
THE LAW on YOUTH



I. BASIC PROVISIONS

Scope and Purpose of the Law

ARTICLE 1

This Law regulates measures and activities undertaken by the Republic of Serbia, autonomous province and units of local self-government aimed at improving the social status and position of youth and at creating conditions for satisfying the needs and interests of young people in all the areas of interest to young people.

The purpose of the Law is to create conditions for supporting young people in organisation, social activism, development and fulfilment of their potential for their own benefit and the benefit of the society.

Youth Policy and Youth Sector

ARTICLE 2

The Youth Policy shall mean and include all measures and activities of government bodies, institutions, associations and other actors directed at the improvement and promotion of the position and status of young people.

The Youth Sector shall include areas in which youth activities are performed, as specified by the general goals of the National Youth Strategy (hereinafter *the Strategy*).

The Youth Policy within the Youth Sector shall be implemented by the relevant ministry responsible for youth affairs (hereinafter *the Ministry*) through the implementation of the Strategy and other program documents in the field of Youth Policy and coordination of activities related to their implementation,

with the participation of the bodies in charge of special areas of the Youth Sector and all the other Youth Policy actors, in accordance with the Law hereof.

Meaning of Individual Terms in this Law

ARTICLE 3

The individual terms in this Law shall have the following meanings:

- 1) Youth or young people*** shall mean persons from 15 to and including 30 years of age;
- 2) Youth Policy actors*** shall mean the Republic of Serbia, autonomous province and unit of local self-government as Youth Policy holders, institutions, associations carrying out youth activities and other actors participating in the implementation of the Youth Policy;
- 3) Youth activity*** shall mean any Youth Sector activity undertaken by young

people or Youth Policy actors with the aim to improve the position of young people and empower them for an active participation in the society to their own benefit and the benefit of the society;

- 4) **Youth work** shall mean such youth activities which are organised by and for young people, based on an informal education, carried out in young people's free time and undertaken with the aim to improve the conditions for personal and social development of young people in accordance with their needs and abilities, all in which young people voluntarily participate;
- 5) **Non-formal education of young people** shall mean all organised educational activities adjusted to young people which fall outside the formal educational system, but are based on the needs and interests of young people, principles of voluntary and active participation of

young people in the learning process and the promotion of democratic values, through which young people acquire competencies necessary for developing their own potentials, active participation in the society and better employability.

Any term used in this Law is used neutrally in terms of gender.

Youth Support Principle

ARTICLE 4

Everybody, in particular the Youth Policy actors, within the scope of their activities and purview, shall support social empowerment of young people in the manner set forth in the Law hereof, Strategy and other Youth Policy instruments.

Equality and Non-Discrimination
Principle

ARTICLE 5

All young people shall be equal.

Any unjustified difference made between or any unequal treatment of young people, direct or indirect, on any grounds, in particular on the grounds of race, gender, nationality, religious belief, language, social background, financial standing, affiliation with political, trade union or other organisations, mental or physical disability, health, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other actual or assumed personal trait shall be prohibited.

Equal Opportunity Principle

ARTICLE 6

Young people shall be entitled to equal opportunities and participation in all spheres of life in accordance with their own choices and abilities.

Principle of Raising Awareness of the Importance of Youth and their Social Role

ARTICLE 7

Everybody, in particular the Youth Policy actors, shall encourage and support the raising of awareness of the importance of young people and the social role of young people through Youth Policy implementation, as well as encourage and support social empowerment for the purpose of securing the youth's well-being, promotion and protection of their interests and needs and creating opportunities for active participation in the society.

Principle of Active Youth Participation

ARTICLE 8

Everybody, in particular the Youth Policy actors, shall ensure a stimulating environment and offer active support in the implementation of young people's youth activities, in them taking initiatives and in their purposeful involvement in the processes of making and implementing decisions which contribute to personal and social development, upon young people being fully informed.

Principle of Youth Responsibility and Solidarity

ARTICLE 9

Young people should actively contribute to the building and upholding of social values and to the development of their communities, especially through various

forms of volunteer activities, and express inter-generational solidarity and actively work on creating the conditions for an equal and full participation in all the aspects of social life of young people with disabilities, minority youth and all other persons and social groups that may be at risk of being discriminated against, i.e. discriminatory behaviour.

II. THE NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

ARTICLE 10

The Strategy shall mean the document approved by the Government, at the proposal of the Ministry, which specifies in particular: active participation of young people in the social life, the provision of the exercise of the right of young people to equal opportunities, youth information, encouragement and validation of tolerance, democracy and exceptional achievements of young people, fostering and development of formal and non-formal education, encouragement and incentives for employment and self-employment of young people and youth entrepreneurship, improvement of youth safety, sustainable development and healthy environment, protection and improvement of young people's health and other activities and areas of importance to young people.

ARTICLE 11

The Strategy shall be adopted for a period of ten years.

Young people, the Ministry, ministries responsible for special areas in the Youth Sector and all the other Youth Policy actors shall participate in the development and implementation of the Strategy.

The Ministry directs and monitors the implementation of the Strategy on the local level.

The Youth Policy actors act in accordance with the Strategy principles.

Funds for Strategy Implementation

ARTICLE 12

The funds for Strategy implementation shall be provided by the budget of the

Republic of Serbia, as well as the budget of the autonomous province and unit of local self-government, and from other sources, in accordance with the Law.

In accordance with the Strategy, the autonomous province and the unit of local self-government shall develop action plans for Strategy implementation in their territory, and provide in their budgets the funds for the implementation of such plans. The autonomous province and the unit of local self-government shall send a Report on the Implementation of the Action plan for the Implementation of the Strategy on their territories, at least once a year, upon the request of the Ministry.

III.
ASSOCIATIONS IMPLEMENTING
YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Associations of Young People and for
Young People

ARTICLE 13

For the purpose of carrying out youth activities, improving conditions for personal and social development of young people according to their needs and abilities and for the purpose of including young people in the social life of a community and their informing, associations of young people and associations for young people may be established, in accordance with the Law governing the establishment and legal status of associations.

Associations stated in paragraph 1 of the Article hereof shall be recorded in the registry

of associations kept by the responsible body, in accordance with the Law.

Association of young people shall mean any association, registered in the registry and operating in accordance with the Law governing the establishment and legal status of associations, the membership of which has no less than two-thirds of young people and, of which the goals or area of activity are aimed at young people pursuant to the Law hereof.

Association for young people shall mean any other association registered in the registry and operating in accordance with the Law governing the establishment and legal status of associations, and of which the aims or area of activity are focused, among other things, on young people, in accordance with the Law hereof.

Young people may also establish informal associations, of which the aims or area of activity are focused on young people, in accordance with the Law hereof, and which operate in accordance with the Law governing the establishment and legal status of associations.

***Federations of Associations of Young
People and for Young People***

ARTICLE 14

All registered associations of young people and associations for young people may, for the purpose of pursuing common goals and interests, form federations, of which the goals and area of activity are aimed at young people (hereinafter *Federations*).

The respective provisions of the Law governing the establishment and legal status of associations shall apply to the

establishment, registration in the registry and operation of federations.

The status of an Umbrella Federation (hereinafter *Umbrella Federation*) shall have every federation consisting of at least 60 registered associations set forth in Article 13 hereof and federations set forth in paragraph 1 of the Article hereof, having their head office on the territory of at least two-thirds of counties in the Republic of Serbia and which have carried out youth activities in several units of local self-government for at least two years, and which have at least 2,000 individual members, registered once, of whom at least two-thirds are young people.

Based on the records it keeps, in accordance with the Law hereof, the Ministry shall issue such Federation a certificate of compliance with the conditions stated in paragraph 3 of the Article hereof.

The Umbrella Federation represents and acts in the interests of its members, proposes candidates for the Youth Council and participates in the process of development and implementation of the Strategy and other documents related to the Youth Policy.

Maintaining Records

ARTICLE 15

The Ministry shall maintain joint records of associations and federations referred to in Articles 13 and 14 of the Law hereof, based on the data obtained from the body responsible for their registration and based on the data submitted by associations, in order to enable an organised and systematic monitoring of the status of the Youth Sector areas, the monitoring of the implementation of the Youth Policy and the financing of programs and projects of public interest in the Youth Sector areas in accordance with the Law hereof.

The records mentioned in paragraph 1 of the Article hereof, shall contain the following data:

- Name of association, head office and address;
- Date of founding of association;
- Area of activity;
- Purposes for which the association is founded;
- Personal name and unique personal identification number, i.e. passport number and the country issuing the passport, of the association's representative;
- Memberships in associations;
- Total number of members of the association;
- Number of members aged 15 to 30.

The contents and manner of maintaining such joint records referred to in paragraph 1 of the Article hereof, shall be specified by the Minister responsible for youth affairs (hereinafter *the Minister*).

IV.
COUNCIL, OFFICE AND AGENCY
FOR YOUTH

Youth Council

ARTICLE 16

At the proposal of the Ministry and in accordance with the regulations governing the work of the Government, the Government shall form a Youth Council as an advisory body initiating and harmonising activities related to the development and implementation of the Youth Policy and proposing measures for its improvement.

The Youth Council shall consist of representatives of public administration dealing with areas of interest to young people, provincial administrative body responsible for youth affairs, federations and associations specified in Articles 13 and

14 of the Law hereof, youth offices, a joint representative of national minority councils, and renowned experts.

Representatives of young people shall make up no less than one-third of the Youth Council membership, coming from associations and federations specified in Articles 13 and 14 of the Law hereof.

Provincial Youth Councils and Local Self-Government Youth Councils

ARTICLE 17

For the purpose of harmonising activities relating to the implementation of the Youth Policy, in the territory of the autonomous province and the unit of local self-government, the competent body of the autonomous province and the competent body of the unit of local self-government may establish a provincial, city and municipal Youth Council.

Youth Office

ARTICLE 18

For the purpose of providing conditions for an active involvement of young people in the life and activities of the social community, empowerment of young people, providing support to the organisation of various social activities of young people, learning and creative expression of young people's needs, a unit of local self-government may, within the scope of its authority, needs and capacity, establish a Youth Office.

The Youth Office shall be funded from the budget of the unit of local self- government and other sources, in accordance with the Law.

The activities referred to in paragraph 1 of the Article hereof, shall be implemented on the basis of the Strategy and local youth action plans.

Youth Agency

ARTICLE 19

An agency may be established for the purpose of implementing youth programs in accordance with the European Union youth programs, pursuant to a separate Law.

V.
**FINANCING OF PROGRAMS AND
PROJECTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN
THE YOUTH SECTOR**

ARTICLE 20

The funds for funding programs and projects of public interest in the Youth Sector shall be provided in the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and such funds shall be used for:

- 1) providing conditions for the development and improvement of youth activities through encouraging young people to actively participate in social processes;
- 2) encouraging associations of young people, associations for young people, and federations to participate in the implementation of youth activities and objectives from the Strategy;
- 3) informing young people of issues of importance to the youth and issuing

- publications of importance to the young people;
- 4) stimulating career guidance and counselling for young people, and organising trainings, seminars and events of importance for the employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship of young people;
 - 5) fostering non-formal youth education within the Youth Sector and development of quality of non-formal youth education;
 - 6) social empowerment of young people, especially through encouraging volunteerism and youth work and capacity building of youth associations;
 - 7) encouraging young people to spend active and quality free time and foster healthy and safe lifestyles, as well as addressing the needs of young people in the field of culture;
 - 8) encouraging youth activities within the Youth Sector at the local level through

- the support of implementation of local youth action plans, as well as programs and projects of local youth offices;
- 9) conducting research on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia;
 - 10) implementation and promotion of international cooperation within the Youth Sector;
 - 11) support of young talents through rewards, scholarships and skills improvement of pupils and university students.

For the purposes of financing the support to young talents through rewards, scholarships and additional training of pupils and college students, the funds shall be provided in the budget of the Republic of Serbia within the budget fund established by the Government for such purposes (hereinafter *the Fund for Young Talents*), in accordance with the Law regulating the budgetary system.

***Funding and Co-Funding of Programs and
Projects of Public Interest in the Youth
Sector***

ARTICLE 21

The funding and co-funding of programs and projects of public interest in the area of Youth Sector referred to in Article 20(1) (1-10) of the Law hereof, shall be addressed through funding or co-funding of programs and projects implemented by program and project holders, as follows:

- 1) associations of young people, associations for young people, federations;
- 2) local self-governments;
- 3) institutions, science and research institutes, and other legal entities based in the Republic of Serbia.

Support to young talents as in Article 20(1)

(11) of the Law hereof, is realised through financial grants to pupils and students in accordance with the conditions specified under the Law hereof.

The holder of the program and project of public interest in the Youth Sector areas, funded or co-funded in accordance with the provisions hereof, may not at the same time use funds from the Republic, provincial and local budgets for the funding of the same activities.

***Conditions for Program and Project
Funding, Co-Funding and Implementation***

ARTICLE 22

The holders of programs and projects referred to in Article 21(1)(1) and (1)(3) of the Law hereof, must be registered in the territory of the Republic of Serbia in accordance with the Law.

The holders of programs and projects referred to in Article 21(2) of the Law hereof, must have established youth offices.

Beneficiaries of the Fund for Young Talents must be Republic of Serbia nationals or have a refugee status, and have permanent residence, or temporary residence if refugees, in the Republic of Serbia and meet other requirements stipulated in the act establishing the above budget fund.

The funding or co-funding of programs and projects referred to in Article 21 of the Law hereof, shall be carried out on the basis of a public call for proposals, in accordance with the funds envisaged in the Republic of Serbia budget for funding the public interest within the Youth Sector.

For the expert evaluation of the submitted programs and projects proposed to be

financed, as stated in Article 20(1)(1-10) of the Law hereof, the Minister shall issue a decision forming a special task force – a commission, in accordance with the regulations governing the state administration.

At the proposal of the commission mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Article hereof, the Minister establishes which programs and projects of public interest in the Youth Sector areas will be funded or co-funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

At the official website, the Ministry shall publish the list of all the participants in the procedure, approved programs and projects, including the amounts of approved funds, as well as the list of approved scholarships and rewards as stated in Article 21(2) of the Law hereof.

ARTICLE 23

The Ministry shall enter with the holder of the program or project awarded the funds into an agreement on the implementation of the program or project of interest for young people within the Youth Sector, as stated in Article 20 of the Law hereof.

If the program or project holder does not respond to the invitation to conclude the agreement within 15 days of receipt of the invitation, he shall be deemed to have abandoned the program or project proposal.

The holder of the approved program or project shall submit a report on program or project progress and funds expenditure upon the request of the Ministry, but not less than twice per year.

The Minister may discontinue further funding of a program or project for the approved program and project holder failing to submit

such report within the specified period of time.

In the event that the funds are used for purposes other than those for which they have been awarded, the holder of an approved program or project shall reimburse the entire awarded amount to the entity providing such funds.

The holder of an approved program or project shall retain the records or documents relating to the implementation of such program or project in accordance with the Law.

ARTICLE 24

The Minister shall specify the manner for the approval of programs and awarding funds, appearance and contents of the application form and documentation to be submitted with the project or program proposal, contents and appearance of program or project progress reports, manner and monitoring of implementation of approved programs or projects.

***Addressing the Needs and Interests of Young
People in the Areas of Youth Sector in the
Autonomous Province***

ARTICLE 25

The financing of the needs and interests of young people in the autonomous province shall be in line with the interests and needs of the autonomous province and its economic power and shall be used for:

- 1) providing conditions for the participation of young people in the development and implementation of the provincial youth action plan;
- 2) encouraging young people to actively participate in social processes through promotion and support of youth activities in the territory of the autonomous province;
- 3) encouraging associations of young people, associations for young people, and federations to participate in the implementation of the

Youth Policy, including capacity building of youth associations in the territory of the autonomous province;

- 4) organisation of trainings, seminars, conferences and events in the area of Youth Policy of special interest for the autonomous province.

The funds for addressing the needs and interests of young people referred to in paragraph 1 of the Article hereof, shall be provided in the autonomous province budget.

The competent body of the autonomous province shall specify the requirements and manner for awarding funds from the autonomous province budget, i.e. approval of projects addressing the needs and interests of young people in the territory of the autonomous province, and the manner of publication of information on the programs and projects proposed for funding, approved programs

and projects and implementation of approved programs and projects.

Addressing the Needs and Interests of Young People in the Areas of Youth Sector in Units of Local Self-Government

ARTICLE 26

The financing of the needs and interests of young people in the units of local self-government shall be in line with the interests and needs of the unit of local self-government and its economic power, and shall be used for:

- 1) encouraging young people to actively participate in social processes through promotion and support of youth activities, youth work and non-formal education in the territory of the unit of local self-government;
- 2) encouraging associations of young people, associations for young people, and federations to participate in the

implementation of the Youth Policy, including capacity building of youth associations in the territory of the unit of local self-government;

- 3) establishment and operation of the Youth Office, youth clubs, youth centres and the like;
- 4) activities of institutions through which the public interest in the field of Youth Sector is addressed, and which have been founded by the local self-government;
- 5) creating conditions for young people's participation in the preparation and implementation of local youth action plans;
- 6) creating conditions for young people to spend active and quality free time, engaging in sports, nurturing healthy and safe lifestyles, implementation of volunteering activities, organisation of trainings, seminars, and events of importance for the employment and skills improvement of young people, as well as for addressing the

- needs of young people in the field of culture,
- 7) supporting activities and projects fostering sustainable development and environmental protection.

The funds for addressing the needs and interests of young people referred to in paragraph 1 of the Article hereof, shall be provided in the budget of the unit of local self-government.

The competent body of a unit of local self-government shall specify the requirements and manner for awarding funds from the budget of the unit of local self-government, i.e. approval of projects addressing the needs and interests of young people in the territory of the unit of local self-government, and the manner of publication of information on the programs and projects proposed for funding, approved programs and projects and implementation of approved programs and projects.

VI.
IMPLEMENTATION
MONITORING

ARTICLE 27

The implementation of the Law hereof shall be monitored by the Ministry.

VII.
TRANSITIONAL AND
FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 28

The regulations related to the implementation of the Law hereof, referred to in Article 15 (3) and Article 24 of the Law hereof, shall be adopted within six months of the date the Law hereof comes into force.

ARTICLE 29

The Law hereof shall come into force on the eighth day of the publication date in the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia* and its application shall commence upon the expiry of a period of six months of the enforcement date.