the youth on various issues. At the same time, differences were found both within individual countries and between countries.

The obvious trend today is the radicalization of young people, due to some unresolved social issues (e.g., unemployment). As a result, “in connection with the increase of extremism, EU is currently being tested initiatives for the prevention of extremist activity among young people at the EU level”[[46]](#footnote-46). Talking about specific examples of such prevention, we can give an example of Germany, where is a program "Competent for Democracy -networks against right - wing extremism», which is a network of professional counseling to help people in troubled situations, to a certain extent empowers youth confront extremist behavior[[47]](#footnote-47). In the UK, there are also a variety of such programs. For example, the program Muslim Youth Development Partnership allocates tasks among its work with young people through training, involvement in volunteer activities of Muslim youth (often from among football fans).[[48]](#footnote-48)

The Council of Europe in its documents is constantly drawn to the subject of specific political group of youth interests, noting that, on the one hand, today there is a sharp decline in electoral activity of youth, decline in trust in political parties, and on the other - the emergence of "common interest" in politics, mobilizing youth at the grassroots level and activation of its inclusion in the global international protest movements[[49]](#footnote-49).

From the EU perspective, the support should be subject to both forms of political participation of young people - formal and informal[[50]](#footnote-50). The documents on the European Youth Policy explicitly states that “youth work - is, on the one hand, - support for youth self-organization, and on the other - the mechanism of its political integration”[[51]](#footnote-51). However, today there is a serious problem with the fact that the party youth organizations, as a rule, “are separated from the main parties and their relationship with the parent party are conditional”[[52]](#footnote-52). Another serious problem is the "age limit" - the age of youth varies in different countries, but also, as the claims of young people themselves expressed the view that it is, in fact, segregation by age, since the main parties (not their youth organizations) do not have any requirements about age of their members.

As a result, today the EU is taking measures to overcome the difficulties arising from the political participation of youth. In particular, it is a question even of the introduction of the so-called "youth quota", which could contribute to promotion to the top (including, in the format of political parties) the most promising young people. For this, EU offers a variety of mechanisms, depending on the state and national peculiarities of various countries: constitutional reforms, electoral law reform, voluntary decisions of political parties[[53]](#footnote-53).

EU tries to solve these problems, taking measures on youth inclusion into the processes of political decision-making.  There are different works of recent years that are devoted to this issue and many European authors that are trying to determine from different positions the most appropriate solutions. According to Robert Farthing, young people in Europe today are disconnected and alienated from official politics, and therefore are forced to create new forms of their political participation.[[54]](#footnote-54) Other authors such as K. Carroll[[55]](#footnote-55), T. Desrues[[56]](#footnote-56), N. Diuk[[57]](#footnote-57) suggest that the EU should focus on attracting young people into the political process as, first of all, voters and activists of various social movements .

Many youth policy experts believe that the most effective way to revitalize and normalize the political participation of youth could be the strengthening of the work of various European youth forums and councils that could become a platform for the expression of their political will.[[58]](#footnote-58) It should be noted that this way is selected by the EU, as the most optimal for today.

In addition to the European Youth Forum, working within the EU, in Europe there is the so-called European Youth Parliament (EYP), established in 1987. Currently, the European Youth Parliament is a project of Schwarzkopf Foundation "Young Europe" and operates under the patronage of the President of the European Parliament and of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The organization has national offices in most European countries, and is a kind of discussion platform for young people aged from 16 to 22. Parliament is composed of 32 national associations and organizations in which thousands of young people are working on a voluntary basis. The main objective of the Parliament - the involvement of youth in the process of European integration and support for youth interests at the international level[[59]](#footnote-59). According to the basic idea of the creation of the Parliament, it is “a form of hands-on training, allowing young people from across Europe to better understand each other and outlook of other nations, to learn to respect these differences and work together for the common good”[[60]](#footnote-60).

“The development of youth parliamentarism is now a major focus of the majority of European Member States. Despite that fact, we are talking mostly about play in politics than about the actual legislative activity, however, the mechanism of political socialization of youth has a high educational potential”[[61]](#footnote-61).

In addition to the Youth Forum, the EU countries are actively developing other forms of management of youth inclusion into the public space. Thus, “the general trend of the implementation of youth policy in the developed European countries (Germany, UK, France, Spain and others) is a broad involvement of civil society organizations to address the problems of different categories of young people, along with the active participation of government agencies in the process. Today, it is the youth NGO system that plays a key role in the implementation of youth policy in any of its levels (national, regional, and local). Youth NGOs are essential in the life of Western civil society. For example, in Sweden they cover about three quarters of all young people”[[62]](#footnote-62).

In modern Europe, and in particular within the European Union, a comprehensive management model of youth policy is being implemented, which includes an extensive network of institutions and organizations responsible for these or other activities. Of course, the key decisions in the field of youth policy shall be adopted at the Council of Europe’s level, as well as the governing bodies of the European Union. However, to their discussion and recommendations politicians try to actively involve European youth, being a member of the various institutional groupings such as the European Youth Forum and the European Youth Parliament.

**European youth identity**

Youth policy, implemented in the framework of European integration association, is considered to be today the most developed and efficient in the world. Central to the system of international institutions occupy European youth policy institutions, understanding of the basic principles and study of the experience that may be significant, for example, for the development of an effective national youth policy of Russia in the long term. Particular attention in the development of a pan-European youth policy is focused on the process of formation of the European youth identity in connection with the expansion of educational opportunities and opportunities for cultural and spiritual development of the social system: European young people are more "European" than previous generations. Accordingly, they can become the main driver of the new stage of European integration processes.

In the process of elaboration and implementation of a common policy in relation to European youth were taken into account the principles and provisions of the official legal documents of the united Europe.

Treaty about the establishment of the European Union is largely predetermined the main Community priorities in the field of education, training and youth policy. In particular, it fixed basic purpose of the community in the direction of ensuring the quality of education. It encourages and supports youth exchanges and exchanges of teachers and social and educational institutions and services; notes the need to strengthen the cooperation of the Community and the Member States with third countries and the competent international organizations in the field of education and youth policy[[63]](#footnote-63).

Not only the Open Method of Coordination, but the European Youth Pact, adopted by the European Council of the EU in 2005, showed that, on the one hand, an effective partnership between young people and their organizations is required. On the other hand - with the institutions of the European community as a supranational union, if there is a determination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, which would ensure the integration of the real interests of young people. Political events affecting the interests of young people, in this case, should have the proper orientation.

Communication from the Commission of EU "Support for the full participation of youth in education, employment and society", adopted in 2007, contains the basic principles and prospects of the development of the EU youth policy, emphasizes the need to promote and support young financial assistance to Europeans with a view to improving the level of education, reducing unemployment, social participation and active citizenship "to support young people and creating favorable conditions for the development of their ability to work and to participate actively in public life is an essential element of economic and social stability of the European Union, particularly in the context of the globalization process, and based on knowledge economy, as well as in an aging society, where the determining factor is the young man and the opportunities available to him to achieve its potential "[[64]](#footnote-64).

In 2009, the European Commission adopted a new EU strategy for youth policy until 2018 and it was named "Youth - investing and empowering"[[65]](#footnote-65).  The document stresses that youth is one of the most vulnerable groups in society, particularly in the context of the global financial and economic crisis and an aging society in Europe is an essential resource.

The strategy contains a cross-sectoral approach, involves short-term and long-term measures on key areas of youth policies: education, employment, creativity and entrepreneurship, social inclusion, health, sports, public participation and volunteerism. The document emphasizes the important role of youth policy in the European Union functioning, and measures to enhance its effectiveness in the member countries of the European community.

The strategy "Youth - Investing and empowering 'involves two-pronged approach:

- Investment in youth lead to an increase in the level of resources provided for the development of industries that have a daily impact on young people and ensure their well-being;

- Empowering Youth rights and powers through the development and use of the potential of young people in the renewal of society and the implementation of European goals and values.

Among the priorities for the development of youth participation in the EU in the near future there are:

- Ensuring full participation of youth in the community through its involvement in public life at local and regional levels;

- The involvement of youth in the process of its participation in various forms of

Participatory Democracy;

- Support of youth organizations and other forms of education;

- Promote the participation of non-organized young people;

- Ensuring the quality of information services.

To achieve the objectives the European Commission outlined the action plan for the short term, where among other things can be distinguished:

- The development of quality standards of youth participation, information and consultation;

- Further political and financial support to youth organizations, national and local youth parliaments;

- Further development of opportunities for dialogue between European, national institutions and young people.

Commenting on the new EU strategy for youth, the European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth J. Figel 'said that young people are the present and future of Europe. EU institutions should provide support for young people with difficulties that they face today in the era of globalization. The new strategy is a timely response to the challenges faced by young people, and it opens doors to a new era of development of youth policies at the EU level[[66]](#footnote-66).

One of the main instruments in the implementation of youth policy in the member countries of the European Union until the beginning of 2014 was the program "Youth in Action", which took into account the key priorities of youth policy in Europe: European citizenship, youth participation, cultural diversity, the involvement of young people with disabilities. Among the main objectives of the program reflected in the relevant projects and programs, the following stand out:

- Support for the formation of young people as a category of active citizens in the broadest sense, the development of self-consciousness of young citizens of Europe;

- Support for a tolerant way of thinking among young people, with an emphasis on increasing social interaction within the framework of the European community;

- Improvement of mutual understanding among young people from different cultures;

- Motivation to improve the quality of activities aimed at supporting youth activities and to ensure the continuous activity of the organizations associated with the implementation of youth policy;

- Support for joint activities in the field of youth work in Europe[[67]](#footnote-67).

In 2014, the program "Youth in Action" along with six other activities (including education, training, sport, etc.) has been merged into a single European Union action program, called "Erasmus Plus" and calculated on 2014- 2020.

Vectors of the EU's new program includes the decentralized and centralized programs. The first are managed by the national agencies of the participating countries implementing a particular routine within the "Erasmus Plus", the second - at the European level through the operation of the specialized pan-European body - the Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture, located in Brussels.

Among the key objectives of the Programme "Erasmus Plus" for young people must be the following:

- Strengthening cooperation and exchanges between the participants of the Program and Partner countries from different regions of the world;

- Improving the quality and recognition of youth work, non-formal education and voluntary activities in the partner countries, improving their interaction, integration and complementarity with other educational systems, labor markets and society;

- Promoting the transnational mobility of non-formal education programs between the participants and the partner countries;

- Deepening the strategic cooperation between youth organizations and public authorities of the partner countries, representatives of business and labor market;

- Expanding opportunities for youth councils and youth platforms at the local, regional and national levels;

- Strengthening cooperation in management, innovation and internationalization capabilities of youth organizations in the partner countries;

- Empowerment of young people in society, facilitation of their participation in decision-making processes[[68]](#footnote-68).

It should be noted that, despite the contiguity of the activities in the development and implementation of youth policy, the activities of the European Communities and the Council of Europe is significantly differentiated in the mechanism of realization of these directions. So, for example, the Council of Europe seeks to pay great attention to the research and educational activities, as well as interstate cooperation of the state’s parties, and the European Union, having significant financial opportunities, has chosen the main instrument of centralized operation of the production program of action. However, this differentiation opened a number of additional opportunities in the cooperation between the EU and the Council of Europe, including those relating to complementary agendas, creating a positive trend in the overall development of the most efficient and flexible strategy towards youth in the medium- and long-term perspective.

At the initial stage, cooperation was aimed, primarily, on the development and practical implementation of the overall agreement, replacing a number of existing agreements in the relevant areas of activity. The parties entered into a special agreement on ongoing activities and funding framework, and discussed common goals: citizenship, participation, education for human rights, intercultural dialogue; social cohesion, inclusion, equality of opportunity; quality, recognition and visibility of youth work and training; greater knowledge about youth and development of youth policy[[69]](#footnote-69).

Thus, the Council of Europe in partnership with the European Commission and the European Youth Forum have organized different programs: "Movement against language and hate," "All are equal. All are different" "Youth Partnership" within the framework of cooperation with eight resource centers "Salta" (support, in-depth study, training in the framework of the European youth program - and the implementation of programs), various European youth educational programs and others events.

In addition, there are many specialized agencies dealing with development and implementation of European youth policy. For example, the European youth information and advisory agency, including representatives of national youth information and coordinating centers and networks involved in the intensification and deepening of information support in the field of pan-European youth policy;

Youth information center "Eurodesk" gives young people the EU Member States, EFTA and Turkey access to information relating to European policies, opportunities open to young people and for those who will directly interact with it.

It should be noted, that during the past years, the partnership between the European Communities and the Council of Europe systematically developed and strengthened and currently is a component, without which it is impossible to present a complete and effective system of European youth policy. The European institutional system of youth policy has come a long way of formation and development, and today appears to us as an effective mechanism for the implementation of youth policies in the region. Changes in the management of the youth sector today pose new European requirements and the task of creating the necessary conditions and opportunities for an effective national and European youth policy, as well as full self-realization of young people and their integration into society. And depending on whether flexible, efficient and transforming the European Union’s policy would be, will depend, first of all, the level of integration of young people in social and political life of society - in particular, the formation of a stable, healthy and prosperous European society - as a whole.

**The new political cycle**

The world is changing. In the general context of the demographic changes in Europe caused by a decline in the birth rate, and also due to the particularly high level of youth unemployment, "youth" has become a political priority not only in traditional areas such as education, youth protection and sport, but also in all social spheres: health care, employment, social integration, culture, etc. Modern globalization, creating new opportunities and enriching European diversity, also generates new problems, for example, in terms of social cohesion or quality of life.

Young people are changing too. Youth is not a static, single group. The values, needs and expectations of youth are constantly evolving. Young people want to be heard and use their energy to feel differences, participate and be involved. They have new opportunities, for example, for training and travel abroad, as well as new means - such as mobile phones and the Internet.

Unequal access to new opportunities increases the gap. Some groups of young people, for example, with fewer opportunities, experience more difficulties to find their place in society. The areas of the social activity aimed at better professional and social integration for those young people who have less opportunities should be broad and multifaceted, as there are many risks, causes and forms of isolation: poverty, difficult family context, problems of physical and mental health, disability, life in disadvantaged urban or rural areas, ethnic origin, poor school performance, dependency, prisoners.

After 2001, significant progress was made, but the political situation has changed, and many new issues have arisen that cannot be equally worked out. Therefore, it is extremely important to establish priorities of the European framework cooperation on youth policy, and the European Commission in April 2009 has approved a new strategy for youth policy “Youth - investing and empowering”[[70]](#footnote-70) in the coming years. The strategy recognizes that young people are the most vulnerable group of the society, especially during the economic and financial crisis, and in our aging society, young people are a valuable resource. The new strategy is based on a cross-sectoral approach and includes both short-term and long-term measures in the areas of education, employment, creativity, entrepreneurship, social inclusion, health, sport, civic engagement and volunteering. The new strategy emphasizes the importance of youth work and determines the measures for better implementation of youth policy in the European Union.

The objectives of the new strategy are:

* Creating greater opportunities for young people in education and employment;
* Improving access and full participation of young people in the society;
* Promoting solidarity between youth and society.

Creating greater opportunities for youth in education and employment

Activity Area 1: Education

Purpose: In addition to formal education, informal education for young people should be supported, developing its quality, recognizing its results and integrating it into formal education. Non-formal education contributes greatly to the "lifelong learning" strategy in Europe.

Activity Area 2: Employment

Objective: The actions of member countries in the field of employment policy should be coordinated by the four components of the balance of job security and labor market flexibility in order to facilitate the transition from school to work and from passivity (without work) to work. Starting to work, young people should be able to move up the career ladder. Increase and improve investment in the training of young people in such occupations as are required in the labor market.

Activity Area 3: Creativity and Entrepreneurship

Purpose: The development of talent, creative skills, entrepreneurial mentality, and cultural expression in young people should be encouraged.

Improving access and full participation of young people in society

Activity Area 4: Health & Fitness

Objective: To promote healthy lifestyles among young people and physical education, sports activities, interaction between youth workers, sports organizations and health professionals to prevent and treat obesity, bodily harm, drug abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, and support mental and sexual health.

Activity Area 5: Participation

Objective: To ensure the full participation of young people in society through the participation of young people in the civil life of local communities, supporting youth organizations, encouraging the participation of unorganized youth and providing high-quality information services.

Promoting solidarity between youth and society.

Activity Area 6: Social exclusion

Objective: To prevent poverty and social exclusion among youth groups and to destroy their intergenerational transmission, involving all possible actors (teachers, social workers, youth workers, young people themselves, the police, law enforcement agencies ...)

7 Field of activity: Volunteering

Goal: Developing greater opportunities for volunteering, recognizing volunteerism as an important form of non-formal education and enhancing the international mobility of young volunteers.

8 Scope of activity: Youth and the World

Mobilize young people in the process of developing global policies at all levels (local, national and international), using existing youth networks and tools (eg. Structured dialogue) and global decision-making.

The strategy emphasizes the role of youth work in addressing the problems of unemployment, social exclusion and non-attendance of the school, as well as in improving practical knowledge and leisure activities. The Commission proposed to use the intersectoral approach when implementing the strategy. The strategy introduces a new, more flexible and simple method of coordinating youth policies among member countries.

**Resolution on the revised basis of European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018.)[[71]](#footnote-71),** published by the Council of the European Union in November 2009

This document is largely based on the new EU youth strategy "EU Strategy for Youth - Investing and Empowering". The foundations of European cooperation in the youth sphere once again highlight those areas of activity that are of priority for the EU youth policy for the period 2010-2018:

1. Education

2. Employment and entrepreneurship

3. Creativity and Culture

4. Health and Sport

5. Participation

6. Social inclusion

7. Volunteering

8. Youth and Peace

The foundations emphasize that the EU's youth policy should be based on the international human rights system. The following principles should be fundamental:

• Promoting gender equality and combating all forms of discrimination, respect for rights and observance of the principles set forth in articles 21 and 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;

• taking into account differences in the living conditions, needs, aspirations, interests and opinions of young people, giving special attention to those whose opportunities are less than those of others;

• recognition of youth as a resource for the development of society, respect for the rights of young people to participate in the development of youth policy, continuous dialogue and communication with youth and youth organizations.

In addition, the document emphasizes that the success of an open method of coordination in the youth sphere depends on the political responsibility of the EU member states and effective working methods at the national and European levels. Proceeding from this, the methods of work within the framework of European cooperation should be based on the following principles:

1. **Stages:** the period up to 2018 is divided into three-year phase.

2. **Priorities:** For each stage defines a set of priorities for European cooperation, promote the development of areas of activity specified in the Principles. Priorities are adopted by the Council of Europe on the basis of the recommendations of the joint report of the Council and the European Commission, in cooperation with representatives of countries presiding in the Council of Europe at the appropriate three-year stage.

3. **Efficiency and specific tools:** for the effective implementation of the objectives of the foundation for the cooperation should be developed as specific instruments applicable to the youth, as well as tools for other policy areas relevant to young people.

Analysis of the documents on the youth policy of the European Union shows that the youth is turned, by the European politicians, among the most important social groups of modern Europe. In addition, youth policy is directed not only at youth development, but also has a significant political component. European Union at national and local level tries to address youth issues and problems; we see plenty of existing document, frameworks and plans. This means that youth policy became one of the main priorities within the EU.

**CHAPTER 2. THE INSTITUTIONS OF YOUTH POLICY IN EUROPE: EVOLUTION AND CURRENT MECHANISM**

European youth policy is the most developed in the modern system of political and international relations, and practices involved in the implementation of the European youth policy, public institutions and young people considered to be one of the most successful in terms of efficiency.

The practice of recent decades proves that strategic advantage in a rapidly changing world will have those companies that can effectively collect and productively use a human capital, as well as an innovative development potential, which is the main carrier of the youth.

Young people - one of the few positive forces in society, which has unlimited potential to contribute to its development and progress. According to the UN criteria, youth are people between the ages of 15 to 25 years. This represents approximately 18% of the total world population. However, the precise determination of who applies to youth still is not specified, that creates some difficulties and additional interest in the study of the problems of youth and the youth sector[[72]](#footnote-72).

Currently, the concept of 'youth', used in foreign countries, is determined on the basis of the different components and approaches, which are of a great importance to not only have age limits, but also a set of separate individual and / or group characteristics, qualities and features. Youth - is not only a social and age group of the population aged 14-30 and 15-25 years (in different countries are different age limits), but also the object of national interests, one of the strategic resources of the country, being able to create and promote the development of innovation, play material and intellectual resources.

In today's world, growing international ties of youth are diverse and can be considered, in particular, as the formation of a new youth protection, which has social, humanitarian borders, internal and external dependencies, a set of institutions and mechanisms for cooperation and development. The practice of the last few decades, full of social and political changes in the world, showed that modern youth environment is a significant factor that influence social and cultural space. Under international youth, we mean part of the world with which young people are actively interacting, using collective forms of manifestation, demonstrating a willingness to focus state actors and institutions of the international community to the urgent problems of the youth[[73]](#footnote-73).

History is known for a number of socially significant events in Europe, in which an important role was played by the youth that proves the existence of problems and challenges associated with the development of the younger generation and the relevance of the adoption of various international programs aimed at solving the problems of youth. In this regard, a set of specific youth problems and their solutions, today demands a more active, focused attention of the state and the international community.

In the context of the internationalization, youth forms an environment in Europe, it is part of social and cultural space in which increasing attention goes to the problems of effective cooperation in the humanitarian sphere[[74]](#footnote-74).

It is highly important to understand the meaning of countervailing trends that are taking place among youth resulting from consequences of active communication of subjects of humanitarian cooperation by the international youth programs. Today, at the level of states and the international community the major programs and projects that are aimed at solving the most important problems of the younger generations are accepted to develop youth environment. In this regard, a number of programs of the European Union (EU) as one of the most progressive social and political institution of the modern world, aims to expand the geography of humanitarian cooperation with young people. Along with other problems of the youth environment, issues of attracting and expanding its access to culture and cultural values, and support for international youth cooperation are most frequent for European Union[[75]](#footnote-75).

Young people have always been active, trying to find their role in the socio-political relations, but exactly in the 21st century, the sphere of international activities of the younger generation institutionalized. To develop youth environment, the programs and projects, which are aimed at solving the most important problems of the younger generations, and the inclusion of young people in the "real" policy, were accepted at the level of states and international community. Moreover, it is often the development of these programs contributes to greater dialogue between young people from different countries. Today, it is European Union, who pays attention to youth diplomacy and tries to develop it through different tools.

It should be noted that the combined trend towards the formation of a unified youth protection in the EU actively began at the turn of 80-90s. Over time, both the content and form of the implemented programs have changed and evolved.

In 2009, the Council endorsed a renewed framework for **European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018), also known as the EU Youth Strategy.**[[76]](#footnote-76) The period covered by the framework is divided into three-year work cycles. At the end of each cycle, a European Union (EU) Youth Report should be drawn up by the Commission. The Council specified that the report ‘shall consist of two parts: A joint Council-Commission report (political part), and supporting documents (statistical and analytical part).

According to the 2015 EU Youth Report, the vast majority of EU-countries mention the existence of a specific youth strategy; this trend already present in 2012 is clearly confirmed for 2015. Only Cyprus and Greece declare that they do not have a youth strategy.

**Table 1: Overview of youth strategies**

|  |
| --- |
| National youth strategies |
| Belgium | German-speaking Community: Jugendstrategieplan (Youth Strategy Plan) 2013-2015 (effective) and 2016-2020 adopted by the Parliament of the German-speaking Community on 26 January 2015 French Community: Plan Jeunesse 12-25 ans (Youth Plan 12-25) www.plan12-25.be – project in stand-by Flemish Community: Vlaams Jeugdbeleidsplan 2011-2014 (Flemish Youth Policy Plan 2011-2014) <http://www.sociaalcultureel.be/jeugd/vjkb.aspx> |
| Bulgaria | Council of Ministers’ Decision of 6 October 2010 for the adoption of National Youth Strategy (2010- 2020) www.mpes.government.bg |
| Czech Republic | Koncepce podpory mládeže na období 2014-2020 (National Youth Strategy for 2014-2020) adopted by the Government of the Czech Republic, Decree No 342 of 12 May 2014 http://www.msmt.cz/file/33599/ Koncepce státní politiky pro oblast dětí a mládeže na období 2007-2013 (Government policy on children and young people for 2007-2013) adopted by the Government of the Czech Republic, Decree No 611 of 4 June 2007 http://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/zakladni-vzdelavani/koncepce-statni-politiky-pro-oblast-deti-amladeze-na-obdobi |
| Denmark | Youth Package 1 + 2, Youth Package 3 (2012-2016) – also local youth strategies with general focus on young people’s well-being and early intervention |
| Germany | Entwicklung einer Eigenständigen Jugendpolitik, Phase I (ab 1.10.2011) (Development of a modern Youth Policy) http://www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/Kinder-und-Jugend/eigenstaendige-jugendpolitik.html Phase II (ab 30.10.2014): Umsetzung der Eigenständigen Jugendpolitik „Handeln für eine jugendgerechte Gesellschaft“ (Implementation of the modern Youth Policy ‘Acting for a child- and youth-friendly society’) |
| Estonia | Noorsootöö strateegia 2006-2013 (Estonian Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013) <http://www.hm.ee/sites/default/files/noorsootoo_strateegia_eng.pdf> |
| Ireland | Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020 http://www.dcya.gov.ie/documents/cypp\_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf The Government, in partnership with stakeholders, is developing a National Youth Strategy for 2015- 2020 which will have its basis in the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People. |
| Greece | No youth strategy as such |
| Spain | Youth Strategy 2020 – approved by the Spanish Government on 12 September 2014 |
| France | Plan priorité jeunesse (Youth Priority Plan) www.jeunes.gouv.fr |
| Croatia | Nacionalni program za mlade za razdoblje od 2014. do 2017. (National Youth Programme 2014- 2017) http://www.mspm.hr/novosti/vijesti/nacionalni\_program\_za\_mlade\_za\_razdoblje\_od\_2014\_do\_2017\_ godine Former programmes: Nacionalni program djelovanja za mlade od 2003. do 2008. godine (National Programme of Action for Youth 2003-2008); Nacionalni program za mlade od 2009. do 2013. godine (National Youth Programme 2009-2013) |
| Italy | Diritto al futuro (Right to the future) http://www.diamoglifuturo.it/ |
| Cyprus | No youth strategy as such |
| Latvia | Jaunatnes politikas pamatnostādnes 2009. - 2018.gadam (Youth Policy Guidelines for 2009-2018) http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=2994 |
| Lithuania | Order No A1-660 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 4 December 2013 ‘On the Approval of the Action Plan 2014-2016 for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy Development Programme 2011-2019’ The Action Plan of Strengthening Regional Youth Policy for 2015-2017 was approved by the Order of Minister of Social Security and Labour on 9 January 2015 No A1-11 Dėl Regioninės jaunimo politikos stiprinimo 2015-2017 metų veiksmų plano patvirtinimo (Due to the Approval of the Action Plan of Strengthening Regional Youth Policy for 2015-2017) |
| Luxembourg | Pacte pour la Jeunesse 2012-2014 (2012-2014 Youth Pact) www.jugendpakt.lu |
| Hungary | National Youth Strategy – adopted by the Hungarian National Assembly in 2009 (88/2009) Action plan for 2014-2015 – adopted by the Government in 2014. (1847/2014 (XII.30.)) |
| Malta | National Youth Policy 2010-2013 http://cdn02.abakushost.com/agenzijazghazagh/downloads/0662\_001.pdf A Shared Vision for the Future of Young People. Draft National Youth Policy Framework 2015-2020 http://cdn02.abakushost.com/agenzijazghazagh/downloads/Draft\_National\_Youth\_Policy\_ Framework\_2015-2020\_Discussion\_Document.pdf |
| Netherlands | Beleidsbrief ‘Geen kind buiten spel’ (No child excluded) http://www.voordejeugd.nl/ondersteuning/downloads/communicatie-met-de-tweede-kamer |
| Austria | Austrian Youth Strategy introduced in 2012 http://www.bmfj.gv.at/ministerium/jugendstrategie/dokumentation-jugendstrategie/publikationen.html |
| Poland | A specific Youth Strategy was in force between 2003 and 2013 Report on Youth 2011 http://zds.kprm.gov.pl/sites/default/files/youth\_2011\_internet.pdf Currently, the system of development strategies includes 9 integrated strategies and 2 principal documents, defining the medium- and long-term development strategy of the country. The integrated strategies are thematically related to key policy areas of the Government. None of those documents is devoted to a particular social group. Issues related to education and youth are included in a horizontal manner in all these documents. |
| Portugal | Laws on IPDJ: Dec lei 98/2011 21 sept; Dec lei 132/2014 3 sept 11/2012 11jan; Livro Branco (White Paper on Youth): Resolução 11/2013 youth organisations laws Dec lei 23/2006 23 jun and dec lei 40/2006 24 aug Livro Branco da Juventude (White Paper on Youth) was developed between 2012 and 2014 and is to be published in 2015. Young people and representative structures have been consulted to draw up a document at national level to define a global strategy and an action plan in the youth field. http://microsites.juventude.gov.pt/Portal/LBJ/OQueE/ |
| Romania | National Strategy for Youth Policy 2015-2020 |
| Slovenia | Resolution on the National Programme for Youth – adopted in 2013 |
| Slovakia | Stratégia Slovenskej republiky pre mládež na roky 2014-2020. (Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Youth 2014-2020) http://www.rokovania.sk/File.aspx/ViewDocumentHtml/Mater-Dokum-164154?prefixFile=m\_ |
| Sweden | Med fokus på unga – en politik för goda levnadsvillkor, makt och inflytande (Focus on young people – a policy for good living conditions, power and influence) (new bill) http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/108/a/236143 |
| Finland | Lapsi- ja nuorisopolitiikan kehittämisohjelma 2012-2015 (Child and Youth Policy Programme 2012- 2015) http://www.minedu.fi/export/sites/default/OPM/Julkaisut/2012/liitteet/OKM8.pdf?lang=en Lapsi- ja nuorisopolitiikan kehittämisohjelma 2007-2011 (The Finnish Government’s Child and Youth Policy Programme 2007-2011) http://www.minedu.fi/export/sites/default/OPM/Julkaisut/2008/liitteet/opm21.pdf?lang=f |
| United Kingdom | England: Positive for Youth www.education.gov.uk/positiveforyouth Northern Ireland: Priorities for Youth – Improving Young People’s Lives through Youth Work (October 2013) http://www.deni.gov.uk/19-priorities-for-youth.htm Scotland: Our Ambitions for improving the life chances of young people in Scotland: National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019 http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/communitylearninganddevelopment/youngpeople/youthwork/ strategy/index.asp Wales: The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en |

From 1 January 2007, a new youth program aimed at supporting youth initiatives and joint international projects - the **“Youth in Action”** was launched. This program has been working for the period from 2007 to 2013. "Youth in Action" was the successor of the program "Youth 2000-2006" and was the result of lengthy consultations and discussions among all stakeholders[[77]](#footnote-77). Due to this, it was most suitable for the changing needs of European youth. The main objective of the program was aimed at promoting an active life position among young people, promoting tolerance and the involvement of young people in the formation of European policies, including a new youth. Since the program covered not only the EU Member States, but maintained cooperation with so-called neighboring partner countries - Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Moldova and others, this gave ground for the development of intercultural dialogue, and not just within a single EU, but also beyond. Involvement of youth projects and activities, regardless of social status, origin, education, and any other factors was the main feature of this program.

The spectrum of the issues under the program were extremely broad. In particular, the promotion of world peace through the encouragement of dialogue, tolerance and solidarity among young people, creating a long-term, strong partnership, the development of the voluntary sector and civil society in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, and others. All this made it possible to cover the most urgent problems of the youth.

This Program implemented five areas. This is the "Youth for Europe", "European Volunteer Service", "Youth in the world", "Help System of Youth", "Support for European cooperation in the youth"[[78]](#footnote-78)

Youth programs are an integral part of foreign cultural policy of the EU, and their realization is defined as short-term and long-term action in an organized youth. In this context, the "Youth in Action" greatly enhances not only the development of cooperation between young people from the partner countries, but in fact, creates a qualitatively new favorable conditions for the formation of a new international largely loyal youth. Through youth programs of the EU, organizations and institutions of youth as an institutional mechanism had the opportunity to actively influence the formation of this environment and gradually integrate into the sphere of European youth platform.

Another program aiming to promote youth diplomacy and cooperation is called OYED[[79]](#footnote-79). This program was formed under Academy of Cultural Diplomacy. **“The Cultural Diplomacy in Europe Program”** was established by the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy to strengthen relations between cultural groups and countries within Europe, to improve relations between Europe and other regions, and to support Europe in playing a more influential, constructive role in addressing global challenges[[80]](#footnote-80).

Cultural Diplomacy in Europe pursues the following five specific aims:

* To improve intercultural understanding between cultural groups and nation states at the grass roots level.
* To increase academic, artists, scientific, and cultural exchange between European countries.
* To improve economic, political, and cultural relations between Europe and other regions.
* To strengthen Europe’s capacity to promote human rights and generate consensus in the pursuit of global public goods.

 The **Organization for Youth Education & Development (OYED)** operates under the legal framework of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy and was organized in cooperation with national governments. The Organization is dedicated to the creation, promotion and execution of youth-oriented education and development programs. Over the past decade, the OYED has managed to bring thousands of young people together from every corner of the world to discuss and promote issues that are vital to the younger generation, and has grown to become one of Europe’s largest independent cultural exchange organizations, whose programs facilitate interaction between individuals of all backgrounds from across the world.

OYED has dedicated itself to the promotion and empowerment of young leadership initiatives in order to influence the next generation of global leaders worldwide. The OYED believes that the youth are the future and supporting the world’s young people is both an urgent and global priority.

The major objectives of the OYED are to promote and empower the world’s young people through the application of cultural diplomacy initiatives at the local, national and international levels. The OYED serves as a platform to promote and sustain inter-cultural dialogue at all levels and by doing so promotes specific educational and professional opportunities for youth.

In order to do achieve goals the OYED organizes activities, which include the following[[81]](#footnote-81):

1. International Conferences & Events;
2. Young Leaders’ Forums ;
3. Youth Initiatives ;
4. Internship Project;
5. Research & Development/

In addition, to encourage independent thinking and initiative in young people and facilitate the learning of crucial social and professional skills European Youth Parliament (EYP) was established. EYP is a non-partisan and independent educational programme for young European citizens.

Its mission is to support the development of young people into politically aware and responsible citizens by involving them in European political thinking and promoting intercultural understanding.

Since it was conceived in 1987, hundreds of thousands of young people have taken part in regional, national and international sessions, formed friendships and made international contacts across and beyond borders. The EYP has thus made a vital contribution towards European unity and bridging gaps between cultures.

Today the EYP is one of the largest European platforms for political debate, intercultural encounters, European civic education and the exchange of ideas among young people in Europe. The EYP network is present in 39 European countries, where thousands of young people are active as volunteers. The entire network organises almost 500 events every year.

Over **28.000 participants** experience European political debates and intercultural exchange every year. Participants improve their language skills and learn to work in an **international environment**. All events are organized and conducted by young EYP alumni**, by young people for young people.**

**Program "Youth in Action"[[82]](#footnote-82) as a mechanism for implementing youth policy in the European Union**

The program "Youth in Action" was approved on November 15, 2006 by Decision No. 1719/2006 / EU of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. It is the legislative base for supporting the informal education of young people in Europe. The program was implemented from 2007 to 2013.

The program "Youth in Action" was based on the experience of the programs "Youth for Europe" (1989-1999), the European Volunteer Service and the "Youth" program (2000-2006). This program was proposed by the Commission after numerous consultations with various organizations working in the youth field.

The main priority of the "Youth in Action" program is to involve young people in democratic life and encourage them to participate actively in public life. These goals have three main dimensions, determined by the decision of the Council of Ministers of the EU on the basis of the main tasks of working with young people:

* Increasing the level of youth participation in the civil life of their communities;
* Increasing the level of youth participation in the system of representative democracy;
* Support for various forms of education for young people regarding opportunities for participation in society.

The projects of the "Youth in Action" Program should reflect these three directions through the use of the principle of participation as an educational principle during the implementation of projects.

Cultural diversity

Respect for cultural characteristics, as well as counteraction to racism and xenophobia, is the main priority of the "Youth in Action" Program. By promoting activities in which young people of different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds participate, the Program promotes the development of intercultural education for young people.

Involving youth with disabilities

Young people with disabilities are those who, compared to other peers, face barriers or are in situations that do not allow adequate access to formal or informal education, transnational mobility, active citizenship, the acquisition of knowledge and skills, integration and Etc. Youth groups and organizations should focus their efforts to prevent the alienation of specific target groups. Every effort have to be done to involve young people with disabilities.

In addition to the principle of general accessibility, the Program "Youth in Action", was making its contribution to social cohesion, and became an instrument of social integration, active citizenship and increasing the employment of young people with disabilities.

**Characteristic features of the program**.

Non-formal education

The program "Youth in Action" gives young people the opportunity to gain skills. It is a tool for informal and non-formal education in Europe. Non-formal education refers to learning that occurs outside the formal education system. Young people are involved in the process of non-formal education on a voluntary basis, but the process itself is planned and aimed at personal and social development of young people.

Non-formal education refers to learning in everyday life, at work, in the family, during leisure. Basically, this training is in practice. In the youth sector, non-formal education is carried out through youth initiatives and when organizing leisure activities, in volunteering and working with peer groups.

Informal and non-formal education provides an opportunity to gain important skills, to feel their own personal growth, create prerequisites for social integration and active citizenship, and, therefore, improve the opportunities for youth employment.

Youth passport

Everyone who takes part in the projects of the "Youth in Action" Program receives a "Youth Passport" certificate, which outlines the experience of informal and non-formal education that the participants received as a result of the project. Introducing the "Youth Passport", the European Commission guaranteed the recognition of the experience gained in the process of informal / informational education. This document can be applied to the subsequent education or employment of participants.

Visualization of the program "Youth in Action"

All projects funded under the "Youth in Action" Program have provided clear information about it and promoted the dissemination of information about it. Visualization of the Program means that during all events and on all materials that were produced in the framework of projects financed by the Program, it is necessary to point out the financial support of the European Union, including (if possible), it is necessary to place the logos of the European Union and the Program "Youth in Action ".

Dissemination and use of results

The process of dissemination and use of results means the optimization of their costs. This happens through the expansion of access and adaptation of results according to the needs of the new target groups. In the process of planning the dissemination and use of results, the needs of those who benefit from the project should be taken into account. Dissemination of results can be carried out individually (animation), or at the level of political spheres (definition of directions).

Animation is the use of the results of a previous project in a new one, that is, adaptation and adaptation to a new context. Defining areas of policy means a structured and planned process of reassuring decision makers that successful project outcomes should be systematically used at the local, national or European level.

No discrimination

The absence of discrimination is a key element. The program should be accessible to all without exception young people, without any discrimination based on gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or concession, physical disability or sexual discrimination.

Equality between women and men

The goal of the Program "Youth in Action" was to ensure the participation of an equal number of men and women not only on a global scale, but also in each of the under-shares. At the level of the structure of the Program, this means that it is necessary to carry out activities to increase interest, to attract representatives of gender less involved in each of the under-shares. In addition, the Program "Youth in Action" tried to support the theme of gender equality in projects. Organizations can implement projects that are directly related to gender (stereotypes, reproductive health, violence, etc.) or to use the principle of gender equality in the implementation of projects of different subjects.

Protection and safety of participants

The protection and safety of young people is an important principle of the "Youth in Action" Program. Every young person who was taking part in the "Youth in Action" Program had the opportunity to realize its potential in social, emotional and spiritual development. This was achieved only by creating a safe environment in which they respect and protect the rights of young people. Everyone who works with young people must ensure the safety of participants, have effective skills to protect and create a safe environment for young people. Thanks to this, young people were able to acquire the necessary experience in a safe and pleasant environment.

Variety of languages

In the communiqué of the European Commission "Multilingual Union", the Commission expressed its intention to use its programs to disseminate the idea of ​​the diversity of languages. This intention had a dual purpose: on the one hand, to promote the construction of a society that would take advantage of the diversity of languages, and on the other, encourage people to learn foreign languages. The program achieved these goals by creating opportunities for meeting young people of different nationalities who speak different languages. Despite the fact that "Youth in Action" was not a language program, it was a program of non-formal education that provided young people with an opportunity to get acquainted with other languages ​​and cultures.

**Budget and program implementation mechanisms**

The total budget of the "Youth in Action" Program (2007-2013) was 885,000,000 euros. The annual budget was established by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

To achieve its goals, the "Youth in Action" program had 5 operational subprograms, called Stocks.

**Action 1 - Youth for Europe**

Promotion 1 includes the following sub-Shares:

* Sub-Action 1.1.-YouthExchanges

Through youth exchanges, groups of young people from different countries between the ages of 13 and 25 had the opportunity to meet to learn more about other cultures and countries. Groups of young people jointly planed the holding of youth exchanges on topics that interest them.

* Sub-Action 1.2.- Youth initiatives

Within this sub-Action, group projects developed at the local, regional and national levels were supported. In addition, there was support for working networks of similar projects in different countries. The aim of such support was to strengthen the European dimension of the project, to strengthen cooperation and exchange of experience between young people. Youth initiatives were addressed to youth at the age of 18 to 30 years. Young people aged 15 to 18 were able to take part in such projects, accompanied by youth workers or coaches.

* Sub-Action 1.3.- Youth Democratic Projects

This group of events supported the participation of young people in the democratic life of their community at the local, regional, national or international level. This sub-Action was available for young people aged 13 to 30 years.

**Action 2 - European Volunteer Service (EVS - EVS)**

The aim of the European Voluntary Service is to support young people's participation in various forms of volunteer work in the European Union and beyond. In this action the youth aged 18-30 years involved in the collective or individual voluntary unpaid work.

**Action 3 - Youth in the World**

The campaign supports the following 3 sub-Shares:

* Sub-Action 3.1. - Cooperation with EU neighboring countries

Within this group supports projects with the neighboring countries covered by the European Neighborhood Policy, in particular, youth exchanges, training and networking projects in the field of youth work.

* Sub-Action 3.2. - Cooperation with other countries

This group of measures for cooperation in the field of youth, in particular, the exchange of experience in the partner countries and other countries of the world. This creates opportunities for youth exchanges and training courses for young people and youth workers, building partnerships and networks of youth organizations.

**Action 4 - Youth Support Systems**

Action 4 includes 8 sub-Shares.

* Sub-Action 4.1. - Support for organizations of European dimension, that operate in the youth field

Within this, sub-Shares are available for operating grants to NGOs working in the youth sector at European level, and strive to achieve common interests. This activity should be aimed at supporting young people's participation in public life and the promotion of European cooperation activities in the youth field.

* Sub-Action 4.2. - Support for the European Youth Forum

Annually provides grants to support existing programs of the European Youth Forum.

* Sub-Action 4.3. - Training and networking of youth organizations leaders

This sub-Action supports the training of youth leaders, especially in the field of exchange of experience, expertise and practical achievements, as well as activities which may lead to long-term high-quality projects, partnerships and networks.

* Sub-Action 4.4. - Projects aimed at innovation and improving the quality.

This sub-Action supports projects aimed at introducing, implementing and dissemination of innovative approaches in the youth field.

* Sub-Action 4.5. - Information activities for young people and youth leaders

Within this, sub-shares provided support activities of European and national scale, designed to provide access to information and communication services and increase youth participation in the preparation and dissemination of information product that is acceptable to the consumer and are designed for this target group. It also provides support for European, national, regional and local youth portals, which aim to disseminate specific youth information.

* Sub-Action 4.6. - Partnership

It provides funding for partnerships with regional or local authorities in the context of long-term development projects that integrate the various projects of the Program.

* Sub-Action 4.7. - Support for the structures of the Program

Funded programs management structure, mainly the National Agency.

* Sub-Action 4.8. - General evaluation of the Program

This sub-Action will be used by the Commission to fund seminars, colloquia and meetings, which are aimed at improving the implementation of the program and the evaluation of its results.

**Action 5 - Support for European cooperation in the youth field**

Action 5 is divided into 3 sub-Shares:

* Sub-Action 5.1. - Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy

This sub-Action supports cooperation, seminars and dialogue between young people, youth movement leaders and those responsible for youth policy. We are talking about the conferences, organized by the countries that the European Union Presidency and the European Youth Week.

* Sub-Action 5.2. - Support for activities in the area to learn more about the life of youth

This sub-Action supports the use of existing information on the priorities in the youth field, obtained by the method of open coordination.

* Sub-Action 5.3. - Cooperation with international organizations

This sub-Action aims to support the European Union's cooperation with international organizations working in the youth field, in particular the Council of Europe, the United Nations or its specialized agencies.

**European Commission**

The European Commission is responsible for the smooth implementation of the program "Youth in Action". It regulates the budget and sets priorities, identifies the target audience and the criteria of the Program, assesses the overall results and the development of the Program at European level.

The European Commission has overall responsibility for overseeing and coordinating the activities of national agencies. National agencies are national offices of the Program, which are created and supported by the authorities responsible for youth work, and are in every country participating in the program. The European Commission is working closely with the National Agencies and oversees their activities.

In its activities, the European Commission relies on the Executive Agency for audiovisual, educational and cultural issues.

**National agencies of the Program “Youth in Action”**

Implementation of the Program "Youth in Action" is predominantly decentralized in order to be closer to the direct beneficiary of the funds, and to adapt to the different national systems and situations in the youth field. Each country participating in the program established a National Agency.  Objectives of National Agencies:

* Collect and disseminate a variety of information about the program "Youth in Action";
* Transparent and impartial administration of the submitted project selection process, which will be funded at the national level;
* Ensuring effective administration;
* Development of cooperation with external entities to help implement the Program;
* Monitoring and evaluation of program implementation;
* Providing support to the participants and initiators of projects throughout the life of the project;
* Formation of an effective network of all national agencies and the Commission;
* Improvement Program visualization;
* Dissemination of information about the program and its results at the national level.

National agencies play an important role as intermediary structures for the development of youth work through:

* Creating opportunities to share experiences;
* Conduct training and gaining experience of non-formal education;
* Support values ​​such as social activity, cultural diversity and civic engagement;
* Supporting all kinds of youth structures and groups, especially non-organized groups;
* Promoting the recognition of non-formal education through the adoption of relevant legislation.

National agencies also act as a support structure for the system of European cooperation in the youth field.

**Project "Structured Dialogue" [[83]](#footnote-83)**

The Structured dialogue is a means of communication between young people and decision makers in order to implement the priorities of European cooperation on youth policy. The Structured dialogue is aimed at ensuring that the opinion of young people is heard in the process of developing and shaping European policies.

The Structured dialogue is a consultative process carried out by the European Commission, which aims to expand cooperation with civil society and receives information directly from the young, "first hand". The Structured dialogue consists of one main event - the European Youth Conference. The conference is organized by the country of the European Union presiding in the EU this year.

The current cycle lasts from 2016 to 2017. Currently, the thematic priority of the Project is "Enabling all young people to engage in a diverse, connected and inclusive Europe"

Basic methods and principles of the Structured Dialogue:

• The Structured dialogue is based on work cycles of 18 months and is set for this period by a common theme, corresponding to the European cooperation priorities. Each country presiding in the EU can also choose a specific theme related to the common theme, as a priority for the time of its chairmanship. The topic is approved by the EU Council of Ministers for Youth Affairs

• The Structured dialogue should include consultations with young people and youth organizations at the level of member states, at EU youth conferences organized by the countries presiding in the European Union, and within the framework of the European Youth Week.

Project participants:

The success of the Structured dialogue depends on the direct involvement of youth and youth organizations. During each 18-month project cycle, youth and youth organizations are consulted in all EU countries at the national level.

In each country, national working groups are organized to participate in the project, which include:

• Representatives of the Ministries of Youth Affairs

• National Youth Councils

• Local and regional Youth Councils

• youth organizations

• youth workers

• young people from all walks of life

• sociologists, psychologists and other researchers in the field of youth

The Council of Europe welcomes the transfer of a leading role in the working groups to the national Youth Councils. The task of national working groups is to ensure the participation of Member States in the development of the Structured dialogue;

Organization of the Project "Structured Dialogue":

Within each project cycle, at the first European Youth Conference, politicians and youth representatives agree on the basic principles for conducting national consultations organized in each EU country. The first conference of the current cycle was held in the Netherlands.

During the second Conference, the results of the national consultations are discussed and joint recommendations are formulated and approved aimed at increasing the participation of young people in the political processes of the EU. The second conference will be held in Slovakia.

At the third and final conference of the cycle, the final joint recommendations are discussed by the ministers for youth affairs of national governments.

The final recommendations form the basis of the Resolution addressed to European institutions and national authorities, which should be approved by the ministers of affairs at the end of the 18-month cycle.

The overall management of the Structured Dialogue process is carried out by the European Executive Committee (formed anew for each 18-month work cycle). This Committee includes:

• Representatives of the Ministries of Youth Affairs of the three countries presiding in the EU for this cycle

• Representatives of the national Youth Councils of the three countries presiding in the EU for this cycle

• Representatives of national agencies of the Erasmus + program of the three countries presiding in the EU for this cycle

• Representatives of the European Commission

• Representatives of the European Youth Forum

The Executive Committee forms an advisory structure with trainers and facilitators who will provide methodological support and ensure continuity in the organization of the Structured Dialogue at the level of all EU countries.

If necessary that young researchers and youth workers can also participate in the meetings of the European Executive Committee.

**Program "Erasmus +"[[84]](#footnote-84)**

"Erasmus +" is a program of the European Union aimed at supporting cooperation in higher education, vocational training, youth and sports. The program budget is 14.7 billion euros. This enables more than 4 million Europeans to learn, acquire new experience, and participate in the international volunteer movement.

The program is designed for 2014-2020. The Erasmus + program was formed in 2014 from the merger of seven EU programs:

• Continuing Education Program (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, Grundtvig and Jean Monnet)

• The Youth in Action program

• Five international cooperation programs (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink, program of cooperation with industrialized countries)

• New sport action (The new sport action).

In the framework of cooperation in the field of higher education in the Erasmus + the following main areas:

• **Key Action 1:** Learning Mobility of Individuals - new mobility opportunities for students and teachers

• **Key Action 2:** Cooperation for innovation and good practice - co-operation for the development of capacities of universities and exchange of best practices

• **Jean Monnet Activities** - wide opportunities for the development of European studies within the Jean Monnet sub-program.

The program is designed to be an effective tool to promote the development of human and social capital in Europe and beyond. The tasks of Erasmus + include the creation of a new quality of cooperation, as well as:

• use, dissemination and development of previously achieved results

• Promotion of new ideas and attraction of new participants from the sphere of labor and civil society

• creation and development of new forms of cooperation

• Strengthening of cooperation and academic exchanges between program participants and partner countries from different regions of the world;

• Improving the quality and recognition of youth work, non-formal education and voluntary activities in partner countries, enhancing their interaction, integration and complementarity with other educational systems, the labor market and society;

• promoting the transnational mobility of non-formal education between Program participants and partner countries;

• deepening of strategic cooperation between youth organizations and public authorities of the partner countries, representatives of business and labor market;

• Expanding opportunities for youth councils, youth platforms at the local, regional and national levels;

• strengthen cooperation in management, innovation and internationalization capabilities of youth organizations in the partner countries;

• empower young people to society, promote their participation in decision-making processes.

**Geography's «Erasmus +»:**

Compared to previous EU programs in the field of education, geography Erasmus + greatly expanded. Erasmus + includes the so-called "Program countries", which includes:

• EU Member States

• Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey

• «-partner countries", divided by the 13 geographic areas:

o Area 1: Western Balkans

o Area 2: Eastern Partnership countries

o Region 3: Southern Mediterranean countries

o Area 4: Russian Federation (the territory recognized by international law)

o and others including Central Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Caribbean.

**Youth policy of the Council of Europe.**

The Council of Europe is well integrated into the sphere of youth policy of the EU through the European Youth Centre of Knowledge - a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Directorate of Youth and Sport is part of the Directorate-General for Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe. Management is developing guidelines, programs and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local, national and European levels. It provides funding and educational support for international youth activities aimed at promoting active citizenship among young people, their mobility, and the values​of human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism. It seeks to compile and disseminate the experience and knowledge about the life situations, aspirations and ways of expression of young Europeans. The department also involves:

- **European Steering Committee for Youth** (CDEJ), which brings together representatives of ministries responsible for youth from 48 countries participating in the European Cultural Convention. Objectives and methods are similar to the Open Method of Coordination (EU), organizes regular meetings of specialized Ministers.

- **Advisory Council on Youth** includes 30 representatives of non-governmental youth organizations. It should provide opinions and suggestions from the youth NGOs on all the activities of the youth sector and ensure that young people participate in other activities of Council.

- **The Joint Council on Youth** is a joint decision-making body, uniting CDEJ and the Advisory Council together. It establishes the youth sector priorities, objectives and budget.

- **The Programming Committee on** **Youth** is a joint decision-making body, composed of 8 members from each of the CDEJ and the Advisory Council. It establishes, monitors and evaluates the program of the European Youth Centres and European Youth Foundation.

*European Youth Centres*

European Youth Centres (EYCs) in Strasbourg and Budapest are permanent structures for the implementation of Council of Europe's youth policy.

*European Youth Foundation*

European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe (EYF) provides financial support for European youth activities, with an annual budget of about € 3 million. It supports European youth activities organized by non-governmental youth organizations, networks and initiatives.

*Solidarity Fund of youth mobility.*

The Council of Europe and the International Union of Railways (UIC) was established on December 16, 1994 to support youth mobility. The fund caters solely category of needy youth or economically underdeveloped areas and is intended to cover rail (2nd class) of young people involved in international educational activities.

*Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth*

First European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth was held in Strasbourg in 1985. Since then, the ministers meet once every three year to exchange views and coordinate the national youth policy, and recommend joint action at European level, particularly in the area of ​​youth mobility, participation, information, consultation and research. One of the ministerial meetings took place in 2008 in Kiev. Final Declaration "The future of the Council of Europe Youth Policy: Agenda 2020" has fixed the main priorities.

**Priorities and programs.** The Joint Council on Youth Affairs under "Agenda 2020" approved the program of the youth sector for 2010-2012 "Developing European youth co-operation through youth policy, youth work and informal education", consisting of four basic areas (projects):1) "Rights and democracy: youth policy and youth work to promote the fundamental values of the Council of Europe." 2) "Living together in diverse societies: youth policy and youth work to promote intercultural dialogue." 3) "Social integration of young people." 4) "Policy approaches and tools for young people and children."

Priorities for 2010 are identified in the framework of each of these areas.

The Council of Europe (or rather the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe) is the author of one of the most authoritative European documents in the field of construction of youth policy at the local level - the Revised European Charter for youth participation in local and regional life. The most important provisions of the Charter for this work are given in Appendix 5.

The basis for cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Commission is a joint partnership agreement between the two institutions (1987). The agreement covers a wide area of ​​promoting pluralist democracy, the rule of law and human rights, as well as cooperation in the field of education and culture. The first concrete manifestation of the cooperation was an agreement (pact) with an emphasis on skills and education of young people and youth leaders, as well as ensuring the quality of services for young people. The pact "Training European youth workers and youth leaders" was supplemented in 2003 by two more covenants: "The Euro-Mediterranean youth co-operation" and "Youth research".

A single partnership agreement was signed in 2005 with the aim of creating a solid foundation for the joint development of a coherent strategy in the field of youth worker training, youth policy and youth research. Main goals of the partnership: to promote cooperation, complementarity and synergies, strengthen the impact on youth policy and activities in Europe and other states. This partnership agreement covers the period from 1 January 2007 - 31 December 2009 reported that the Commission and the Council of Europe intend to continue the partnership cooperation.

We can conclude that the EU is actively working on the development of Youth programmes not only within the European Union, but trying to involve different countries. It is important to mention that most of the programmes have political character that shows how European Union needs new minds, resources in the political sphere. In addition, youth programmes and scholarships have a goal to improve the image of the Union outside the EU and invite best from the young generation to be part of the European culture.

Today Youth programmes mostly directed to the Eastern Europe, Post-Soviet space and Russia, but in the future, they will cover bigger part of the world due to the fact that how shows the practice: youth diplomacy is a good source of public diplomacy.

**CHAPTER 3. CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS IN THE SPHERE OF THE EU YOUTH POLICY.**

Beyond the level of budgetary debt. Brexit. Billions for Greece. Migration crisis. The European Union is experiencing hard times in its 60th anniversary. In the EU countries populist influence is growing. In Austria, one of them almost became president, in the Netherlands - took second place in the parliamentary elections, in France had a real chance to become the head of state. In some countries of Eastern Europe, Eurosceptics are already in power - in Hungary and in Poland. And from Prague and Bratislava anti-European slogans sound.

In contrast to such an ugly portrait of the European Union, the results of a poll of young Europeans published by the German Bertelsmann-Stiftung Foundation and the Warsaw Institute for Public Policy (ISP) published in the six EU countries: Germany, Austria, and the states published on Tuesday, March 21 Visegrad group - Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic.

The demographic situation in the near future will have a decisive impact on the development of many countries and regions. Among the orientations for the successful fate of regional integration, in order for young people to become its agents, not to mention initiators, professional orientations are paramount. The success of any integration project is questioned with a high level of youth unemployment, a financial and economic crisis and a decline in management quality. Equally important are the political preferences for inclusion of young people in the regional integration processes, because the integration successes are determined by the political will of not only the leadership of states, but also mass movements, primarily youth. In the conditions of the postindustrial economy, the period for which the teenager goes from childhood to adulthood increases, which is caused by the complication of the division of labor and production processes characteristic of the economic model noted in the states successfully participating in the processes of regional economic integration.

Demographic influence on the economic situation is revealed in the territorial division of the home and work, the transfer of educational functions from the family, for a long time the former traditional carrier of the knowledge necessary for the life of luggage, not only to the school, but also to such institutions as the army, the church, public association, sports club. However, it can also be structures related to the criminal world, gambling and drug business, terrorist organizations. These institutions determine the nature of the social, economic and political maturation of young people. And since most of these formations have a pronounced regional specificity, it leaves an imprint on the character of the transition from the person of the youth stage to maturity.

In many countries, youth problems are not politicized in a regional context, and parties are mainly interested in the representatives of youth as voters at the peak of electoral cycles. But, in Europe we can observe a completely different situation. In the EU, regional integration has not only the longest history, the existence of numerous integration institutions, but also conceptually elaborated policies, including youth policy.

Attempts are being made in the European Union to transfer the youth policy from member states to the exclusive competence of the EU. How this work is built up can be seen from the EU's action programs that were described in the first two chapters. "Youth for Europe", which has existed since 1988, the Volunteer Action Program "European Voluntary Service". Since 2000, these programs have been integrated into a single EU youth action program - Youth. In the years 2000-2006. It was supplemented with the following directions: "Initiatives for Youth" in order to support creative innovative projects for the social integration of young people; "Joint Actions" (Joint Actions) - the programs "Socratos" and "Leonardo da Vinci"; "Accompanying Measures". Also, joint activities with third countries were supported through the Euro-Med Youth program, cooperation with the countries of South-Eastern Europe (SEE), CIS (CIS) and Latin America (LA).

In November 2006, by Decision 1714/2006 / EC, the "Youth in Action" program was adopted for the period 2007-2013. As a continuation of the program "Youth".

In 2009, the Council of the European Union adopted a new framework for European cooperation in the field of youth (2010-2018), which identifies two features of the new program: 1) "sport" disappeared from the "core" policy; 2) extremely extraordinary, innovative attempt to look to the EU to include "creative" and "business" in one category. However, the EU Council was unprepared for such innovations and returned everything to traditional places: "creativity" to "culture", and "entrepreneurship" respectively to "employment." The Commission drew attention to the fact that youth issues are of particular importance in such areas as research, education, training, Internet access and online business. They are also affected by the reform of the social protection system, the advantages of which should be accessible to future generations and create more viable conditions for them. European youth policy is closely related to culture, citizenship, sport, health and is important in regional issues. This thesis was one of the central points for the development and adoption by the Commission in April 2009 of the new EU Strategy for Youth Policy for the decade 2010-2018, entitled "Youth - Investing and Empowerment", based on the premise that: young people Are one of the most vulnerable groups in society, especially in the current economic and financial crisis, and in an aging society, young people are the most important resource. On the basis of new approaches, the Council of the EU has identified only eight sectors directly related to youth policy: 1) education and training, 2) employment and entrepreneurship; 3) health and well-being; 4) participation; 5) volunteer activity, 6) social integration; 7) youth and peace; 8) creativity and culture.

In addition to the intersectoral approach for special priorities in the youth sphere, an open method of coordination (OMC) is envisaged as part of the so-called Luxembourg process, which appeared in November 1997 as part of the European Employment Strategy. In 2010, the Youth White Paper presented the OMC concept as a means of improving cooperation among member states, primarily on the four priority themes of cooperation proposed in this document (participation, information, volunteering, understanding and knowledge). As a shortage of the OMC, it is possible to single out the lack of common parameters and correspondingly unified goals, which would allow coordinating national action plans at the European level.

**For what young people appreciate the EU**

It turned out that the overwhelming majority of young people aged 15 to 24 years are convinced to be supporters of the European integration. On average, 77% of those for whom the future of the six countries listed above believe that membership in the EU is good. In none of these countries skeptics does not exceed 30% (Slovakia), and in Germany is only 13%. At the same time, however, only a marginal minority of respondents (on average 17%) are completely satisfied with the state of affairs in the EU and do not see the need to change anything and carry out reforms.

The European Union is also appreciated by young people from six countries for what they believes will guarantee peace on the continent. This is the main advantage of the EU, 78% said. 66% noted that thanks to European integration they have the opportunity to live and work in any of the EU countries, 62% - to receive higher education in any European university. Transparency of internal borders is important only for 53% of respondents, financial assistance to less developed members of the EU - for 45%.

Sociologists who conducted the survey believe that a relatively low rating of transparency of the border indicates that for young Europeans this is a self-evident thing that they simply cannot imagine otherwise. However, the low share of supporters of financial transfers - especially in the Czech Republic (37%) and Slovakia (39%) - the authors of the study worries, because in recent years these two countries themselves received substantial subsidies from the EU budget.

**Terrorism is the main problem**

The main problem of the European Union in both the two Central European countries and in the Visegrad group was the respondents named Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism (74% on average). On this, however, the commonality of young Europeans is exhausted.

Environmentally conscious Germans are almost as acute as the threat of terrorism, consider environmental pollution and climate warming, leading to natural disasters. Young Slovaks and Hungarians have other concerns. They are much more numerous than peers from Germany and Austria, are concerned with the problems of employment and the risk of unemployment. Nevertheless, there are even more discrepancies in the answers to questions relating to the treatment of refugees and migrants.

Attitudes towards migrants are different. In the countries of the Visegrad group negative ideas about migrants predominate. Whether Poland (58%), Slovakia (73%), Czech Republic (65%) or Hungary (78%), a clear majority in these countries does not believe that the influx of migrants contributes to their economic growth.

Paradoxically, the only country that is dominated (42% vs. 40%) is Germany, which hosts - with a large margin - the largest number of refugees. Approximately the same ratio in Germany on the issue that migrants need the country to solve their demographic problems and stabilize the pension system.

It is also noteworthy that even with so many migrants in Germany, 58% of the young Germans surveyed do not see them as a threat to public security in the country. In Eastern European countries, where there are few foreigners, for some reason they are afraid: in Poland and the Czech Republic - 60% of respondents, in Slovakia - 68%, in Hungary - 70%. Unlike Germany, most young peoplr in these countries also believe that migrants are a burden to their social security systems.

At the same time, it is in Germany that most young people (72%) who have experience with migrants at work, at school or in the neighborhood. And those who have, say sociologists, are much more attuned to migrants than those who have never been seen by strangers.

A significant majority of Germans and Austrians (73% and 61%) believe that their countries should, as international agreements require, provide asylum for political reasons and refugees from hot spots. A similarly large majority of young people in the Visegrad Four (70-75%) adhere to the opposite point of view.

**About democracy and human rights**

German and Polish sociologists did not welcome such survey results, nor did the ambivalent attitude of young residents of the six EU countries to human rights and civil liberties.

Democracy is advocated by the vast majority of respondents, it does not matter to them whether the government follows the principles of democracy or not. However, at the same time, a significant proportion of respondents agree with the thesis that in order to protect society from the threat of terrorism, restrictions on human rights and freedoms are permissible.

In the Czech Republic this view is shared by 47% (against 37%), in Hungary 51% (against 30%), in Slovakia - 39% in favor and 39% in opposition. In Poland (43% and 40%), Austria (48% and 35%) and Germany (46% and 35%), the opinion prevails that it is inadmissible to sacrifice human rights and freedoms.

**Extremism in Europe**

Modern extremism is a serious challenge for the European countries, because its negative impact affects primarily young people - "a strategic resource for the development of the EU economy", as stated in the "Lisbon Growth and Jobs Strategy 2020". An increase in violence and crime in recent years, committed in various EU countries on the basis of extremist views, shows that the policy of nation-states on the prevention of extremism and means of dealing with them are inadequate or outdated. There is a need for more effective mechanisms and new approaches to solving this problem.

In 2013, in Brussels, European Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström in her speech at the "Conference on the prevention and the fight against extremism," emphasized that the greatest threat to modern society is the terrorists single, Anders Breivik, who committed in 2011 a massive terrorist attack in Norway, which killed 77 people. A year later, similar attacks have taken place in France. Another terrorist - a lone Mohammed Mera 25, a Frenchman, a native of the Algerian family, shot 7 people and 11 wounded. The victims were French soldiers and Jewish school students. Cecilia Malmström said: "The threat of terrorism has shifted from organized groups to individuals, which is more difficult to identify and whose actions are difficult to predict. To prevent future tragedies, we must adapt our capabilities to combat terrorism under this new challenge. Our response must be based on a deeper understanding of the processes leading to radicalization.

Potential threat of violent extremism exists in all countries. It can manifest itself in different forms, whether it is right or left-wing extremism, separatism and religious extremism ... From now violent extremism must be at the center of EU policy in the fighting against terrorism. However, the very nature of this complex task requires different approaches than those used by the police. Instead, we need a broader response, involving non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, community leaders and others. Terrorism and radicalization are international, but often they require local solutions.

In 2011 the European Commission created the initiative Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). The essence of this network is to exchange among member countries manifestations of extremism and practices to deal with it. About 700 specialists from different spheres (teachers , social workers, police officers, religious leaders, scientists, etc.) are included in the network and on the ground tracking facts radicalization of the people inclined to side with the extremist movements and terrorist organizations.

At EU level, tried out other initiatives for the prevention of extremist activity among young people, in particular in the framework of the new EU youth policy. Its foundations were formulated by the European Commission in 2001 in the White Paper "A new impetus for European youth". The European Commission has announced its intention to involve more young people in decision-making at EU level. The EU Youth Ministers Affairs agreed to cooperate more closely in the field of youth policy.

From 2007 to 2013. European Commission implemented the new program **Youth in Action**. In practice, the program provides a platform for international support of youth initiatives and projects aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue, tolerance and European citizenship. Program priorities were identified as: 1) European citizenship; 2) Participation of young people in democratic life; 3) Cultural manifold; 4) Involvement of young people with disabilities.

5 subprograms (shares) were identified in the program structure, aimed at different target groups:

Action 1 - Youth for Europe. Promoting youth exchanges, youth initiatives aimed at the development of youth citizenship, participation in society and work.

Action 2 - European Voluntary Service (EVS-EVS).

Action 3 - Youth in the world. Youth exchanges, trainings, partnerships and networks of youth organizations with the countries neighbors.

Action 4 - Youth Support Systems. It aims to support organizations working with young people, improve the quality of their work.

Action 5 - Support for European cooperation in the youth field.

Youth policy is defined as an independent direction of EU policy, provided separate funding. The feasibility of this approach is because the program in the framework of youth policy addressed to young people in general (and not just those who are studying or playing sports). The program "Youth in Action" is decentralized - "ensures the independence of youth initiatives and support youth programs at the local level; It aimed at strengthening the European identity and the attraction of young people to participate in various activities, including international cooperation and volunteering; Finally, as a standalone program, it can contribute to the further professionalisation of "youth work".

Meanwhile, it is worth noting that despite the declared earlier rejection of integration in the field of youth policy programs of education and other social programs, in 2013 the program "Youth in Action" has been merged with other best-known EU initiatives in the field of education as education throughout life, "Erasmus Mundus", "Tempus" in the new program "Erasmus +" (2014 - 2020). "Erasmus +" includes not only universities, but also other institutions and non-governmental organizations, thus opening up new opportunities for students, teachers and young professionals in the field of education, training and volunteer activities. **This fact underscores the role of education and its relationship with other areas of youth policy.**

In April 2009, the Commission presented a new strategy for youth policy for the period 2010 - 2018 .: "EU Youth Strategy - Investing and empowering." The strategy identifies three priorities and interrelated objectives in the field of youth policy of the EU. Each task is explained in more detail in the fields ( "fields of action"). They are also called "core policy". For each area identified a specific goal and actions to achieve this objective, which should be implemented by EU Member States together with the European Commission during the periods of three-year cycles (2009-2012, etc.).

**Tasks 3 and 8 areas:**

1. Creating more opportunities for youth in education and employment:

1) education and training,

2) employment,

3) creativity and entrepreneurship.

2. Improving access to social resources and to ensure the full participation of young people in society:

1) Health and Sports,

2) participation (in political and public life).

3. Promote greater cohesion (solidarity) between young people and society:

1) volunteer activities,

2) social integration,

3) youth and the world.

The causes of extremism in Europe

To search for effective tools to address the challenges of extremism, it is important to answer the question “Why do young people most prone to extremism?” The question seems simple at first glance. At the same time, to respond to it in detail, you need to consider the range of factors. It is important to note that, despite the diversity of their cultural backgrounds, young people are equally susceptible to various forms of extremism (right, left, and religious). Of course, this can be explained by the fact that young people from 13 to 25 years more suggestible and receptive to new and radical ideas. However, these features still do not make them vulnerable social group. The degree of risk falling into the extremist environment is largely due to the conditions (socio-economic, political, cultural, psychological), in which young people are, because it is more dependent on the social and economic terms. The disadvantaged conditions, the higher the risk. Finally, along with important tangible and intangible environmental conditions, a significant role is played by the quality of the process of socialization of youth, that is, institutions of socialization (family, school, college, youth organizations, political parties). Their main function is to prepare young people for the transition to adulthood, "arm" their skills, knowledge and competencies needed to develop abilities and talents, competition, achievement of social and economic success in society, seamless integration in the market labor and further professional and personal growth.

As is known, the majority of young people involved in extremist organizations, mostly come from poor uneducated population. Thus, the growth of youth extremism (right, left, Islamist) in Europe - is first of all evidence of failure to adapt policies and socialization of young people. The fact that extremist sentiments prevalent in Europe today among young people as indigenous (European) and an immigrant background, as evidenced by the failure of the integration policy for immigrants. In both cases, regardless of the origin of young people (immigrant or European), the same factors as social disorder, a difficult financial situation, the lack of effective socialization and access to quality education, low employment opportunities, promote feelings of social insecurity and distrust of the political institutions and authorities. As a consequence, developing asocial installation in consciousness and propensity to extremist manifestations.

On the other hand, the terrorist acts seems to disprove the theory that bind only to a radicalization of the lack of education. Another kind of radicals appeared among the political and religious extremists who are educated and integrated into society. Thus formed are the leaders and organizers of the uneducated. This is an additional challenge for the state. Since it is impossible to use the same tools for both groups of extremists.

However, many experts note that both types of radicals, irrespective of their cultural and social backgrounds, united by one thing - this is the problem with self-determination, self-identity and the desire to change the existing social order. The roots of the problem in Europe, many see in a multicultural environment: "In a multicultural environment in Europe young people find it difficult to find a reliable support in the community." However, the multicultural environment cannot be the cause of extremism, on the contrary, it fosters tolerance. More precisely the error of multiculturalism policy implemented in the European countries.

So, the first generation of immigrants, born in Europe, is experiencing culture shock, as they face a choice between liberal Western values ​​and conservative views of their parents. Under the influence of external negative factors of the environment, they often opt for the latter. In the case of right-wing extremists main factor is the inability to achieve the social status of their parents. As a result, the loss of economic and social status is replaced by status in radical groups. Unlike the first and second, left extremists are middle class. Its primary purpose, they see in the defense of democracy and human rights, which is opposed by right-wing and religious extremists. In this case, democracy in Europe the left is considered unreal, because it does not provide any real influence citizens.

**CHAPTER 4. NATIONAL LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH POLICY: THE CASE OF GERMANY AND FRANCE**

**Federal Republic of Germany**

For a number of reasons, "soft power" has historically played a particularly important role in Germany's international relations. First, after World War II tools as “hard power” for that country have become inaccessible, and still the possibility of using many of them are limited, as at the international level, such actions will be perceived negatively. Secondly, after the Second World War, Germany had to restore its reputation for a long time, including through cultural diplomacy, respect for human rights, as well as support for pluralism and multilateral international relations. Thirdly, recently the popularity of instruments of "soft power" has been growing all over the world, and Germany as one of the world's largest economies cannot stay away from this international trend.

The priorities of Germany in the field of "soft power" are the popularization of the German language and culture, the profitable international positioning of German goods, services, educational institutions, public institutions, the development of international academic exchange, the spread of democratic values ​​in the world, international scientific and technological cooperation, international congress and exhibition activities. Priority of these spheres follows from the scale and long-term nature of the country's work in these areas, as well as from the amount of funds allocated to activities in these areas. The goal of Germany's policy in the field of "soft power" is to increase the country's influence in the world through language, culture, science, economic relations, and through the promotion of international development. To achieve this goal, Germany allocates funds and undertakes a number of measures both at the federal and regional levels, supporting and developing networks of organizations with foreign missions, whose activities form the image of Germany abroad and contribute to the establishment of international relations in the field of culture, education, science and business. The key agencies that deal with the development and financing of Germany's "soft power" are ministries related to international relations, education, science, and the promotion of international development: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. In addition to public funds, funds from the lands (regions of Germany) and private organizations also receive money for "soft policy". Other sources are possible, for example, income from educational services or contributions from fund members. Despite the fact that the state is the main "customer" in the sphere of "soft power", non-state organizations most often act as executors, who, due to their formal independence, have much more opportunities and powers than the agencies themselves

In addition, an important element of Germany's "soft power" is the activity of specialized funds in the field of education, culture and the popularization of the German language and, above all, the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst, DAAD)[[85]](#footnote-85) and the Goethe- Institute[[86]](#footnote-86). German higher educational institutions do not provide grants and scholarships, but there are a number of organizations that provide financial support to both German and foreign students, as well as researchers. Financing is allocated according to the results of the competitive selection. As a rule, scholarships are given for an incomplete cycle of training. Selection is carried out according to a number of criteria, among which priority, as a rule, is given to education, age and citizenship. Usually the necessary conditions for the support of foreign students and researchers are knowledge of German or English, progress in studies or research activities and motivation. The German Academic Exchange Service was established in 1925. It is an autonomous organization that actively participates in the formation of Germany's foreign policy in the field of culture and science on a consultative basis and is engaged in the development of academic relations with other countries through international academic exchange of students and scientists, support for German studies, German language and literature in foreign higher education institutions, advising foreign universities, assisting them, etc.[[87]](#footnote-87)

German Academic Exchange Service is mainly funded by the state budget; A small part of the DAAD budget also comes from private organizations. The main source of DAAD funding is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The funds also come from the Federal Ministry of Education and Science, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union and organizations such as the Technical Cooperation Society (Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit), the German Foundation for Science Support (Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft), etc.[[88]](#footnote-88)

The Goethe Institute was founded in 1951. It is the institution of the culture of Germany. The work of the Institute is aimed at facilitating the study of the German language outside Germany, the development of international cooperation in the field of culture and the dissemination of information on the cultural, social and political life of Germany[[89]](#footnote-89). The organization is financed from its own revenues, as well as from the proceeds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The key German organizations working in the field of youth programs, exchanges and other projects are political funds, which, among other things, grant scholarships for education and research in Germany, as well as DAAD. At least one German political foundation works in each of the 10 countries selected for the study. Five of the six funds work in Vietnam, Brazil and Ukraine. The smallest presence is observed in Armenia and Azerbaijan - in these countries there are only two German political foundations: Friedrich Naumann and the Foundation. Konrad Adenauer. DAAD has representative offices in all ten selected countries for research and is active in these countries. Especially a lot of scholarships for education and research DAAD issues to citizens of Brazil, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Vietnam. As follows from the comparison of the total number of foreign students in Germany and the number of scholarships awarded in DAAD in countries such as Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and, above all, Tajikistan, students come to study in Germany mainly through DAAD scholarships (the difference between the number of foreign students and scholarships DAAD is not large).

**Germany’s national policy**

"Every child and every adolescent has a right to be supported in their development and get education of the individual carrying their own responsibility for their lives and able to fit into society." So translated the first sentence of the Act on care for children and young people from 1991, at a time determined by the program of the law.

In addition to the education in the family and at school, help to youth includes all targeted measures which serve the well-being of young people. In accordance with the structure of the Federal Republic of Germany, these measures are being taken by both state and non-governmental associations (Freie Trager[[90]](#footnote-90)) in the framework of a partnership cooperation, primarily at the municipal (local) level, but also at the level of the Länder and the Federation.

Helping young people designed to support parents in the performance of educational tasks and make it easier for children and teenagers to find their place in society. The main objectives and duties under this include promoting individual and social development of young people, as well as preventing or reducing the infringement of their rights. Youth Assistance aims to support parents and other persons entitled to bring up children in the process of education and help them relevant advice, to protect the benefit of children and adolescents from the dangers, help to maintain or create positive for young people and their families living conditions, as well as social environment, suitable for children and families.

Helping young people in Germany covers not only directed against children and adolescents proposals for leisure and non-formal education and education of children, but also, for example, education in kindergartens and measures complementing parental upbringing. Institutions to assist young people willing to help, if conflicts between parents and minors need to be addressed, and it is all on a voluntary basis. These bodies support families in cases when one parent leaves or dies. They help children and adolescents if their parents divorce. Helping young people calls for opening prospects for the child, if the parents are, at a particular time, not able to perform their duties and want to give disadvantaged starting chances of self-responsibility life.

Work with youth and social work with young people are the objectives of the Act on care for children and youth.

Teenagers need to have a place where they can play, communicate with each other, do what they like, for example, show films, put on plays, or prepare an action to protect the environment. They need a place where they can practice their skills and skills that are required to fulfill their successful role as agents of democracy, and will also contribute to their social integration. Youth departments in this can help young people find an old barn or an empty building that the city does not use. At the same time, adolescents can develop a concept for solving problems of the city, in the implementation of which they will take a direct part. If a club or a youth organization is created on the basis of this space, it can become a piece of democracy that has been lived by a teenager. Such events as the planning of a youth club from the first idea to realization remain in the memory of the young people participating in it - from this, they form their ideas about the society and be jointly active.

The law says: "Young people should be given the necessary services to stimulate their development in the field of working with young people. They should focus on the interests of young people who have to participate in their definition and formation, giving them the opportunity to self-determination, and to lead to the ability to bear responsibility for society and social activity. "

The tasks of working with young people and social work with young people are regulated in a separate section. Thus, its special importance is emphasized and its preventive action is noted for the benefit of young people. It is especially important that young people should participate in the definition and formation of work with young people. Adolescents quickly notice when they are given a word only for pro forma and the city administration and the department for youth affairs do and resolve what they think is right.

The main tasks of working with young people are:

* + Out-of-school education of young people (general political, social, sanitary-hygienic, cultural, natural-science and technical education);
	+ Work with young people in the sphere of profession, school and family;
	+ Work with young people in sports, play and communication;
	+ International work with young people;
	+ Recreation of children and youth;
	+ Consultations of young people.

Social work with young people refers to those young people who are "dependent on help and support" to a greater extent "to compensate for social deprivation" or "to overcome the damage done to their personality". This involves consultation, the possibility of obtaining school or vocational education and assistance in their integration into society.

Over the past time, social work with young people has acquired great importance. In recent years, unemployment among youth has been steadily increasing. Tomorrow unqualified and uneducated it will be difficult to find a job. Anyone who has become unemployed needs all-round help. In this activity it is necessary to involve everyone - from the employment service to the social service, from the trade unions to the employer. The Law on Assistance to Children and Youth provides "appropriate training and employment activities conducted with the participation of social educators" and "stay in special forms of living under the supervision of a social educator" during professional adaptation. The help of young people should not be content with the so-called "strong core" of the unemployed and young people who do not have education. Its goal is to do everything for everyone so that they can independently organize their life and earn their living.

**Structure**

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth[[91]](#footnote-91) has a "framework" powers in relation to youth policy. The Ministry is responsible for the federal laws concerning the interests of the youth. The Ministry represents the interests of children and young people in all political aspects, mainly in the areas of education, health and labor relations, and also maintains close cooperation with other ministries, federal lands and municipalities as an intersectoral cooperation, along with statehood bodies on youth affairs. The Ministry is involved in the development and implementation of the European Youth Program, and requests the experts to study the situation in the youth field in Germany and supports relevant research projects. Every four years, the Federal Government makes a report on the situation of young people. In the 16 federal states roles as the supreme body for youth affairs and works with the Ministry of youth Affairs.

Volume 8 of the Law on Children and Youth Organs[[92]](#footnote-92) assigns responsibility for the work of bodies dealing with children and youth to administrative districts and cities, which in accordance with the law are administrative regions. They are required to establish a Youth Service (Jugendämter). The Code establishes that the work of the Youth Service is carried out by the Committee with the youth authorities and the administration of the Service. The Committee for Youth Affairs (Jugendhilfeausschuss) performs the primary function of managing municipal youth bodies at the local level.

Ministries that also support children and youth:

* Federal Ministry of Economics and Labor;
* Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare;
* Federal Ministry of Education and Science;
* Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
* Federal Ministry of the Interior;
* Federal Ministry of Justice;
* Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

**The main non-state actors**

More than half of all institutions and activities exist to help young people organize non-state entities, referred to as the free carriers. In this case, the range extends from operating throughout Germany youth organizations, charities and churches to unions, organizations, legal associations and self-help groups, working in only one land, one city or urban area. Along with the free and public carriers exist and a small but growing number of private media help young people in charge of children's homes and youth hostels.

From 20 to 40% of children and adolescents in Germany are members of youth organizations. These organizations are voluntary associations pursuing the goal through education and training to give the first place to the member’s individual, social and political orientation, and develop, so that they have personal identity and personal values. Their main task is to organize leisure activities and representation of interests, and in particular the combination of these two areas. The most important criteria for their activities is voluntary.

- The Association for the Social Security of Children and Youth (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe)[[93]](#footnote-93) was founded in 1949, it got its real name in 2006. It is an association of central federal youth organizations and regional youth councils, leading volunteer organizations on social security issues, central professional organizations, and main state bodies for youth affairs in federal lands (ministries), youth services in the federal states. The ACF works at various levels: it lobbies the legislative and executive authorities for decisions, recommendations, reports based on the joint data of the members. Making recommendations and suggestions to the bodies for children and youth affairs and organizing activities of various orientations, the ACO is working to improve the practical activities of youth bodies. Holds conferences for experts and congresses for experts and public structures engaged in youth work. Since 1995, the ASO has become a legal entity and the executive body of the National Coalition, founded for the realization of the rights of children in Germany, and the National Coalition für die Umsetzung der Rechte der Kinder in Deutschland.

- The Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz)[[94]](#footnote-94) was formed in 1951 under the name of the Federal Association for Action for the Protection of Children (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Aktion Jugendschutz). It is an association of leading social welfare organizations, youth associations and individuals that protect the interests of children and young people, including work on legislation to actively protect children and adolescents. At the national level, the Association represents the political and social rights of children and adolescents, regardless of party policies and religious components.

- German National Committee for International Youth Work (OMC) in its function Youth National Council is a full member of the European Youth Forum. OMK consists of two organizations:

1. The circle of political youth.

Political youth is represented in the circle of political youth, directly connected with the parties represented in the Bundestag or included in party structures. German young democrats are young leftists, green youth, young liberals, young specialists in the SPD, a young German union.

2. The Federal Youth Council of Germany (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR) is the structure uniting the youth organizations of Germany, currently the Council includes 24 youth organizations, 16 regional youth councils and 5 affiliated organizations (affiliated organizations have consultative voting rights). Role and tasks:

- publicly represent the interests of young people and the general goals of member organizations, especially before the parliament and the government;

- ensuring the dissemination of information among member organizations and the formation of a unified position on issues of youth policy;

- interaction with youth organizations outside Germany, in particular, in the field of international youth policy.

To achieve the above objectives, the Federal Youth Council of Germany participates in commissions and working groups, makes statements on legislation and National Reports on Youth, establishes public posts on certain topics related to working with youth and youth policy, and publishes quarterly magazine "Jugendpolitik" ( "Youth Policy"). In parallel with the meetings of the committee and working groups, the German Federal Youth Council is working to raise awareness among member organizations. There are 16 regional youth councils (Landesjugendringe). These regional youth councils are associations of youth organizations working actively at the regional level. They are formed from independent youth associations with a total membership of more than 5 million people, whose activities are available to 70% of all children and adolescents. All the organizations related to the youth are represented here: spiritual organizations, trade union associations aimed at carrying out humanitarian or social activities, ecological, teaching the traditions.

There is also a large number of local youth councils (Kreis- / Stadtjugendringe). Local youth councils are self-organized associations of local youth associations, organizations and initiatives. Their goal is to represent the interests of children and adolescents in front of the general public, politicians and administrative structures, in order to form and finance common work with young people and, on behalf of children and adolescents, to uphold social and political demands and address issues related to youth.

**Federal programs**

Children's and youth policy is cross-sectoral, the goal of it is to develop a situation and social orientation aimed at improving the processes through the network support of various concepts and by developing new forms of cooperation with all at different levels. National youth programs under the supervision of the Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth:

* Model of the program Competence of agencies (early: social work with youth);
* The federal program "Youth for diversity, tolerance and democracy - against right-wing radical extremism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism"[[95]](#footnote-95);
* Federal program "Development of advisory networks - mobile groups to combat right-wing extremism"[[96]](#footnote-96);
* Special program "Employment, education, participation at the local level";
* The model of the program "We care about ourselves";
* The program of action for youth participation;
* Model program "Volunteering Young people of families of migrants at Bodies by Cases youth ".

**Programs conducted / organized by other ministries / institutions:**

* Model of the program "Encouragement of children and youth from emigrant families";
* Program "School-Economics-Professional Life" (improvement of the process of transition from school to professional work);
* The program "Learning Regions - Providing Support for Networks" (encouraging regional interaction and networks, promoting representatives of different educational structures in order to jointly develop new proposals for long-term training);
* National Pact experts on children and youth (with pecial program "in the professional lives of youth qualification to exit");
* The program "JOBSTARTER - training for the future" (promotion of innovative technologies and development of vocational education structures),
* The program of the places for training courses: East 2007 (providing additional places for training courses in the federal states).

National Action Plans (ie the official strategy):

* The National Action Plan "For a child - friendly Germany 2005-2010" (The main objectives: equal opportunities in education, growing up without violence, promotion of healthy lifestyles and the environment, participation of children and youth, the development of adequate living conditions for the children, a review of international agreements) ;
* Actions of the federal government's plan to protect children and adolescents from sexual abuse and exploitation (development of the legal protection of children and young people, improve the mechanism for the prevention and protection of victims, provision of international legal prosecution and cooperation, the development of a network of support and advice).

Other action plans and formal strategies that have an impact on young people:

* The educational program "The future of education and care" (creation / distribution of full-day schools);
* The National Integration Plan (the improvement of the situation of education and education for young people from migrant families);
* Integration of young people from migrant families;
* Local capital for social purposes (f ederalnaya program, also for children from migrant families);
* Refusal to school - a second chance;
* New ways for boys (support and initiation of proposals for regional conditions of life and career for boys);
* Youth exchanges in the emerging and developing countries;
* "Program Job 4000 ".

**French Republic**

The Ministry of Health, Youth, Sport and volunteerism develops and implements the state policy on youth, sports and development of volunteerism at the national level. The Ministry is also responsible for inter-agency coordination of projects in these areas. To accomplish its mission, the central apparatus of the Ministry is divided into three main sections, one for each of the main tasks: Sports Department; Department of Youth and Community Education; Department of volunteering, employment and training.

At the Ministry, there is an advisory body for youth - the National Council for Community Education and Youth Affairs, established in 1998 and officially recognized by the law of 17 July 2001[[97]](#footnote-97). The Council is headed by the Minister of Youth, and it consists of 176 young people aged 16-28 years, who are delegated by the Council in the youth departments, sports and volunteering and other national representative bodies, such as associations, unions, secondary and higher education institutions and political party. The Council meets in plenary session and creates a commission on a monthly basis.

As a result of decentralization and devolution of state in 1982, some of its powers to local self-government French local administrative-territorial division is divided into three independent levels: regions, departments and communes.

The prefect is the state power in the territory, which he runs (department or commune), speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister and of each minister. At the local level, he is responsible for all government administrative services. Responsible for youth issues is divided between the territorial levels of government: the government, departments and municipalities.

**Tasks (priorities):**

* Information and orientation of young people

The Ministry subsidizes the activities of the Youth Information Network, which has offices throughout the country. Its mission is to provide young people with a common, updated and objective information. The network also helps them in dealing with administrative matters and provides links to special addresses where they can consult in case of need. Interdepartmental www.jeunesse.gouv.fr portal[[98]](#footnote-98) is a common site of practical information on all aspects of the state youth policy carried out by the various ministries.

* Facilitating the participation of youth in the social life is carried out through the National Council for Community Education and Youth Affairs and the Youth Councils of departments that contribute to a dialogue between young people and local and national government authorities.
* Promotion of youth initiatives and commitments

On the one hand, French society needs a dynamic contribution of young people to encourage their development. On the other hand, in order to strengthen confidence in the future, young people need support from the society, which is intended to promote the development of youth, generate the desire of young people to take the initiative and sense of responsibility. Envie d'agir program was developed in order to meet the above two requirements, by offering young people between the ages of 11-30 years, the necessary educational, technical and financial support, from inception to project implementation stage.

* Support for activities of associations working in the youth sector and public education

National accreditation of "youth and public education", along with the Partnership Foundation for Youth and Community Education is a tool of exchange and financing.

* Support for extra-curricular activities organized by the territorial bodies of the state for children and young people, through local policies in the sphere of public education, which provides a wide-ranging number of activities and workshops throughout the country.
* The physical and moral protection of minors while on vacation (outside the home) and in leisure centers, day care, as well as monitoring the quality of the proposed activities. Department of Youth and Community Education has developed a set of relevant rules, and monitors compliance with these rules.
* Promote international and European exchanges for young people through the signing of multilateral agreements and bilateral protocols. Franco-German and Franco-Quebec Youth Office, along with the French Agency for the program "Youth in Action", work together to ensure greater mobility among young people.
* Volunteering

Civic voluntary activity can be carried out in various areas, such as in civil custody areas, international cooperation and humanitarian aid, social cohesion and solidarity. French parliament in 2006 passed a law on volunteerism and educational contract.

* Protection of minors

Protection of minors during their stay in the centers of vacation and leisure centers is a priority for the Ministry of Youth, Sport and volunteering. It affects three types of activities: groups of hospital stay (vacation camp), stay without accommodation (leisure centers), and finding families (educational trips during the holidays).

The Ministry of Youth, Sport and volunteerism has developed legislative and normative legal base for these centers and monitors its compliance. It is also responsible for ensuring that the activities of these centers. Its mission is to organizers could guarantee the physical and moral protection of minors, while continuing to develop the educational aspects of the stay. About 4 million. Minors covered during vacations and recreational activities, as a rule, within the framework of projects organized by associations and regional administrative bodies. The leisure center, there are about 33,000 projects, covering about 3,000,000 children.

Improving the management and training of youth leaders and helps ensure the protection of minors. On average, each year the Ministry provides 58 000 diplomas youth leaders. The Ministry of Youth, Sports and volunteering also provides grants to help non-professional youth workers and managers of holiday and leisure centers to acquire appropriate qualifications.

Vacation camps and recreational day-care centers are not simply a means of monitoring their children out of school, they should also be educational institutions that promote socialization and learning process necessary for active citizenship, along with the family and the school.

* Health of young people and the prevention of risk behavior groups

The Ministry of Health, Youth, Sports and volunteering provides for many years active in the implementation of prevention activities for young people after school time. The approach is a combination of preventive and health education in the framework of inter-agency cooperation. There is, for example, support public health projects (long-term or short-term basis) on AIDS prevention, the fight against drug abuse, suicide prevention, risk behavior groups, digestion disorders.

Prevention of risk behavior group is coordinated at the national level inter-ministerial committee responsible for the fight against drug trafficking and drug addiction, and the prefects at the local level, which calls on local government bodies to take part in certain programs at the departmental level.

These programs have three main objectives:

* raise awareness by providing

reliable information;

* reduce consumption;
* reduce the risks associated with consumption.

Pilot projects are carried out at the national level since 2006 - to identify and support innovative projects in leisure centers, identifying consumer habits among teenagers for psychotropic substances.

Local education policy

Over the past ten years, ministries and institutions dealing with education, leisure activities for children and youth and social protection, have jointly agreed on local educational policy carried out by governments and associations at the level of territorial administrative units. The aim is to ensure that all actors involved in education in their field, the same educational goals, meet at the community level, the needs of children and youth in the educational leisure area, and thus, making sports and artistic activities more accessible. Thus, they are involved in the national policy of social cohesion, aimed at young people.

Local associations offering activities for young people in the priority areas are consolidated support since 2006. Remote rural areas are now a priority in order to ensure that young people have access to social and cultural activities, despite living in remote areas.

Educational projects have three areas:

\* The development of children and youth;

\* Their inclusion in public life;

\* Their school performance.

**Legislation**

LOLF (loi organique relative aux lois de finances) defines the basic principles of financing youth policy. The law also determines the conditions for accreditation (ie funding) of youth and youth associations and the protection of youth.

The law on volunteering and educational contract provides the legal status of volunteer work and reinforces the status quo that associations and foundations recognized public interest, can legitimately invite volunteers to work to meet their goals. Volunteer work, of course, falls under the topic of active citizenship. For young people, it is the formation of personal experience and is an important element in the development of its own system of values.

**Major non-state actors**

Committee of National and International Relations of Youth Organizations unites 74 youth organizations and is a recognized partner of the Ministry in the implementation of youth policy.

**Programs**

«Envie d'agir»[[99]](#footnote-99) (The desire to act) - the first national program to provide project support to young people aged from 11 to 30 years. The program Envie d'agir encourages, supports and promotes individual initiative, entrepreneurship, creativity, courage and talent of young people in different areas: youth work and local development, cultural and scientific creativity, community or international solidarity, citizenship, creating new business. Due to its scope and emphasis on qualitative results of the program Envie d'agir is a very unique initiative in France and in Europe, combining aspects of global influence (of any government, any project) on completion of education (access to autonomy and responsibility for young people and active citizenship) , pedagogy and methodology of the project (coordinated management framework, a partnership approach and adapted tools).

More than 3000 projects were selected in 2007, covering 45,000 young people, including 15,000 people - as the direct beneficiaries. In the age group 18-30 years, 44% of the projects deal with the issues of employment, 39% of which were devoted to the beginning of the business. The program provides support not only to the French organizations, but also organizations from other French-speaking countries.

Operation Solidar'été[[100]](#footnote-100) (solidarity)

Currently, one in three children does not leave on vacation. The Ministry initiated a program of solidarity in 2004, with the aim of enabling every young person to spend full holidays. The purpose of the operation Solidar'été is to make high-quality stay affordable for those young people who can not afford a full-fledged vacation.

This is done through the proposal by the municipalities and organized under the responsibility of the ministerial institutions of communal education and sports centers, national schools, institutions and accredited associations. From an educational point of view, the aim is to prepare these target groups to take initiatives and to introduce the Ministry of projects, giving young people the opportunity to do something for their peers who are less privileged, or socially excluded groups (the elderly , sick, disabled). Program host proposed combination is based on the same combination of the principles of openness and social obligations. Programs provide access to activities in cultural, artistic, sporting, scientific and technological fields at a qualitative level, with appropriate educational support. There are currently more than 10 000 young people took part in the program.

In France, in 1997. introduced the program "New services, new jobs", which had the aim to provide permanent (at least 5 years), jobs for young people without work experience and, at the same time, to meet the demand for labor in some sectors. Private companies employing state offset 80% of the minimum wage for each new place for young people.

Promotion of the French-speaking community

The Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers of French-speaking countries was established in 1969 and brings together 38 States and 3 Observer State. It plays a dual role: as an advocate of political dialogue in the field of youth and sports, and as a promoter of cooperation programs in the same areas **.**

Since 2000, the Conference of successfully introducing new destinations and a revised program on the basis of the expressed needs.

The new program is divided into 3 parts:

* + Program I: support program for the sustainable development of the national youth policy and sport;
	+ Program II: program to promote the development of youth and sports;
	+ Program III: training and qualification courses for managers.

**Financing**

In 2008, the budget of the Ministry amounted to 1 048 million euros, of which 134 million euros has been allocated to the program on youth and volunteering carried out on 5 priority areas..:

Action 1: the development of volunteering (18.3 million euros.);

Action 2: Support projects on youth issues (57.35 million euros.);

Action 3: Support for municipal education projects (47 million euros.);

Action 4: Youth Protection (1.7 million euros.);

Action 5: Support for volunteer youth work and managerial staff (9.75 million.).

Ministry grants accreditation at national level, youth associations and associations of municipal formation and the prefect carries out this activity at the local level. Accreditation is a grant, the provision of which is based on a report by the National Council for Community Education and Youth Affairs for the National Accreditation and the Council for Community Education and Youth Affairs at the level of departments - for local accreditation. Only accredited organizations can receive grants from the Ministry. To date, 500 associations have received national accreditation, 35,000 have local accreditation.

Cooperation on Youth and Education Society Foundation integrates bodies of state funding and association, and its main purpose is to promote the payment of full-time employees in managerial and executive positions, leaders of youth movements and associations sphere of communal education, along with non-profit legal entities, based on private law working in the field of social security.

Germany and France are two main countries within the EU that stress their attention on youth generation, trying to not only give rights and education, but include young people into the real politics. It is Germany that has many youth exchange programmes and dialogues with different countries and shows to the rest of the world best conditions for youth.

**CONCLUSION**

In this work, we tried to find some specific aspectsin the development of youth diplomacy as an instrument of public diplomacy of the European Union. We were able to discover main resources that help to realize youth diplomacy and youth policy in the European Union. Moreover, fourth chapter describes the cases of Germany and France that are two main countries within the EU that best achieved the inclusion of young people into the real politics. Germany, having youth exchange programmes and dialogues with different countries, included youth policy into the public diplomacy showing to the rest of the world best example of the “soft power”

According to our analysis of the development of youth diplomacy, we can conclude that European Union is only at the beginning of forming youth diplomacy as an instrument of soft power. However, it is worth mentioning that EU have succeed in organizing framework for teaching young generation and building trust and cooperation not only within Europe but also including other countries.

The youth is turned, by the European politicians, among the most important social groups of modern Europe. In addition, youth policy is directed not only at youth development, but also has a significant political component. European Union at national and local level tries to address youth issues and problems; we see plenty of existing document, frameworks and plans. This means that youth policy became one of the main priorities within the EU.

There are still many problems with contributions to the youth programmes and conferences, but European Parliament already established measures of improvement of the situation and future evolution could be possible.

Today Youth programmes mostly directed to the Eastern Europe, Post-Soviet space and Russia, but in the future, they will cover bigger part of the world due to the fact that how shows the practice: youth diplomacy is a good source of public diplomacy.

Most importantly, soft power is a resource which in order to be useful needs to be reinforced through consistent action in keeping with those values and policies that brought it about in the first place. Concretely, in the case of the EU, this means utilising the building blocks for developing its soft power, by consistently placing central emphasis on its distinctive international economic policy agenda; being a provider of security in keeping with its liberal political values; promoting peaceful, rule of law-based relations; and insisting on the protection of human rights. In that particular case, young generation is a free transfer of ideas, values and knowledge and in order to use this instrument, Europe should pay more attention on already existing organizations and forums and do not split money and time on searching and creating new tools of soft power. Moreover, it is important for Europe, before disseminating ideas to the rest of the world, solve the issues of migration crisis and terrorism

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