



European
Commission

Youth laws or national legislation on youth

Overview of youth laws or national legislation on youth¹

Youth law or national legislation on youth	
Belgium	<p>Flemish Community: The Flemish Parliament Act of 20 January 2012 on a renewed Flemish policy on youth and children's rights.</p> <p>French Community: There is no National Youth Law and there is no public discussion about the need for a single law. However, there are 5 Decrees that concern youth policy implementation at the community level.</p> <p>German-speaking Community: Youth work is regulated by the Decree of 6 December 2011 governing the funding of youth work (<i>Dekret vom 6. Dezember 2011 zur Förderung der Jugendarbeit</i>) which sets out the essentials of the youth policy of the German-speaking Community.</p>
Bulgaria (*)	Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria for adoption of the Youth Law, prom. SG. 31/20 April 2012, effective as from 20 April 2012, amend. SG. 68/2 August 2013, effective as of 2 August 2013)
Czech Republic	There is no one general Law on Youth in the sense of comprehensive Youth Act. The Children and Youth mainstreaming is used and therefore specificity of young generation is reflected somehow in most of state (sectoral) policies.
Denmark (**)	No youth law
Germany	The official document addressing the needs and/or rights of young people and youth issues is the Social Code, Book VIII – Child and Youth Services [<i>Sozialgesetzbuch Achtes Buch Kinder- und Jugendhilfe, SGB VIII</i>]. It is a federal law. It is also called the Child and Youth Services Act [<i>Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz (KJHG)</i>].

¹ Roman alphabetical order of the countries' geographical names in the original language(s).

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Estonia	<p>There are two most important acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the renewed Child Protection Act, which defines the principles of ensuring the rights and well-being of children in the age group of 0-18; • the Youth Work Act, which defines the age range for young people from 7-26 and the obligations of different authorities in the youth field.
Ireland (*)	Youth Work Act 2001
Greece (*)	Laws on youth issues are stipulated and incorporated in the legislation of various ministries concerning the following policy areas: education, employment, sports, health, culture, family, military service, deviant behaviour, etc.
Spain	<p>According to Article 48 of the 1978 Spanish Constitution (<i>Constitución Española de 1978</i>) 'Public authorities will promote conditions for the free and effective participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural development'. There is no General Government Administration Youth Comprehensive Law. However, there are laws about youth in the Autonomous Regions, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law 11/2002 (<i>Ley 11/2002, de 10 de julio de 2002</i>), related to Youth from the Castile and Leon Region • Law 7/2007 (<i>Ley 7/2007, de 13 de abril de 2007</i>), related to Youth from the Canary Islands Autonomous Region • Law 33/2010 (<i>Ley 33/2010, de 1 de octubre de 2010</i>), related to Youth policies from Catalonia • Law 6/2015 (<i>Ley 6/2015, de 25 de marzo de 2015</i>), related to Youth from the Aragon Autonomous Region
France	<p>Although the French State has no general law on youth, it is the subject of specific laws drawn up by various ministries working on behalf of young people, including the Ministry in charge of Youth, the Ministry of National Education or also the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>In order to promote and to reinforce the participation of young people, the government has created by the Decree No 2016-1377 of 12 October 2016 an Orientation council of youth policies, a new framework for the dialogue with the youth organisation.</p>
Croatia	No youth law

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Italy (**)	<p>Youth is expressly taken into account by the Italian Constitution, Article 31 reads, inter alia, 'The Republic protects maternity, infancy and youth, by encouraging institutions necessary to do this' and that the commitment of the State to protect young people has always been characterised by political and legislative decisions having supported Government actions.</p> <p>In Italy, however, there is no specific National Law on Youth. There are many laws aimed at young people in different fields, such as: education, employment, health, culture etc.</p> <p>In 2016 Italy adopted a Reform of the third sector - Law 6 June 2016, no. 106 - which introduces significant new developments in the youth policies, among others the universal civic service. In accordance with the Law, a Legislative Decree was adopted on 6 March 2017, concerning the establishment and discipline of the universal civic service.</p>
Cyprus	There is no youth law in Cyprus and currently it is not discussed in the country.
Latvia	The Youth Law was adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia and came into force on 1 January 2009.
Lithuania	The Law on Youth Policy Framework was approved in 2003 (with amendments in 2005). It is a national law establishing the principles of the implementation youth policy.
Luxembourg	After more than a decade of youth policy development, the first Youth Law was introduced in 2008 and revised eight years later in the 2016 Youth Law which introduced some important modifications with regard to the objectives and the alignment of youth policy. Furthermore, there are three Grand-Ducal regulations that define the implementation of the youth laws.
Hungary	Currently there is no national law on youth.
Malta	Currently there is no comprehensive youth law in Malta. A number of special provisions for young people can be found in a number of different laws that target the whole population. These laws make reference to young people, using terms such as young persons, minors or persons under 18 years of age.
Netherlands	The Child and Youth Act (2015) came into effect on 1 January 2015. It regulates how youth care should be addressed at the local level.

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Austria	<p>There is not just a single youth law in Austria, but several laws for different youth-related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Youth Promotion Act (<i>Bundes-Jugendförderungsgesetz</i>) • Federal Youth Representation Act (<i>Bundes-Jugendvertretungsgesetz</i>) • Juvenile Court Act (<i>Jugendgerichtsgesetz</i>) • Child and Youth Employment Act (<i>Kinder und Jugendlichen Beschäftigungsgesetz</i>) • Youth Education Assurance Act (<i>Jugendausbildungs-Sicherungsgesetz</i>) • Youth Education Assurance Act (<i>Jugendausbildungs-Sicherungsgesetz</i>)
Poland	No youth law. Youth-related regulations are provided in various legal acts.
Portugal	No youth law. Youth's needs and rights are incorporated into various pieces of legislation in several domains related to the lives of young people.
Romania	Law no. 350/2006, adopted by the Parliament and published in the Official Journal of Romania on 27 July 2006 (<i>Lege nr. 350 din 21/07/2006 Legea Tinerilor</i>)
Slovenia	<p>Several pieces of legislation regulate the youth field. The Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector may be considered as the most comprehensive and binding official document that addresses the needs and/or rights of young people and stipulates how youth issues should be addressed. The Act was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on 18 May 2010, promulgated on 28 May 2010 and entered into force on 12 June 2010.</p> <p>In addition, several other legal acts, such as Youth Council Act (<i>Zakon o mladinskih svetih</i>) and the Students Association Act (<i>Zakon o skupnosti študentov</i>), are relevant to the youth field.</p>
Slovakia	No youth law
Finland	<p>Finland has had separate legislation on youth work since the beginning of the 1970s. The Youth Act covers youth work and activities, youth policy and the related responsibilities of the central and local government, cross-sectoral cooperation as well as state funding. The Youth Act is complemented by the Government Decree on Youth Work and Policy.</p> <p>In addition, several other laws, such as the Child Welfare Act and the Basic Education Act, refer to youth issues and address the rights and obligations of young people.</p>

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Sweden	<p>Currently there is no national youth law in Sweden. There are though pieces of legislation which address the needs and rights of young. Relevant legislation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act concerning support and service for persons with certain functional impairments (<i>Lagen om stöd och service till vissa funktionshindrade, LSS</i>) • Aliens act (<i>Utlänningslagen</i>) • Care of young persons act (<i>Lag med särskilda bestämmelser om vård av unga</i>) • Education act (<i>Skollagen</i>) • Higher education act (<i>Högskolelag</i>) • Parents code (<i>Föräldrabalken</i>) • Social services act (<i>Socialtjänstlagen</i>)
United Kingdom	<p>England: There is no single national youth law in England. However, there are a number of pieces of legislation which address the needs and rights of young people and regulate how youth issues are addressed.</p> <p>Northern Ireland: There is no youth law in Northern Ireland. Youth policy-makers and service providers operate within the general legislative framework as regards, for example, health and safety, employment and equality.</p> <p>Scotland: There is no comprehensive youth law in Scotland. Instead, several different pieces of legislation cover the entitlements of young people.</p> <p>Wales: There is no comprehensive youth law. There are though a number of pieces of legislation which address the needs and rights of young people and regulate how youth issues are addressed.</p>
Serbia (***)	<i>Zakon o mladima</i> , 'Sluzbeni glasnik RS' broj 50/11 (Law on Youth, Official Gazette of the RS, no 50/11)

Source: Youth Wiki, Section 1.2 'National Youth Law' (<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/1-youth-policy-governance-overview>, information retrieved in January 2018); (*) 2015 EU Youth Report; (**) Reply to questionnaire 'Youth Policy Governance – Contribution to 2018 EU Youth Report' (<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/publication/YouthPolicyGovernance>); (***) Contribution to EU Youth Wiki: non-programme countries (<http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/contribution-eu-youth-wiki>)