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Evaluation of the Action Plan of the National Strategy for youth (2015-2017)

- Summary report -

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Policy context

- Ministry for Youth and Sports established in 2007
- First National Strategy for youth adopted in 2008 and related action plan in 2009
- Law on Youth adopted in 2011
- The latest National Strategy for Youth adopted in February, 2015 (related AP adopted in August, 2015)
- New AP is “under construction”
- More than 130 active offices for youth at the local level (powerful tool for implementation of policy at local level)

Policy context – our findings

- Ministry of Youth and Sports established good practice in performing important steps towards evidence based policy making
- Low capacities of the Ministry (lack of people and low political power)
- Problems in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategic documents
- Problems in coordination between state institutions, donors, CSOs

Objectives of the Evaluation

- Identification of the effects of realised activities
- Assessment of the level of realisation of the Action Plan (AP)
- Identification of the factors that contributed to or limited the achievement of the AP goals
- Formulating recommendations for preparation of the new AP (for the three years period)

Methodology

- Desk research
 - Official documents of the state institutions
 - Internal databases
 - Previous evaluations and surveys
- Field research
 - Interviews with policy makers
 - Interviews with experts engaged in preparing previous AP
 - Interviews with representatives of youth organisations

Limitations in our work

- Short time period
- Lack of available data
- No funding for field research (i.e travel expenses, organisation of the focus groups across the country)

Effects of the activities realized within AP over the period 2015-17

- 9 strategic goals
- 33 specific goals
- 41 indicators
- Overall, it has been achieved solid progress, especially in the field of employability, informing youth and social inclusion of youth within marginalised groups
- Although significant portion of the budget spent on programmes, modest improvements noticed in the field of training, activism and active participation of youth
- Decreasing participation in consuming cultural activities and events

Assessment of the level of AP realisation

- Ministry is funding above 100 project per year with a total budget of around 2 mln. EUR (Local municipalities and CSOs)
- Overall, around 60% of the planned activities realised
- Satisfying level of realisation of the activities envisaged within Strategic objectives 1 and 2 (above 50% of activities planned)
- Solid level of realisation of building capacities at the local level (more funding needed)

Summary and recommendations

- Capacity of the Ministry in charge for youth
- System of monitoring of the AP realisation
- Coordination between state institutions, donors, research organisations and CSOs
- Capacity of the local offices for youth
- Budget

