

Chapter I. Civil and Political Rights

1. The right to vote and to be elected

Young people between 18-29 years prove to be the most vulnerable social category both in the context of the right to elect or to be elected. However, youth do not fully enjoy this right in practice; young people elected through local elections were: 50 district councillors from a total of 1030 (4.85%), 636 local councillors from a total of 10564 (6%) and 28 mayors from a total of 895 (3.13%)¹. These figures show a very weak involvement of young people in governing bodies that has a direct impact on the quality and on the diversity of activities meant to ensure the development of youth section. At the same time a lot of disparities have been identified in various domains through a range of thematic studies, among which the most vulnerable is the domain of practices in the process of making decisions. This kind of conclusion was identified by the Youth Index. Youth Index represents the ratio between the rate of youth and adult calculated for different areas. Youth Index offers data for development and implementation on evidence based transversal policies aiming the improvement of the quality of life of young people.

In terms of voting process we notice that the rate of youth participation in voting in the last parliamentary elections is only about 34.43%, while the rate of youth participation in local elections is 30,73%. In relation to representation in the Parliament, only 3 young people are in the Parliament while adults are 98, and according to the last thematic study realized in the drafting process of the National Strategy for Development of the Youth Sector 2020, the rate of participation in the decision making process is about 4.10%².

Recommendations to improve the situation:

- **Develop educational and awareness-raising programs on the right of youth to vote;**
- **Promote effective information dissemination mechanisms;**
- **Support youth-led community development and volunteering organizations;**
- **Design training programmes as incubators for new youth projects;**
- **Encourage continuous youth participation and civic education in schools and universities;**
- **Implement engaging, youth-friendly methods and multimedia strategies to catch the attention of young people;**
- **Include youth on electoral management body advisory boards, as poll station workers and election observers;**
- **Facilitate youth-led national youth councils and/or parliaments;**

Chapter II. Social and Economic Rights

1. Right to development and poverty reduction

The number of unemployed young people of 15-29 years (people that are not employment, seeking employment and available to accept an offer of employment) represent over 52 thousand people from 749,500³.

In the Republic of Moldova the unemployment rate is higher among young people than adults. The youth unemployment rate is 7.12% and the adult unemployment rate is 2.95%⁴. This is constantly increasing and the discrepancy between adults and youth is in a constant increase,

¹ Central Electoral Commission

² Youth Index <http://cntm.md/ro/node/247>

³ http://www.statistica.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/Cercetarea_TSM/Sinteza_TSM_2015.pdf

⁴ Youth Index <http://cntm.md/ro/node/247>

denoting an obvious vulnerability of this social group. Immediate measures are necessary from the side of the State to remedy these social inequities.

Recommendations to be implemented:

- The recognition of young people as being a vulnerable social group in the employment sector and the implementation of projects specific for this social category to remedy the identified disparities;
- Include specific measures to increase youth employment in the Employment Strategy in the Labour Force;
- Introduce measures that will support employers which support and employ young people, such as tax breaks;
- Increase the number of career guidance centres and diversify the services offered by National Agency for Employment in order to increase its activity for youth;
- Include cultural lessons of entrepreneurship in the pre-university curricula and consolidate the competences of youth in terms of labour legislation and employment opportunities.

Right to Freedom from poverty

Recommendations and observations already made by the regional and international bodies:

According to The Committee recommends that the State party take concrete and effective steps, also within the National Programme for Gender Equality 2010-2015, to ensure equal treatment for men and women in the labour market, including equal pay for work of equal value in all sectors.

According to The Committee recommends that the State party take all the necessary measures, including through its national development strategy 2012-2022, to ensure that poverty alleviation and social assistance programmes are targeted at the most disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups, including persons above 65 years of age, persons living in rural areas, persons with disabilities, and Roma. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its Statement on Poverty and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/2001/10).

According to the Committee the State party urges to increase its efforts to guarantee that the national minimum wage is sufficient to ensure an adequate standard of living for workers and their families. The Committee also reiterates its recommendations that the State party introduce a mechanism to determine and regularly adjust the minimum wage in proportion to the cost of living.

There is an obvious inequity in terms of equal pay for equal work regarding the remuneration of young people in comparison with adults. Thus young people receive lower wages than other categories for the same work, while lack of prior working experience is often used as an argument in substantial reduction of salary payments. Only 8.9 thousand young people aged between 15-29 years old (out of a total of 158.7 thousand) have monthly income of 50 USD, with the rest having an average salary below this amount.

According to the figures of the National Bureau of Statistics the main reason young employed people refuse a job is the salary. More specifically, 41.9 thousand young people in employment aged between 15 and 29 years (out of a total of 67.3 thousand), that refused a job cited very low salary as the reason.

Over 326,000 young people (43.6% of the total of young people aged between 15-29 years) began to search a job or to work from the age of 19. From the allocation of young people by

the first activity or job results that over 3/5 of these young people (63.2%) - have managed to work, 1 in 10 (10.2%) - were in the process of searching a job in the country, (16.7%) - have been working or searched a job abroad and (9.8%) - searched or had a job for a period of 3 months.

Young people from Moldova are economically inactive; about 2/3 of the total of young people aged between 15-29 years (447,000) are economically inactive. The main reasons they don't want to work are as follows: 3 in 5 - follow a tuition course or a professional forming, 1 in 5 - has family responsibilities, 9.900 - are preparing to work abroad, 3.400 young people suffer from a disease/disability and so on.

Recommendations to improve the situation:

- Exemption from the payment of taxes or tax breaks for young people to a period of at least one year;
- Introduce consumer loans and mortgages with a preferential gain rate for young people;
- Develop infrastructure, counselling programs and career guidance for young people to eradicate the gap between youth and adults in the labour market;
- Extend the network of Guidance and Counselling Centres considering that in the Republic of Moldova there are 27 universities. Create a viable and realistic mechanism of implementation and functioning for Regional Guidance and Counselling Centres;
- Encourage a national, regional and local culture of entrepreneurship among young people;
- Provide appropriate support for unemployed young people, combined with effective re-employment services and mutual rigid obligations. The insurance that abilities of the unemployed are developed, maintained and/or adapted to the level of changes;
- To introduce a new law (the "employment package") that reduces employer social security contributions for the hiring of young men (aged 18 to 29 years) and women (aged over 18 years);
- Adopt measures and complete actions for the facilitation of access to SME funds and the stimulation of funding for a long period for start-ups;
- Develop private sector partnerships and introduce management of higher performance to increase efficiency;
- The promotion of entrepreneurship and independent activities to unlock new growth sources of employment;
- The creation of a JOBCENTRE, with the purpose of creating employment-first front-line service;
- The filling of Labour code with an article on paid Internships.

Chapter III. Equality and non-discrimination of youth

1. Right to non-discrimination

Young men are disadvantaged in relation to banking, financial and lending services due to a number of objective characteristics. About 18.6% of young men between 15-29 years use financial services (out of a total of 749,500). This has a tangible impact on their social development. The most common reason is the absence of a historic accreditation, the lack of financial education, the lack of some goods for pledge and the lack of fixed income. Ensuring easy and efficient access to financial services would ascertain the increase of youth autonomy as well as the development and faster integration of young people in society, mainly those who are from socially vulnerable groups.

Recommendations to improve the situation:

- Enhance the educational code with aspects of financial inclusion and financial education;
- Develop promotional activities for young men, focusing on financial inclusion and support national companies to promote this concept in the National Strategy of Development the Youth Section;
- Elaborate specific measures in financial public policy with a focus on youth as target group;
- Provide State loans to young people which can be used, for example, in the fields of education, housing and socio-professional development.

2. Equal Rights

Recommendations and observations already made by the regional and international bodies:

According to The Committee State party urges to increase its efforts to guarantee that the national minimum wage is sufficient to ensure an adequate standard of living for workers and their families. The Committee also reiterates its recommendations that the State party introduce a mechanism to determine and regularly adjust the minimum wage in proportion to the cost of living.

At the moment pursuant to National Statistics Office figures over 193,500 people aged between 15-34 years in 2014 (25%) were working or searching for employment abroad. In 2014, 378,100 young men aged between 15-34 years emigrated. The share of young immigrants in the actual total of young people aged between 15-34 years was 16.2% in 2014 and it is increasing continuously. The share of absent youth in the country for more than one year aged between 15-34 years is about 38,800⁵.

Alternatives to improve the situation:

- To create and facilitate opportunities for decent work and access to credit and markets for young people.
- To expand access to education, apprenticeships, finance, and employment opportunities for young women and men in rural areas.
- To include youth migration issues in all relevant aspects of government, particularly development plans and policies.
- To establish local assessments, policies, institutions, mechanisms, programmes and actions to facilitate youth.
- To include adolescents and youth in policy-making processes, follow through on their suggestions and recommendations, and ensure their continued participation throughout process.

Contributing organisations

The **European Youth Forum (YFJ)** is an independent platform of 100 youth organisations in Europe, to which CNTM is a full member. Founded in 1996 and bringing together National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, YFJ represents the common interests of tens of millions of young people in Europe.

⁵ Statistics regarding youth population mobility

http://www.unfpa.md/images/stories/Barometrul_Demografic_Tineret.pdf

bl. Ștefan cel Mare 126, ap. 40, Chișinău
MD-2012 Republica Moldova

Tel: (+373.22) 23-30-88

Tel/fax: (+373.22) 23-51-75

cntm.corespondenta@gmail.com

www.cntm.md



Consiliul Național
al Tineretului din Moldova



National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM) was registered as a Public Association on 18th of February 1999 and is an umbrella structure of 46 youth organizations, and its mission is to empower young people to participate actively in the society, promote the interests of the young people from Moldova in its relations with government and international institutions, to develop youth associative structures through the implementation of program activities, trainings, information, advocacy and consulting services.

National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM), Stefan cel Mare bd, 126, ap 40, +37322233088

Contact person: Igor Ciurea, Secretary General +37369531061 igor.ciurea@cntm.md

Olga Sevcenco, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator +37376721068 olga.sevcenco@cntm.md

Rue de l'Industrie 10, 1000 BRUXELLES, Belgium. Contact person George-Konstantinos Charonis, george-konstantinos.charonis@youthforum.org, +3227937525, www.youthforum.org.