



Youth Empowerment: Change on Many Levels

Policy recommendations to improve the social inclusion of hard-to-reach youths & the efficacy of those who work with them



About this Document & the CIVACT Project

Social exclusion has a major impact on young people, especially those in disadvantaged areas. Socially excluded young people do not have access to the same resources as others and lack the opportunities to enable them to contribute to society. As a result, they feel that they cannot influence their community and have little or no impact on the policy decisions directly affecting their lives.

[CIVACT](#), an ERASMUS+ Key Action 2 project, has worked to combat these issues and improve the social and democratic engagement of youth at risk of social exclusion across Europe. Over the course of the two-year project, the partners have explored various facets of their respective local situations, from political support to funding to institutional cooperation, as part of developing the project's outputs and adapting them to their local contexts. Previous project outputs have included a [needs analysis](#), a [database of methods](#) geared at engaging youth at risk of social exclusion, a [curriculum](#) to train youth workers in these methods which was used in the project's training activity in October 2019, and [best practices](#) for adapting the methods to the five local partner contexts. The overall goal of the project was to upskill youth workers in methods specifically designed for engaging disadvantaged young people, and, in turn, to offer these young people new experiences with civic engagement and the confidence and tools needed to propose changes to urban regeneration and local development in the areas in which they live.

The CIVACT consortium is made up of five partners: [Lawaetz Stiftung](#) (Hamburg, Germany; Lead partner), [Bond of Union](#) (Palermo, Italy), [Mapping for Change](#) (London, UK), [Young East](#) (Gothenburg, Sweden), and [APDES](#) (Porto, Portugal).

The goals of this document are to:

- Outline existing policy relevant to our topic & target groups on EU, national and local levels and supplement this information with relevant context from previous project outputs
- Describe the “haves and needs” with regard to youth policy in each partner context
- Draft individual suggestions for improvement based on our own local experiences in this project for EU, national, local and institutional levels.

Just the facts?

- For a summary of our [recommendations](#), check out “Recommendations: Improving Youth Empowerment in European Cities” on p. 4.
- For a quick overview of our [main findings](#), check out the table “Work with Hard-to-Reach Youths: Multi-Level Policy Haves & Needs in the Five Partner Countries” on p. 10.

All of the outputs from this project can be downloaded at the project's website, where the online version of the methods database is also hosted: <https://civact.communitymaps.org.uk>.



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Recommendations: Improving Youth Empowerment in European Cities

Based on our work in this project, we would like to highlight a number of key learnings for how youth work both in general and with our target group (youth at risk of social exclusion) could be improved in European cities.

Recommendations for youth work in general:

- It is important to have a **national law** in order to clearly position the role of youth work. Furthermore, the lack of a **central body** dealing with youth work is very problematic. Central coordination bodies have a strong position to see the whole landscape, conduct policy evaluation, gather input from the grassroots, and raise it to a higher policy level. We consider the establishment of national laws and coordinating bodies to be one of the core aspects for the effective delivery of youth policy.
- It is important that the **value of youth work** is highlighted and defined on a political level, as a lack of recognition of the value of youth work has a negative impact on the level and development of competences in the sector. Furthermore, where it is not yet the case, the **professional profile of youth workers** should be formalized and based on accreditation and regular occupational training.
- Funding is a central issue for effective youth work. Financial constraints reduce the ability of local associations to implement effective activities and competing for resources breaks down local associations' ability or will to cooperate with each other. We suggest that **structural core funding** and **project-based funding which encourages cooperation** would be good solutions here.
- In order to create more robust policy and programmes, it is important to **engage both the youth and the youth workers in policy definition**, as well as the design of programmes and initiatives that affect them. Where appropriate, we also suggest establishing **bottom-up strategies for policy making** which engage a wider group of stakeholders, programmes and institutions working in this field.
- Strong national policies are only effective if they are translated to the operational level on the ground. There is often a **vertical disconnect between policy levels** with regard to youth policy. Strategic & integrated planning is needed on a local level which is needs-based and knowledge and practices that exist at different spatial levels (national, state, local) need to be better synchronised. A central coordination body can assist in vertical knowledge transfer and policy implementation.
- Furthermore, new programmes and initiatives should be based on **concrete needs**, instead of funding requirements. On the flip side of this, funding requirements should be more **agile and flexible** so as to respond to changing needs in communities.

- Finally, it is vital to follow-up on the real outcomes of actions, initiatives, programmes, and funding. There is a great need both for **monitoring instruments** for measuring impact and for *ex post* **impact assessments**. This type of impact assessment furthermore requires the *ex ante* definition of goals, objectives and key progress indicators. Impact monitoring is largely missing from youth policy assessment in the countries involved in this project.

Recommendations for youth work with CIVACT's target groups:

- **Formally defining youths at risk of social exclusion as a target group** for specialized youth work is a highly effective way of developing targeted policies downstream (for example on lower political or institutional levels).
- Furthermore, this is also beneficial for youth workers working with this target group, since their **skill development and work plans** can be more targeted to their needs in working with this group.
- Policies and programmes should draw on techniques used to address **intersectionality** in order to better address the complexities of the multiple and intersecting issues facing the target group.
- **Interdepartmental cooperation** is a core aspect of engaging youth at risk of social exclusion, as they are often affected by multiple deprivation. Cooperation between youth work, social services, welfare departments, job centres, neighbourhood centres, etc. can help link up the resources available to this vulnerable target group.
- Youth work with children and youths experiencing multiple deprivation and at risk of social exclusion should be prioritized as **preventative work** which also expands to target youths at a young age and before they are “flagged” in other parts of the social and criminal justice system. This work should furthermore be prioritized in budget planning and have ensured core funding.
- Finally, we highly recommend the inclusion of **non-formal education/outreach methods** for the engagement of youths at risk of social exclusion. Non-formal methods are particularly well-suited for working with youths who have had bad experiences with formal systems and structures. We also recommend more peer networking between youth workers to exchange real life experiences and tips for working with the target group.

Social Inclusion & Youth Work Policy in Europe

Youth work policy in Europe is set out in the [EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027](#), which sets itself the goal of creating more and equal opportunities for all young people to participate in the education and labour market as well as in society more generally. The EU has had a dedicated youth policy since 2002, following a guiding principle of active participation and equal access to opportunities. As such, social inclusion is woven into the fabric of youth policy. The goals of EU youth policy are clearly laid out in accessible language in the [EU Youth Strategy webpage](#).

European youth policy has three main objectives: engage, connect and empower:

- Engage – fostering a “meaningful civic, economic, social, cultural and political participation of young people”.¹
- Connect – supporting “connections, relations and exchange of experiences” among young people also through mobility.²
- Empower – encouraging young people to “take charge of their own lives” through their engagement in quality youth work.³

The Erasmus+ programme, which also funds this project, is a key delivery mechanism for these three objectives. The Erasmus+ programme divides funding into three strands (key actions - KA): [Mobility](#) (KA1), [Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices](#) (KA2), and [Support for Policy Reform](#) (KA3). KA1 focuses primarily on the engage and connect objectives and directly funds the mobility of individual young people. The beneficiaries of KA2 & KA3, which encompass all three objectives, are primarily youth organisations, as, from the European policy perspective, youth organizations play a vital role both as providers of training and skills development and as promoters of social inclusion through youth work and non-formal education activities.

The European Council concretely addressed the contribution of quality youth work to the social inclusion of young people in a [2013 policy brief](#). This document addressed the fifth [European Youth Goal](#), “Mental health and wellbeing,” under which social inclusion is specifically referenced and highlighted. According to this document, “social inclusion requires a comprehensive and cross-sectoral approach to address the multi-faceted nature of marginalisation and exclusion in society”.⁴ Youth work should therefore include all young people with an emphasis on those with fewer opportunities or who are at risk of marginalisation. The document goes on to highlight a youth-centred approach, specifically stating that “social inclusion can be further optimised through a quality-focused and evidence-informed approach which places young people centre-stage in the design and the

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy/engage_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy/connect_en

³ https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy/empower_en

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52013XG0614%2802%29>

delivery of youth work provision.”⁵ This echoes some of the policy suggestions we have made above. Finally, the Commission supports an affirmative and empowerment-based approach, which “supports young people’s participation, development and progression in a way which affirms their strengths, enhances resilience and competences and recognises their potential to build individual, communal and social capital.”⁶

The goal of the CIVACT project has been to empower both youth at risk of social exclusion and the youth workers who work with them to achieve precisely this objective. Naturally, this approach has been interpreted through the lens of national and local contexts of the five partners who participated in this project. In the following sections, we would like to examine this process and the national, local and institutional policies which affected it.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

Five Cities, Five National & Local Contexts

Overview of national policy strategies & programmes and initiatives

In the following section, we would like to give a broad overview of the situation with regard to youth work and social inclusion in each of the countries involved in the CIVACT project.⁷

Portugal

<i>National strategy promoting social inclusion</i>	The national strategy for the social inclusion of young people is framed in the incentives programme called Portugal 2020 .
<i>Funding of social inclusion programmes</i>	Both the top-level budget and EU funding are used
<i>Promoting intercultural awareness and combatting discrimination</i>	In both formal and non-formal education
<i>Quality assurance of services affecting social inclusion</i>	Both social services and health care
<i>Target groups for social inclusion</i>	Socio-economically disadvantaged young people (e.g. unemployed, NEETs, homeless, etc.) and young people from migrant / refugee / minority ethnic backgrounds

Italy

<i>National strategy promoting social inclusion</i>	New National Social Plan 2018 - 2020 providing that 40% of the National Fund for Social Policy must be used for interventions to children and adolescents. There are also several programmes for vulnerable youth.
<i>Funding of social inclusion programmes</i>	The top-level budget and EU funding are used
<i>Promoting intercultural awareness and combatting discrimination</i>	In both formal and non-formal education
<i>Quality assurance of services affecting social inclusion</i>	Both social services and health care
<i>Target groups for social inclusion</i>	Socio-economically disadvantaged young people (e.g. unemployed, NEETs, homeless, etc.)

⁷ Source: <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/youthwiki/comparative-overview/social-inclusion>

Germany

<i>National strategy promoting social inclusion</i>	Both the National Youth Strategy and a broader top-level strategies / programmes
<i>Funding of social inclusion programmes</i>	Both the top-level budget and EU funding are used
<i>Promoting intercultural awareness and combatting discrimination</i>	In both formal and non-formal education
<i>Quality assurance of services affecting social inclusion</i>	Social services
<i>Target groups for social inclusion</i>	All youth is targeted

UK

<i>National strategy promoting social inclusion</i>	No single national strategy but a range of broader top-level strategies / programmes
<i>Funding of social inclusion programmes</i>	The top-level budget is used
<i>Promoting intercultural awareness and combatting discrimination</i>	In both formal and non-formal education
<i>Quality assurance of services affecting social inclusion</i>	Both social services and health care
<i>Target groups for social inclusion</i>	Socio-economically disadvantaged young people (e.g. unemployed, NEETs, homeless, etc.)

Sweden

<i>National strategy promoting social inclusion</i>	The National Youth Strategy
<i>Funding of social inclusion programmes</i>	Both the top-level budget and EU funding are used
<i>Promoting intercultural awareness and combatting discrimination</i>	In both formal and non-formal education
<i>Quality assurance of services affecting social inclusion</i>	Both social services and health care
<i>Target groups for social inclusion</i>	Socio-economically disadvantaged young people (e.g. unemployed, NEETs, homeless, etc.) and young people from migrant / refugee / minority ethnic backgrounds

Work with Hard-to-Reach Youths: Multi-Level Policy Haves & Needs in the Five Partner Countries

		Haves	Needs
APDES (Porto, Portugal)	<i>National</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Youth worker professional profile is established → Youth participation is comprised in a National Youth Strategy → Presence of state organizations dedicated to implement public policies concerning youth needs → Specific programmes for minorities → Wide range of initiatives (employment, inclusion, participation, entrepreneurship, discrimination) for a wide range of ages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Youth involvement in decision-making processes at policy levels → Multi-sector programmes that are specialized in youth needs (e.g. employment) with youth as the main stakeholder → Enlarge the concept of participation and politics to take into account civic participation beyond the electoral system / View civic participation beyond formal political participation (in political parties and election processes). → Housing policies directed at youth → Public policies that are less palliative and more permanent, to increase medium and long-term effects. → Broader approach to social inclusion and youth at risk, one that tackles the structural difficulties and disadvantages faced by lower income neighbourhoods.
	<i>State / Local</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → State youth policies → Local projects for youths at risk of social exclusion → Local policies for the involvement of youth in the democratic process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Continuous funding for the projects developed by non-profit organizations → Switch the logic of project (limited in time) to a service (continuous in time) → Simplification of bureaucratic process for tenders → Increase preventive approaches
	<i>Institutional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Inclusion of youth in the design and development of methodologies/projects → Existing work with young NEETs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Increase funding and human resources → Value outreach work and more complex interventions with NEETs

		Haves	Needs
Bond of Union (Palermo, Italy)	<i>National</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Several national learning and employment opportunities for young people (18-35 years old), such as <i>Servizio Civile Universale</i> and <i>Garanzia Giovani</i> managed by the National Department for Youth Policy → The issue of social exclusion of vulnerable youths is faced through several transversal programmes involving several institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Multi-annual top-level strategy and specific programme planning & funds addressing specifically social inclusion of vulnerable youths → Official recognition of youth work and its role with hard-to-reach youths → Reinforcing National strategy to increase political and civil society participation of young people especially the hard-to-reach ones
	<i>State / Local</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → High number of non-profit youth organisations → Experience in initiatives / good practices for young migrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Increase presence of coordination bodies and long-term continuity of grant policies → Recognition of the role of the non-profit youth organisations
	<i>Institutional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Process of establishing territorial educational centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → More spaces to establish youth centres → Increase the funds for youth work → A stronger role for the department of youth policies

		Haves	Needs
Lawaetz Foundation (Hamburg, Germany)	<i>National</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Differentiated youth policy offerings on a national level → Well-funded and well-developed programmes → Issue of youth social inclusion is specifically addressed on many levels and targeted to a variety of groups (for example migrants, youths with migration background, refugees, youths at risk of social exclusion, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Transference of the recognition for the importance of youth work from a national to a state or local level → Programmes are developed too quickly and without considering underlying structural issues → New programmes need to include existing programmes, networks, cooperations & institutions and have well-defined impact analyses
	<i>State / Local</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → One contact person for youth policy on a state level → Good integration of various projects and initiatives → Regular meetings and structures for internal exchange and skills development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → More recognition of the added value of youth work, especially with youths at risk of social exclusion → Create time resources in order to be able to carry out participative formats → Create structures in such a way that participation becomes an integral / embedded aspect of youth work → Continuous training of employees in participatory methods → Regular reflection on youths' opportunities to participate → Recognition of open child and youth work as a special opportunity for learning and for developing into a responsible citizen (empowerment) → Development of structures to help shape political processes (i.e. youth forum)
	<i>Institutional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Good and strong connection with local and municipal politics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Integrate youth voices into choice & design of future youth work (for example through an institution-level youth forum that helps to co-design local and municipal policies)

		Haves	Needs
Mapping for Change (London, England)	<i>National</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Differentiated youth policy offering on a national level across different government departments targeting different age ranges → Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport youth policy mainly relates to out-of-school opportunities for young people. It promotes social action schemes for young people and also has the responsibility for the National Citizen Service → Supported the set-up of new, independent organisations to deliver systemic interventions on social issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Strategic direction for youth policy in England → Specify national standard for services for young people → Single piece of legislation covering youth policy → Government agency in England which meets the definition of a national agency for youth → Prevent cull of centralised young people’s services (e.g. ‘Connexions’) through austerity measures → Anticipate and respond to complications that will arise from future withdrawal of EU social mobility funding as a result of ‘Brexit’
	<i>State / Local</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Local authorities are expected to provide more targeted services for vulnerable young people → Decisions about the provision of services and activities for young people are determined at a local level which introduces flexibility to make provisions according to local need → The main themes underpinning the offer made by local authorities (LAs) are set out in Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People’s Well-being. It lists the youth work and other services that LAs should provide to improve the well-being of young people. This includes youth work and other activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Specify a standard for services for young people → Further multi-agency actions to develop and implement new and innovative approaches and improve on existing ones, so the strengths and needs of youths at risk are identified and support and opportunities are put in place. → Respond to statutory duty to secure services and activities for young people and determine “what ‘sufficient’ local provision of services for young people should be” → Establish mechanisms specifically for monitoring and evaluating the implementation and effects of youth policies

		Haves	Needs
Young East (Gothenburg, Sweden)	<i>National</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society produces and disseminates knowledge in two principal areas: Youth policy and policy focused on civil society → Extra investment for children and youth organisations to distribute the state subsidy as an organizational subsidy → The government strengthens the work against honour-related violence and oppression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Better understanding of the background and conditions for youth at risk when establishing new programmes & investments → Adjustment of European Social Funds according to the target group and increase in projects for more effective support for NEETS
	<i>State / Local</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The goal-oriented youth policy is strengthened by a rights perspective that has a clear connection to the Convention on the Rights of the Child → Development of a model for a rights-based youth perspective → Strengthening of the municipalities' opportunities to create summer jobs for young people through SEK 180 million in the spring amendment budget → Addition of further funds of SEK 100 million for continuation of youth employment by the municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Better local support to implement the rights of the child in the local context, for example social services → Better municipal / local coordination regarding grants and additional contributions for youths at risk → Adaptable housing situation, in particular regarding youth at risk, especially in deprived areas
	<i>Institutional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → As per the Education Act, municipalities are responsible for young people who are registered in municipalities and who have fulfilled their compulsory schooling, but who have not turned 20 and have not completed or have completed education in a national program in upper secondary school, upper secondary special school or equivalent education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Remove variance in conditions for local coordinators regarding the education responsibility, which results in unequal support for the youth → Better local implementation → Increased access to health- and psychiatric care for youth at risk

APDES / Porto / Portugal

National Policies, Programmes & Initiatives for Social Inclusion & Youth Work⁸

In the last decades, Portugal has shown improvements in the living conditions of citizens, in part as a result of the implementation of a set of public policies in the area of poverty and social inclusion and the consequent improvement of the social protection system. These measures have included the progressive extension of the educational system, the expansion of mandatory education until the twelfth year of secondary education (2009), the increase in the supply of equipment and services for social support, and the continuous development of the National Health System, among others.

Portugal has a consolidated policy in the youth field, which includes youth participation as a main effort, state bodies designated for its execution, specific programmes aimed at minorities issues and funding opportunities for a wide range of areas such as employment, inclusion, participation, entrepreneurship, discrimination at national and local levels. Additionally, the professional profile of the Youth Worker⁹ (Técnico da Juventude) was formally defined in 2016; the training is equivalent to a level 4 in the National Qualification Framework (equivalent to 12th grade).

In the recent crisis, young people were one of the most affected groups regarding unemployment and job insecurity. Like other European countries, Portugal has seen a rise in the number of low-skilled youngsters who are NEETs (not employed, nor in education or training). Nonetheless, Portugal has been making efforts to address these issues and has implemented programmes and strategies to overcome them. Overall, the main challenges for social inclusion are in the areas of poverty, education, unemployment, young NEETs and youths from vulnerable socio-economic contexts. In Portugal, the national strategy for the social inclusion of young people is framed in the incentives programme called [Portugal 2020](#), within the scope of the [Europe 2020 strategy](#).

Despite the strong effort in delineating a consistent and multidisciplinary public policy for youth, which takes into consideration a complex articulation of different demands, the strong presence of supporting organizations at state and local levels, a wide range of initiatives from employment and the role of minority groups, there is still a lack of academic studies on their impact in the life of young people and to what extent they play a significant role for the improvement of civic engagement. A detailed analysis gathered through desk research and the exchange of ideas with youth workers suggests that, although Portugal has a consolidated policy, the efforts to promote civic engagement

⁸ For additional information on specific national and local policies, programmes & initiatives, please see the annex at the end of this document.

⁹ [4.7 Youth work to foster social inclusion | EACEA National Policies Platform](#)

among youths in vulnerable situations do not address structural inequalities. Indeed, this approach falsely treats youths as a homogenous group and ignores internal differences within the larger group of young people as a result of their migration background, socio-economic circumstances, education level, or a range of other characteristics.

The set of concerns common to all young people in the country today is very much linked to employment, mobility, and income generation; for this reason, there is a considerable effort to address these issues. These policies however fail to highlight inequalities in terms of income and social vulnerability and the ways in which these inequalities create structural conditions which prevent youths in vulnerable situations from taking advantage of these policies in the same way as young people with greater social, economic and cultural capital. The involvement of youth in the design of policies, for example through peer-led initiatives with youth workers and youth involvement, could contribute to more informed policies which tackle the real needs and expectations of youth and contribute to address the specific needs of marginalized groups.

Youth Work & Social Inclusion in Porto: Haves & Needs

Regarding national and local policies, Portugal has been increasingly improving the specific funding for initiatives on youth social inclusion following EU goals and recommendations however, continuous and structural funding is pointed out as the main challenge addressed by institutions working within a community approach¹⁰.

At local level, it is remarkable that both Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia are part of the group of almost 40%¹¹ Portuguese municipalities that hold a specific budget allocation for youth and are part of the group of 8% municipalities with local youth policy implemented. Nonetheless, the most mentioned barrier to the advancement of youth rights at a local level is the funding availability and the priorities set for accessing them.

For example, one of the challenges for the implementation of social projects regarding youth is the bureaucratic process of the public tenders. According to the Permanent Observatory of Youth's latest Policy Brief¹² analysing funding opportunities, there is a palliative aspect of the public policies in this area - that is to say the treat the symptom, but not the cause. They are additionally described as not permanent efforts and with limited scope in medium and long term.

¹⁰ The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated some of the problems described above - unemployment has risen among young people after school activities were shut down, leaving a significant number of youngsters without leisure activities and/or access to tools like computers and internet. This demonstrates the need for a broader approach to social inclusion and youth at risk, one that tackles the structural difficulties and disadvantages faced by lower income neighbourhoods.

¹¹ <https://www.opj.ics.ulisboa.pt/wp-content/uploads/ICS-Policy-Brief-2019-Observat.pdf>

¹² [ICS Policy Brief 2018](#)

One of the outcomes of this palliative approach is that it prevents long-term efforts needed to tackle structural issues. It also leaves NGOs and other social structures in precarious situations, without the autonomy to ensure the continuity of their projects. Social work is underfunded in general. There is strong competition for the resources available and structural, long-term, high-cost initiatives cannot compete with more general short-term activities, which have less impact but larger coverage. It is perceived that national policies can only have a real impact if they have the means to be implemented on the operational level, a problem that could be resolved by structural and continuous funding of social projects.

This situation increases the challenges for the implementation of initiatives in the most vulnerable areas. Unemployment is relatively higher in the north of Portugal; this is also the case in the neighbourhoods addressed by CIVACT local partners, where the unemployment rate is 58% in Bairro do Cerco and 51% Bairro Dr Nuno Pinheiro Torres (Bairro PT). This problem is coupled with an aging population, stigma of social housing, social exclusion, and low access to leisure activities and healthy lifestyles. The youths of these neighbourhoods demonstrate low levels of civic participation, low levels of formal education, low school performance and low access to cultural offerings like museums¹³.

NGOs like **APDES** and other non-profit organizations have been making efforts to adapt their work to address these issues regarding young people, aiming at promoting social inclusion of all youngsters. GIS, one of APDES' current projects, is currently developing a project dedicated to NEET young people, helping them to consolidate their knowledge and developing skills to enter the labour market. Both CIVACT local partner organizations T Space (Cercar-te project) and the Academic Federation of Porto (FAP in Bairro project) develop community-based work with children and youngsters intending to promote the social inclusion of children, young people and vulnerable families. These projects are attempts at providing the neighbourhoods with integrated responses to tackle abandonment, absenteeism and school drop-out, and promote the acquisition of skills supporting the employability and professional integration.

However, both organizations mention that funding is a problem for the implementation of their projects. For example, the Cercar-te project is funded by the Choices Programme, a Portuguese Governmental social and digital inclusion funding structure. Although the "Choices Programme" is a continuous fund by the Portuguese government, the organizations supported by it have to apply for it every two years. This means that every two years the Cercar-te Project is at risk of not obtaining an extension of funding. This "dark cloud" hovers over not only the organization but the workers, who are permanently at risk of losing their projects and their main source of income.

¹³ Domus Social (2011), Bairros Municipais do Porto, Caracterização socioeconómica, CMP, Porto. Access: <http://www.domussocial.pt/assets/misc/img/Habitacao/Bairros%20-%20Dados%20Gerais.pdf>

FAP no Bairro works within the scope of the Academic Federation of Porto, which is a Student Association that has in its statutes the possibility of private and public funding. However, the private funding is scarce and the funding for the project “FAP no Bairro” comes from activities developed by the Academy. FAP also counts with a partnership protocol with the Municipality of Porto, who grants the space for the development of the projects.

On the more positive side, the youths who take part in the CIVACT project are self-referred (as opposed to being referred by social or family services), and therefore demonstrate a high level of motivation and involvement in the activities. Both T Space and FAP no Bairro are institutions with a long history of intervention in their neighbourhoods which contributes not only to the established relationship with the youth and their families but also to the maintenance of the CIVACT methods once the project ends. Both institutions have plans for maintaining the CIVACT methods in the future.

Bond of Union / Palermo / Italy

National Policies, Programmes & Initiatives for Social Inclusion & Youth Work

In recent years, the share of the young population (18-24 years old) who live in conditions of deprivation and social exclusion in Italy has increased. The main causes of social exclusion are a lower demand for labour, especially in the south regions and the lack of adequate investment and renovation in educational opportunities.

Between 2008 and 2012, the percentage of people aged 18-24 years in this state of social deprivation increased from 20.7% to 27%, 10 percentage points higher than the EU-27 average. According to [Eurostat](#), in 2018, 33.6% of the Italian youths aged 16-29 years were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This number is also relevant in the southern region, as shown for example by the Caritas [report on poverty](#) published in 2017. This situation is strongly related to youths' education attainment and the intergenerational poverty trap which prevents upward social and economic mobility.

Various stakeholders and organizations, including Caritas itself, have noted that the national policies are not adequate to face this immense issue. In Italy, there is no one specific national law on youth or youth at risk of social exclusion; however, there are many laws aimed at young people in different fields, such as education, employment, health, culture, etc. Over the years, all of the Italian regions have approved one or more regional laws concerning young people, some with specific goals such as the implementation of citizenship rights, the promotion of personality development, social participation, youth associations, etc.

Thus, it is evident that there is a lack of a top-level strategy specifically addressing the social inclusion of youth with a specific multi-annual strategy and funds. This lack of a central strategy is also due to the fact that the area of youth involvement is shared between the national government, the Italian regions, and cities. However, this lack does not mean that the topic is not considered important or addressed through other types of actions and national projects and programmes. The action plan on childhood and adolescence, for example, aims to develop adequate policy in this field. The new [National Social Plan 2018-2020](#) also sets the requirement that 40% of the [National Fund for Social Policy](#) must be used for interventions for children and adolescents. The issue of social exclusion of youth is further addressed through several [programmes](#) for vulnerable youth involving various institutions such as the project [care leavers](#) funded by the [National Operative Programme for Inclusion](#). It is however true that sometimes these programmes are limited to short time frames and specific European Structural funds (such as "PON Inclusione"). These programmes tend to focus on youth exclusion in general and are not concentrated on specific policies for hard-to-reach youth, which still represent a big percentage of youth in the Italian context especially in southern regions such as Sicily.

At a national level, the department "[Politiche giovanili](#)" (youth policy) is the body delegated to support the Italian government in the application of youth policies, grants and calls for action (such as Youth for Social and Time To Care, both mentioned below) managed at national levels. The department is also responsible for managing the [Universal Civil Service](#) in Italy. The Universal Civil Service is a voluntary non-armed and non-violent defence service for youth of the homeland in the areas of education, peace among peoples, and the promotion of the founding values of the Italian Republic through actions for communities and the territory.

Furthermore, this department's [Office for Youth Policy](#) is responsible for evaluating and monitoring the impact of youth policy at national and local levels. Specifically, the Office for Youth Policy carries out evaluation and monitoring activities on the impact and effectiveness of national and community youth policies, which are useful for the definition of new strategies. It also provides the administrative formalities for the implementation of youth policy, the study and investigation of the project activities, the exercise and affirmation of the rights of young people and the promotion of their interests, the social inclusion of young people, and the participation of young people in democratic life.

Lastly, the [Agenzia Nazionale Giovani](#) (National Agency for Youth) is a national body that promotes the active citizenship of young people and in particular their European citizenship. It furthermore promotes knowledge, understanding, and cultural integration among young people from different countries, contributes to the development of the quality of support systems for youth activities and to the development of the capacity of civil society organizations in the youth field, and promotes cooperation in the youth field at local, national, and European levels. The National Agency for Youth in Italy manages the Erasmus+ programme and the European Solidarity Corps.

Youth Work & Social Inclusion in Palermo: Haves & Needs

In Palermo, there is a lack of long-term structures and processes led by public institutions to counteract and prevent youth social exclusion and a low presence of educational services for young people. The school system is the main provider of youth engagement actions but it lacks both support by the city council and active and structured initiatives.

Most of the non-formal youth initiatives are promoted by not-profit and private actors. There are more than 20 youth organisations that organise non-formal educational initiatives for students, young migrants, disabled youths, and youth at risk of social exclusion in different districts of the city. Despite this high number of youth organisations, the presence of youth centres is still very limited; there are no educational or leisure services directly offered by the municipality. All of the educational centres are religious and most of them are only aimed at children up to 12-13 years old. The main youth centres are Centro TAU in the deprived area of Zisa and ZEN Insieme in the neighbourhood ZEN. Both of them are financed through national and international funds such as Save the Children and receive limited support from the municipality. The Palermo Youth Centre (PYC) is led by students of the University of Palermo but it does not offer educational services for deprived youth or youth under 18 years old. In the neighbourhood of Capo, there is a municipal library for children and youth but they do not have any youth workers among their staff and still do not offer specific activities to involve and promote the participation of young people. Especially in the most deprived and challenging neighbourhoods of the city, schools and local churches are the only institutions providing educational activities (or free leisure and sport activities) for the more deprived young people. Schools only have educational resources during school hours, so they can offer only limited opportunities for young people in the afternoon. Local churches and religious institutions are also limited in their action as they usually only employ volunteers and not professional youth workers and have a limited budget for their educational activities (mostly after school lessons). This is the case for the Community of Sant'Egidio in the Capo neighbourhood and of the Community of Danisinni.

In the last years, youth work in Palermo has been especially focused on young migrants, creating a migration narrative based on mentorship and start-up programmes, welcoming services, and social innovation initiatives that has also [attracted attention at the international level](#).

The high presence of youth organisations contrasts sharply with the limited role played at the institutional level by the [municipal department for youth policies](#), which has been grouped together departmentally with various topics over the years, including social policies, school education and tourism. This leads to a marginalised role of the local administration on youth policies and in general a lack of consideration of youth needs and youth work. Moreover, in Palermo, there is no youth council (as is common in other cities) and there is only one non-governmental institution working on this topic, the Authority for Children and Adolescents.

The COVID-19-emergency underlined the need for a more structured role of the municipality in youth work and educational sector and the need to establish Territorial Educational Centres (Centri Educativi Territoriali) in different neighbourhoods of the city; the latter is currently under discussion and implementation is planned for the near future. Moreover, the emergency offered opportunities to reconsider which educational activities to offer and to include outreach education as a main strategy to guarantee the security of young people. In this new scenario, the role of non-profit youth organisations will gain more recognition at institutional levels, be promoted as a valid alternative to more conventional learning opportunities, and promote further cooperation with the schools.

An example from Bologna that could be followed in Palermo is the initiative "Scuola di quartiere" (neighbourhood school), in which social enterprises, associations and cultural institutions offer a learning programme based on the study of the neighbourhood and its resources (for example theatres and libraries, but also squares, streets and parks). The [initiative](#) is promoted by the department of culture and the city of Bologna. Non-profit youth organisations could also reinforce their role in providing training for teachers in non-formal educational methods as also suggested by the European Commission through the programme Erasmus+.

Lawaetz Foundation / Hamburg / Germany

National Policies, Programmes & Initiatives for Social Inclusion & Youth Work

Around one quarter of young Germans grow up with disadvantages. The three most common causes are poverty, unemployment, and a poor level of education. Germany uses a range of terms to describe the goals and target groups that it considers in youth and social policy. In Germany, the term "inclusion" was initially introduced as a technical term originating in sociological systems theory; it is rarely used to refer to all people or groups of people who are marginalised or threatened by marginalisation. Instead, it is applied specifically to people with (physical and/or intellectual) disabilities (cf. the term "inclusive school"). Further terms include "persons with migration background" to describe 2nd or 3rd generation migrants, usually the children of "guest workers" who moved to Germany in the 1960s and 1970s. This term helps to highlight the multi-generational disadvantage of migrant families, despite the fact that these youths may in fact be German citizens.

In Germany, youth work is divided into two types: open child and youth work (offene Kinder und Jugendarbeit) and individual work (Einzelarbeit). Open child and youth work is voluntary and focuses on free-time activities, participation, empowerment, and help with school work. Individual work is assigned to families by the social services department and includes help with child rearing and other social and familial issues.

In many policy areas, Germany has adopted national strategies which also serve the social inclusion of young people; these are divided into policies which include all age groups and those directed specifically at children and/or youth. At the national level, Germany's [National Youth Strategy](#) addresses young people and adults between 12 and 27 and is thematically developed along nine youth-relevant fields of action which cover the broad spectrum of young people's concerns.

Furthermore, Germany has numerous programmes and initiatives to foster social inclusion. Strategies that directly target children and/or youth focus on [integration through education](#), such as through declarations by the [Kultusministerkonferenz](#) (KMK), a body which is composed of all of the education ministers in the federal states, and then implemented at the regional level (Länder). Other programmes specifically focus on [vulnerable young people](#). Culture builds strength – Alliances for education ([Kultur macht stark – Bündnisse für Bildung](#)) promotes cultural education projects outside of schools, while youth social work ([Jugendsozialarbeit](#)) is dedicated specifically to young people from disadvantaged social backgrounds or who have specific needs. Youth social work is funded at national, regional, and local levels as part of regular child and youth services that are provided in accordance with the Social Code Book VIII (SGB VIII).

Other national programmes that support local actions are Strengthening youths in their neighbourhoods ([JUGEND STÄRKEN im Quartier](#)), which supports young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who are transitioning from school to work and RESPECT ([RESPEKT](#)), which was a pilot programme funded by the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Services with the aim to introduce young people who are not reached by the existing social benefit offers or who do not accept them to educational processes and measures to promote employment, training, or work.

A specific focus is also placed on the [promotion of the social integration of young people from immigrant families, young immigrants, or refugees](#). The main agency coordinating nationwide efforts through local programs is the Youth Migration Service ([Jugendmigrationsdienste](#)). In addition, 'Among friends - Alliances for young refugees' ([Willkommen bei Freunden - Bündnisse für junge Flüchtlinge](#)) supports communities in integrating refugee children and young people. Additionally, there are programs that emphasize vocational training and integration into the labour market such as vocational orientation for refugees ([Berufsorientierung für Flüchtlinge](#)), vocational training opportunities for refugees ([Wege in Ausbildung für Flüchtlinge](#)), and social participation through work for young adult refugees and beneficiaries who are fit for work ([STAFFEL](#)). Non-formal youth work is supported by [JiVE. Jugendarbeit international - Vielfalt erleben](#), which campaigns for equal opportunities for all young people, regardless of their social background or origin, in activities of international youth work.

In addition, Germany has programmes and initiatives focused on increasing social inclusion [including all age groups](#), such as the National Action Plan for Inclusion 2.0 ([Nationaler Aktionsplan Inklusion 2.0](#)), which implements the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities (UN CRPD), the National Strategy for Literacy and the Basic Education of Adults ([Nationale Strategie Alphabetisierung und Grundbildung](#)), the Strategy to Prevent Extremism and Promote Democracy ([Strategie zur Extremismusprävention und Demokratieförderung](#)), the Civic Commitment Strategy ([Engagement strategie](#)), and Creating Perspectives for Refugees Together ([Gemeinsam für Perspektiven von Flüchtlingen](#)). Finally, the nationwide program 'Living Democracy' ([Demokratie Leben](#)), which is open to all age groups, has been a central instrument in promoting democracy and diversity and preventing right-wing extremism among youths and other target groups in Germany.

Youth Work & Social Inclusion in Hamburg: Haves & Needs

The Lawaetz Foundation (German: Johann Daniel Lawaetz-Stiftung), which is located in the city-state of Hamburg, is active in the fields of social integration and urban development, for example in supporting open child and youth work (OCYW) in the context of neighbourhood development. OCYW is particularly characterized by the fact that all offers are voluntary and open to everyone. In principle, all offers should also be developed in a participatory manner. The focus of OCYW in Hamburg is empowerment, learning, help with school work and the organisation of extracurricular and free-time activities. The foundation is also active in a number of Hamburger districts in the context of the programme Living Democracy ([Demokratie Leben](#)), where their focus is participation and the prevention of right-wing and other forms of extremism.¹⁴ The work on the ground with youths is conducted by certified youth workers.

The districts that have been addressed in CIVACT are Schnelsen-Sued, Harburg und Suederelbe, which are so-called "disadvantaged neighbourhoods." A lot of families living there have less contact to education and social participation. Many parents are separated and lack the power, money and time to support the education of their children. Most young people do not have role models in education or work. Some additionally have no school leaving certificate and lack a professional perspective (NEETs). Some of them are victims of social exclusion and discrimination. Many of the target groups with a migration background have also socialised in a different national and social context, which leads to them being excluded from civic participation; in their countries of origin, the forms of participation in political processes frequently practised in the Federal Republic of Germany are largely unknown. Traditional role models and family structures also limit participation. This especially applies to girls and young women.

As already mentioned in IO5, there is a long debate in Hamburg about the added value of OCYW; due to the full-day schooling system in the city, many politicians maintain that OCYW is unnecessary and redundant. This impression also is the result of the focus of OCYW in Hamburg as mentioned above, namely aid with homework, problems in school,

¹⁴ <http://www.lawaetz.de/arbeitsbereiche/soziale-stadtentwicklung-und-buergerbeteiligung/entwicklung-von-quartieren/arbeitsansatz/>

and free-time activities. For these two reasons, youth workers often have a “bad reputation” with some people as “just playing around” and not professional, despite the fact that OCYW plays a central role in non-formal education, empowerment, and the development of civic and democratic capabilities and skills. In these formats (and in particular the offerings in the context of the Living Democracy programme), youths have the ability to learn the rights and responsibilities of being a part of German society. Unfortunately, as already mentioned, one of the main needs on a local level is an increase in the recognition of the importance of OCYW. While it is highlighted on a national policy level, this unfortunately doesn’t translate effectively to a local level in the case of Hamburg.

The foundation enjoys a good and strong connection with local and municipal politics and decision-makers in the administration; the city-state structure creates good communication across political levels. There is a single contact person for issues surrounding youth work, regular meetings and structures for internal exchange and skills development. In addition, a portion of Lawaetz’ structural funding comes from the municipality. However, these state-level structures are not consulted in the development of youth policy on a national level and national programmes often lack impact assessment and monitoring tools. This leads to the impression of “throwing money at the problem” on a national level, without the consideration of the actual needs on the local level.

Furthermore, the youth workers at the Lawaetz Foundation see that an increase above all in time resources would allow them to better design and deliver participative formats in the context of OCYW. There is a high demand for training and skills-building programmes in this area even among youth workers with a long working experience in this field. An additional issue is that occupational training for youth workers is currently voluntary, meaning that youth workers don’t always take advantage of the offers that are available. A mandatory requirement for professional development, for example taking part in a certain number of hours of training every year or every two years or engaging in a set number of hours of supervision each year, would be a good solution to promote skills-building.

Finally, the youth perspective needs to be addressed and incorporated into both policy-making and the further development of youth work offerings. These two needs could be solved by integrating a youth forum into the relevant structures. In general, programmes, structures, and offerings on a local level need to be designed so that participation is an integral and not extra aspect.

Mapping for Change / London / England

National Policies, Programmes & Initiatives for Social Inclusion & Youth Work

The stated aims of the UK Government regarding social inclusion have been to remove barriers, so that everyone, whatever their background, has equal opportunity to progress.

A key element of promoting social inclusion is a reduction in levels of child poverty. In its most recent [Monitoring social mobility report](#), the Social Mobility Commission identified the following areas of major concern:

- An increasing number of children growing up in relative poverty
- A crisis in the early years' workforce
- A greater chance of disadvantaged young people getting stuck in low paid jobs

The Commission also found that, at present, there is no meaningful coordination between departments on the social mobility agenda, and no single force championing social mobility across government. Despite the lack of a national youth strategy, there are numerous programmes and initiatives aimed at fostering youth social inclusion.¹⁵

Youth Work & Social Inclusion in London: Haves & Needs

London has a young population: over a third of Londoners are aged under 25. They currently account for a total of 2.8 million and are expected to grow to 3 million by 2027.¹⁶ This exciting future is tarnished by the fact that a high proportion of young Londoners are living in deprivation. The 2016 Index of Multiple Deprivation,¹⁷ which combines measures across seven distinct aspects of deprivation, reveals that 26% (718,000) of young Londoners lived in an area in the top quintile of deprivation.

The situation is also aggravated by the fragile status of youth work in the UK. The *Out of Service* report by YMCA (the largest and oldest youth charity in the world) published in January 2020 reveals the impact that a decade of deep funding cuts has had in the sector. A 70% reduction in real terms, resulting in zero funding in some areas, has dramatically reduced provision for young people, with the loss of 750 youth centres and more than 4,500 youth workers.¹⁸ Many places to hang out and to receive support (like the youth clubs) have disappeared for thousands of young people with devastating consequences: the recent rise in youth violence, mental health difficulties, and social isolation among young people, as highlighted by campaigners and criminal justice experts.

Hopefully, there is a brighter future ahead. Policymakers have recognised the value of youth work in supporting development in adolescents and additional government funding has been invested in new and existing youth service infrastructure, including the workforce. The government is also reviewing the statutory guidance for local youth services

¹⁵ Many of these are outlined in detail in the annex to this document.

¹⁶ Vicky Hobart, Head of Health, GLA (in collaboration with the GLA's Health and Crime Teams and MOPAC). [Progressing a Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention and Reduction, Appendix A: Proposed Public Health Approach](#). 26 November 2018

¹⁷ Ethnicity data taken from the GLA 2016-based ethnic group population projections, deprivation data from the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (MHCLG) and 2016 Small Area Population Estimates (ONS)

¹⁸ YMCA, [Out of Service](#) report, January 2020.

which will clarify what services local authorities must provide (findings are expected to be published at the end of 2020). Simultaneously, a review of youth work qualifications will set out new routes into the profession and the skills for youth workers in the future.

While there is a need for a significant national budget increase as well as the need for a national youth services strategy, councils are best placed to know what their communities demand. Our focus area, the Borough of Islington, is one of the most deprived areas in London.¹⁹ Islington is the most densely populated local authority area in England and Wales. It is located north of the city centre and consistently performs worst overall across a number of indicators defining deprivation.

Research has been commissioned by Islington Council from the youth work experts 'Know Wonder' to look at the current offering for youth and children in the borough. The goal is to explore how provisions should be shaped and developed to best support young people in the future. During autumn 2020, the research engaged all stakeholders including commissioners, community groups, young people, etc. involved in youth provision through various workshops and focus groups. Mapping for Change has also taken part in the research, whose preliminary findings are shared in the following paragraphs.

There is a wide range of youth provisions in the borough and a real appetite from the organisations to improve their partnership, collaboration, and information sharing. Whereas useful networks already exist, there is an agreement among the research participants about developing a single inclusive vision for the future of youth work in the borough. To achieve this, it would be key to adopt a proactive equalities approach to engage the most marginalised and to understand young people as individual and interesting. In this sense, the research has revealed some of the young peoples' perceptions and needs in relation to youth services in Islington:

- Young people need spaces to meet their friends, to simply socialise, or to join structured opportunities with an aspirational focus which allow them to try new things and explore the world outside;
- They wish to connect in spaces over which they have ownership and that are located near their homes, so their fears around safety and travel can be addressed;
- Finally, opportunities should be made accessible to everyone.

Their views match perfectly with the decline in youth services and they urge public administrators to take action to improve the situation.

¹⁹ Rachel Leaser, GLA Intelligence. [English Indices of Deprivation 2015. Intelligence Briefing 2016-01.](#) May 2016

Young East / Gothenburg / Sweden

National Policies, Programmes & Initiatives for Social Inclusion & Youth Work

The transition from school to work is the main challenge for the social inclusion of young people in Sweden. Although unemployment rates have been decreasing in recent years (the numbers are rising at the moment as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic) among young Swedes, there are groups of young people who face major difficulties in getting established in the labour market.

Young immigrants, those with an immigrant background, the disabled, or those who have been in institutional care are over-represented among young people who have not completed secondary education. They are therefore at the greatest risk of encountering problems in getting established in both society and the labour market.

The Swedish Government has initiated a number of comprehensive programmes and actions, where the target group consists of young people in a more vulnerable position, such as NEETs, young people at risk for violence and radicalisation, young people with a migrant or ethnic minority background, young LGBTQ-persons, young disabled persons, and newly arrived young people.

The National Youth Strategy and its [Action programme](#) have a clear focus on social inclusion and state that all young people must “have good living conditions, the power to shape their lives and influence over societal development.” The focus is on young people between 16 and 20 years, whose social, participatory, educational, or health-related conditions were more severe compared to other young people. A further national strategy is devoted to NEETs.

Additionally Sweden has numerous strategies for inclusion spanning all age groups, such as the [Strategy for the national work on human rights](#), the [Strategy for equal rights and opportunities regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression](#), and the [National plan to combat racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime](#). These strategies are supported by agencies such as the Living History Forum, which is a public agency operating under the Ministry of Culture, the [Swedish Centre for Preventing Violent Extremism](#), and the Swedish gender equality centre.²⁰

Youth Work & Social Inclusion in Gothenburg: Haves & Needs

Crime, poverty, and bad school results amongst youth are a growing problem in Gothenburg’s city district East Gothenburg. The local council and community lack methods and tools to prevent this problem and to work proactively to support young adults.

²⁰ These programmes and institutions are explored in more detail in the annex to this document.

Criminal and/or anti-social activities, anti-social behaviour, street gangs and radicalization, mental health and honour-related violence are also factors which affect the youth in the district. The district also has a shortage in the number of authorized teachers in primary schools, which has had a negative effect on school results and the school environment. The local council has initiated projects to address some of these problems.

Good examples of such projects include The Young East project, the "SSPF" youth workers, and outreach workers that focus on school, community, and field work. However, hard-to-reach youth, who seldom use our services, are hard to motivate and the parallel structures in the community are hard to break. The youth in East Gothenburg have challenges that are linked to a wide range of different aspects that are common for deprived areas. For example, the overall school results in the districts are amongst the lowest in the city, the district has the lowest share of authorized teachers compared to the city as a whole. Other aspects are cramped housing accommodation, lack of role models and adults that are accessible to young people, parents that have little or no knowledge of the Swedish language and have therefore difficulties navigating in the Swedish society, poverty, and financial problems. Other challenges in the district include an increase in mental illness parallel to cut backs at care institutions/psychiatry, spatial segregation and the spatialisation of socio-economic inequality, higher risk for youth to end up in criminality, a large number of youths who feel unsafe when, for example, walking home from public transportation, and a culture of silence. In addition, the youths are affected by drug abuse and are at risk of joining criminal networks. The open sale of drugs on the streets is normalized. There is a parallel system that has a strong power categorized by violence and the threat of violence. Youth identify early with unhealthy role models and find it difficult to find other paths in life due to inequality and parallel structures. Social services and other authorities sometimes distance themselves from the youth and their families and it's often hard for these youths and their families to develop trust for authorities.

The city district delivers different activities for youths within the district, for example:

- Youth council-leadership trainings
- The Person Behind the Uniform program
- Youth clubs and meeting spots
- Youth workers on the field (six covering the whole district Mon-Sat)
- Sports clubs activities arranged by city officers in collaboration with local NGOs
- Summer camps and activities for children, youth, and sometimes also parents
- Active landlords (both municipal and private), who arrange different activities, and
- The partnership for a safer district, a team that works in the neighbourhood to make it safer with partners such as social services, the culture and leisure sector, the police, schools, landlords, the fire brigade, etc.

The district also delivers Young East, a municipal youth work programme, which works directly with youths who are directed to them by municipal social services and also

coordinates other youth work and programmes dealing with their target group. In general, Young East can incorporate the methods into their own work to a greater or lesser degree.

On a national level, goal-oriented youth policy is strengthened by a rights perspective that has a clear connection to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A model has been developed for a rights-based youth perspective and will be implemented on a local level.

In the spring amendment budget, the government set aside SEK 180 million to strengthen the municipalities' opportunities to create summer jobs for young people. The government is now adding another SEK 100 million so that the municipalities can also offer young people jobs this autumn. On a local level, this is an opportunity to support youth to get work experience. Evidence says that work experience increases youths' opportunities for future employment and education.

Young East has identified needs linked to young people in the city district with mental health issues, anti-social behaviour problems, and those who may be vulnerable to honour-based violence, criminal activity, gang related crime, and violent radicalisation. The final evaluation of the Young East project pointed out a need for further development of knowledge and counselling tools within the areas of mental health issues and honour-based violence. The district needs additional methods and tools to address these needs, including:

- Better local support to implement the rights of the child in the local context, for example in social services. Children's and youths' voices need to be taken in consideration and a clearer routine needs to be implemented.
- Better local coordination regarding grants and additional contributions for youths at risk. The European Social Fund targets part of their funding for grants to NEETs; however the administrative frameworks are not adjusted for the target group and their needs.
- Better housing situation, in particular regarding youth at risk, which is adaptable in especially deprived areas. There is a strong need for support regarding housing for youth, and appropriately adjusting the routines when social services appropriate social housing.
- Social services need to have a closer and more effective collaboration with psychiatric care. Health- and psychiatric care need to be more accessible for youth at risk. Today the threshold is too high and youth in need of neuropsychiatric assessment do not get access to adequate support.

Annex - Additional Information on Youth Policy in the Partner Countries

This annex contains additional relevant material on youth work policy in the partner countries and cities.

Portugal / Porto

National Strategies

Youth Specific

Social Inclusion and Employment Operational Programme (PO ISE)

Programa Operacional Inclusão Social e Emprego (PO ISE) aims to support initiatives that improve social inclusion and employment opportunities in Portugal. It complements other funding opportunities for the least developed regions of Portugal, specifically North, Centre and Alentejo. One of the priority axes of POISE is "Youth Employment Initiatives," which strive for the sustainable integration of young people in the labour market, especially those "who do not work, do not study or are in training" (NEET), including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalized communities.

National Strategy for the Rights of Children 2019–2022

The Committee on the Rights of the Child encouraged Portugal to elaborate a National Strategy for the full application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed by the Portuguese state in 1990. The National Strategy for the Rights of Children was under public consultation until January of 2020. This Strategy is an important factor for the accomplishment of the approach envisioned by the Convention - integrated, cross-sectional and coordinated by the highest governmental level.²¹

National Youth Plan (2018-2021) (elaborated by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 114-A/2018)

The National Youth Plan is the political instrument that establishes the guidelines for the implementation of youth policy in Portugal, converging with EU goals. The main objective is the realization of the rights of young people in economic, social and cultural terms in the areas of: formal and non-formal education, employment, health, housing, environment and sustainable development, equality and social inclusion, and governance and participation.

²¹ <https://expresso.pt/opiniaio/2020-02-12-Uma-Estrategia-Nacional-para-Todas-as-Crianças> ; [UNICEF e 7 organizações apelam à adopção de uma "Estratégia Nacional para os Direitos da Criança" ambiciosa](#)

The NYP takes into account the transformations of the Portuguese population: demographic decline, depopulation of the interior and an aging population, as well as policies aimed at groups in the most vulnerable situations or with specific needs.

National Youth Council (Conselho Nacional da Juventude - CNJ)

The National Youth Council was established in 1985, and is the representative platform of national youth organizations. Among its main duties are: creation of a dialogue platform and a place for the exchange of ideas between youth organizations; contributing and promoting the creation of youth associations, and publishing and supporting publications on youth.

Including all age groups

National Roma Communities Integration Strategy (ENICC)

This strategy is a result of the involvement of all Ministries, Roma communities and Civil Society organizations and integrates the four main areas proposed by the European Commission – Housing, Education, Health and Employment. The National Strategy was adopted in 27th March 2013, resolution of the [Council of Ministers Resolution No. 25/2013](#), and foresees and includes specific actions for Roma communities, as well as measures that have been put into place in the last years not only Roma, but also other vulnerable groups.

National Health Plan (PNS)

The PNS, in line with the Health Strategy by the WHO-EU, aims at the maximization of health gains throughout the integration of efforts by all sectors of society, and by the use of strategies anchored in citizenship, equality, and access. The PNS has 3 main axes - access, quality and healthy policies.

III Action Programme for the Prevention and Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (III PAPEMGF) 2014-2017.

“This programme foresees the strengthening of intervention in some measures that prove to be structural for the challenge of eradicating FGM, namely through training and capacity building of professionals who, in any way, deal with the problem of FGM, having been formally introduced in this Programme of Action the training of new stakeholders and target groups, such as CPCJ technicians and non-teaching staff of schools of every level.”²²

Strategic Plan for Migration 2015-2020

Promotes the integration and inclusion of new Portuguese citizens, in particular descendants of immigrants and those accessing Portuguese nationality, through actions in

²² III Programme of Action for the Prevention and Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation, p. 10.

the fields of education, vocational training, transition to the labour market, civic and political participation, digital inclusion, entrepreneurship, and coaching.

Programmes and initiatives

At a national level

Youth Guarantee programme

Prevents high rates of youth unemployment, focused on young people aged between 18 and 29.

Youth Active Life programme

Aims to strengthen the vocational qualification of unemployed young people seeking the first or a new job.

STEER project

Supports young people at risk in the transition from education to the labour market.

Choices Programme (Programa Escolhas)

Promotes the social inclusion of children and young people from the most vulnerable socio-economic contexts, especially of those with immigrant background, ethnic minorities (Roma communities), and Portuguese emigrants. In December 2014, the Choices Programme won the "Juvenile Justice without Borders" International Award, given by the International Juvenile Justice Observatory.²³

More Leaders – Young Roma (Mais Líderes – Jovens Cigan@s)

An empowerment programme from the High Commission for Migration (ACM, I.P.) that promotes an active participation of young Roma (ages between 18 and 35) at a civic and associative level, using participatory methodologies in leading meetings, training courses, information/awareness sessions, and development of projects.

Mobility and Social Integration for Young Descendants of Immigrants

Aims at the dynamisation of the mobility and exchange of youngsters, the social integration of young people from vulnerable socioeconomic backgrounds and the possibility of contact with the historic and cultural heritage of Portugal.²⁴

At a local level

²³ <https://www.oijj.org/en/oijj-international-award/third-edition-2014>

²⁴ <https://www.acm.gov.pt/-/governo-promove-mobilidade-e-integracao-social-e-cultural-a-jovens-descendentes-de-imigrantes>.

Municipal Council of Porto Youth (Conselho Municipal de Juventude do Porto - CMJP) and the Municipal Plan of Youth (PMJ)

The Municipal Council of Porto Youth is an advisory body to support the promotion of the conditions for the effective civic participation of youngsters in Porto. The council co-developed the Municipal Plan of Youth that outlines local strategies for the youth in the city. Porto is one of the only 8.8% of Portuguese municipalities that implemented an MPY.²⁵

Municipal Plan for Youth of Gaia (PMJGaia)

The PMJGaia aims at enhancing the civic participation of youngsters in the development of projects “for young people, with young people and for the youth” in eight areas: 1. employment and entrepreneurship, 2. education and training, 3. health and well-being, 4. creativity and culture, 5. social cohesion, 6. participation, 7. youth and the world, and 8. voluntary work.

GOP+ Jovem 2020 (Youth Participatory Budget for the city)

Reinforce youth civic participation throughout the development of the Youth Participatory Budget for the city. This initiative aims at the funding projects of youngsters between 13 to 30 years old. For the GOP + Jovem 2020, 98 proposals were submitted.

Work in Progress

Work In Progress, a project from Gabinete de Intervenção em Saúde (GIS/APDES), is funded by EEAGrants and is promoted by the consortium Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Bissaya Barreto Foundation within the scope of the Active Citizens Program. The main goal is to promote successful personal and professional pathways in foster and former foster youngsters, thus leading to autonomy and social inclusion.

Germany / Hamburg

National Strategies

National Youth Strategy: Die Jugendstrategie der Bundesregierung

The youth strategy was thematically developed along nine youth-relevant fields of action, which cover the broad spectrum of young people's concerns: 1.Future, intergenerational dialogue & youth images, 2. Participation, engagement & democracy, 3. City & country, living & culture, 4. Diversity & participation, 5. Education, work & open spaces, 6. Mobility & digital, 7. Environment, 8. Health, 9Europe & the world. A common cross-departmental understanding of the respective initial situation and the need for action derived from it

²⁵ [ICS Policy Brief 2019 - Observatório Permanente da Juventude](#)

form the basis for numerous measures in these fields of action, which are intended to noticeably improve the living conditions of young people and adults between 12 and 27.

Programmes and initiatives

Declarations by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs ([Kultusministerkonferenz, KMK](#))

The KMK is a body that is composed of all education ministers in the federal states, and then implemented at the regional level (Länder). Through numerous declarations, the KMK aims to increase integration through education. Declarations include: Reflection cultural diversity, integration and migration in educational media ([Darstellung von kultureller Vielfalt, Integration und Migration in Bildungsmedien](#)), Partnership on education between schools and parents ([Bildungs- und Erziehungspartnerschaft von Schule und Eltern](#)), Integration as an opportunity – working together for more equality ([Integration als Chance – gemeinsam für mehr Chancengerechtigkeit](#)), Standards for teacher training: Educational science ([Standards für die Lehrerbildung: Bildungswissenschaften](#)), and Assistance with vocational training ([ESF Bundesprogramm Berufseinstiegsbegleitung](#)).

Culture builds strength – Alliances for education: [Kultur macht stark – Bündnisse für Bildung](#)

With the program “Culture builds strength - Alliances for Education,” the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) promotes extracurricular cultural education offers. In alliances for education, local actors implement projects for children who have limited access to education.

Youth social work: [Jugendsozialarbeit](#)

Jugendsozialarbeit is funded at national, regional, and local levels as part of regular child and youth services that are provided in accordance with the Social Code Book VIII (SGB VIII) by the Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ). In contrast to youth work, which is normally available to all young people, youth social work is aimed at young people from disadvantaged social backgrounds or who have specific needs. These can be low-performing students, children with a migration background, or people with mental health problems. The aim is to support young people in completing their education, learning a trade and entering the labour market and, more generally, to become well-integrated in society.

Support young people in the neighbourhood: [JUGEND STÄRKEN im Quartier](#)

The model program "[JUGEND STÄRKEN im Quartier](#)," which is implemented with funds from the European Social Fund (ESF), supports young people in integrating into school, training, work and society. The aim is that they are activated and their skills and personality are strengthened.

RESPECT: [RESPEKT](#)

'Respect' was a pilot programme funded by the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Issues (BMAS). The aim is to introduce young people who are not reached by the existing social benefit offers or who do not accept them to educational processes, measures to promote employment, training, and work. Information on the design of Section 16h SGB II ("Promotion of young people who are difficult to reach") was provided based on the results.

Youth migration services: [Jugendmigrationsdienste](#)

Over 470 youth migration services (JMD) nationwide support young people with a migration background between the ages of 12 and 27 through individual offers and professional advice in their school, professional, and social integration process in Germany. Individual support, group and educational offers, as well as intensive networking with schools, training companies, integration course providers, and other youth welfare institutions are among the essential tasks of the JMD.

Among friends - Alliances for young refugees: [Willkommen bei Freunden - Bündnisse für junge Flüchtlinge](#)

The German Children and Youth Foundation together with the Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) launched the "Welcome to Friends" program. The aim is to support communities in integrating refugee children and young people.

Vocational orientation for refugees: [Berufsorientierung für Flüchtlinge](#)

The career orientation program is aimed at pupils in the seventh and eighth grades. First, they explore their strengths, then they test out various professional fields in the workshop days.

Vocational training opportunities for refugees: [Wege in Ausbildung für Flüchtlinge](#)

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF), the Federal Employment Agency (BA) and the Central Association of German Crafts (ZDH) have started a joint qualification initiative for young refugees. Their goal: through a comprehensive qualification and support system as well as intensive professional career orientation and vocational preparation, asylum seekers and recognized refugees as well as asylum seekers or tolerated persons with access to the labour market are to be introduced to training in a craft.

Social participation through work for young adult refugees and beneficiaries who are fit for work: [STAFFEL](#)

This program is intended to bundle activities for young adult recognized refugees after their change of legal jurisdiction in the Second Book of the Social Code (SGB II) and

employable domestic persons in SGB II in order to break new ground in integration into work and society. The aim is to find employable refugees who are eligible for benefits and to introduce beneficiaries in the legal system SGB II between 25 and 35 years of age to employment or training and to integrate them into the labour market and into society in the long term.

JiVE. Jugendarbeit international - Vielfalt erleben

The youth policy initiative JiVE is coordinated by the IJAB - Specialized Agency for International Youth Work of the Federal Republic of Germany and YOUTH for Europe - German agency for the EU program YOUTH IN ACTION. As part of this initiative, which in turn is divided into eight sub-initiatives, young people can take part in non-formal educational offers of international youth work. It campaigns for equal opportunities for all young people, regardless of their social background or origin, in activities of international youth work.

National Action Plan for inclusion 2.0: Nationaler Aktionsplan Inklusion 2.0

The NAP 2.0 implements the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). With the measures taken at the federal level, the NAP 2.0 is intended to contribute to inclusion as a universal principle in all areas of life. While the Federal Government's first action plan focused on "closing gaps between the legal situation and practice," the NAP 2.0 contains important legislative projects that are intended in particular to contribute to the opportunities for people with disabilities to lead a self-determined life.

National Strategy for Literacy and the Basic Education of Adults: Nationale Strategie Alphabetisierung und Grundbildung

With the AlphaDekade, the federal government, states and partners want to significantly improve the reading and writing skills of adults in Germany between 2016 and 2026. The Federal Ministry of Education is funding the AlphaDekade with around 180 million euros. In particular, projects that support employees with literacy and basic education needs in the workplace are supported.

Strategy to prevent extremism and promote democracy: Strategie zur Extremismusprävention und Demokratieförderung

The federal government has been promoting programs and measures to prevent extremism since 1992. Since 2001, the promotion of democracy has also increasingly been a focus. The Federal Government's strategy is to reach the places that are crucial for preventing extremism and promoting democracy - social spaces, municipalities and districts, institutions, clubs and associations, schools, prisons, and many others where people stand up for the strengthening of democracy and the defence of human and freedom rights. The approaches presented herein will be embedded in a renewed "National Action Plan of the Federal Republic of Germany to Combat Racism, Xenophobia,

Anti-Semitism and Related Intolerance" (NAP) and thus in further thematic contexts and fields of action during this legislative period.

Civic commitment strategy: [Engagement strategie](#)

As the "Ministry of Engagement," the BMFSFJ would like to contribute with its partners to even better networking, more strategic cooperation, a more powerful culture of recognition and, in general, even better framework conditions. A guiding principle and an essential part of the strategy is a political style geared towards participation and dialogue as well as the further development of trust and partnership with all actors involved. It aims to foster a stronger civic commitment infrastructure and culture of recognition, along with the continued development of voluntary services

Creating perspectives for refugees together: [Gemeinsam für Perspektiven von Flüchtlingen](#)

This document is a declaration of the federal government and numerous businesses, trade unions, and state bodies aimed at coordinating the integration efforts of refugees into the labour market through access to language and vocational training, among others.

England / London

National Strategies

There is no single strategy to promote the social inclusion of young people; however, this does not mean that it is not considered important.

Programmes and initiatives

Social Mobility Strategy - [Opening doors, breaking barriers: a strategy for social mobility](#) (April 2011)

This strategy sets out the government's vision of a socially mobile country, and how it can become a reality.

Participation Strategy - [Building Engagement, Building Futures](#) (December 2011)

The radical programmes of reform that the Government has put in place for schools, vocational education, skills and welfare will all make a significant difference to young people's opportunities and support. Increasing the participation of 16-24-year olds in education, training and work not only makes a lasting difference to their individual lives, but is central to ambitions to improve social mobility and stimulate economic growth.

Social Justice Strategy - [Social Justice: transforming lives](#) (2012)

Social justice: transforming lives is about giving people with multiple disadvantages the support they need to turn their lives around.

Child Poverty Strategy – [Child Poverty Strategy 2014 to 2017](#) (2014).

This strategy outlines the government's plans for reducing child poverty and the root causes of poverty, including unemployment, low earnings, and educational failure, towards the goal of ending child poverty by 2020.

[Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential](#) (2017)

This is the government's national plan to support children and young people to reach their full potential. The plan "Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential" sets out how we will remove obstacles that could stop people from achieving their potential. We have 5 core ambitions: 4 which span across each life phase - the early years, school, post-16 education, and careers - and a fifth overarching ambition focussing on delivering better educational and career outcomes more evenly across the whole country. This plan will be implemented by working together with all partners across education, business, civil society and beyond.

[Civil Society Strategy](#) (2018); building a future that works for everyone

This Strategy sets out how the government will work with and for civil society in the long-term to create a country that works for everyone.

[Social Mobility Commission Strategy 2019](#)

The Social Mobility Commission is an independent statutory body. In line with the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016, it is a continuation of the body previously referred to as the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, originally established by the Child Poverty Act 2010. The Commission wants to see a United Kingdom where circumstances of birth do not determine outcomes in life. Its ultimate role is to improve social mobility and equality by persuading the Government, educators, and employers to act on its recommendations for policy and practice.

Italy / Palermo

National Strategies

There is no single strategy to promote the social inclusion of young people; however, this does not mean that it is not considered important.

Programmes and initiatives

National Operative Programme [PON Inclusion](#)

The PON Inclusion, co-financed by the European Social Fund, represents an important innovation in the national scenario. Designed with the ambitious objective of structuring and strengthening a network of services to combat poverty throughout the national territory able to accompany the delivery of an economic benefit, has made it possible to bring the issues of the fight against poverty at the centre of the political agenda in recent years, overcoming a delay repeatedly noted by the European Commission compared to other EU Member states. The Programme aims to create a welfare model based on active inclusion, strengthening territorial services and their role towards citizens benefiting from income support measures as [Reddito di cittadinanza](#)

National Program for the Inclusion and Integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti:
[Progetto nazionale per l'inclusione e integrazione dei bambini rom, sinti e caminanti](#)

In the framework of the [PON Inclusion](#) this sub-program aims to improve the participation and school integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti children. It continues the path of the experimental project for the inclusion and integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti children (RSC) launched in 2013 together with 13 Reserved Cities (pursuant to Law 285/97). The involvement of 81 schools, 266 classes, and 600 RSC target pupils is foreseen for the new planning within the framework of the PON "Inclusion."

Fund for the Universal Allowance and Family Services: [Fondo assegno universale e servizi alla famiglia](#)

The Childbirth Allowance, also known as the "Baby Bonus," is the economic contribution that the state offers to families who have or adopt a child. This fund is provided for by the Law No.160 of 27 December 2019 (the 2020 Budget Law), which is aimed at implementing the interventions in support of and for the enhancement of the family.

[Protocollo di intesa \(Memorandum of Understanding\) between the Ministry of Education and the Authority for Children and Adolescents](#)

The MOU sets common objectives around protecting the rights of children and young people and gives particular attention to children's right to study, to well-being, and to play, especially for the most vulnerable children.

[Project "Percorsi"](#)

The project "Training, labour and integration paths for young migrants" facilitates the social and job integration in society of unaccompanied foreign minors. It was promoted by the Directorate General for Immigration and Integration Policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, in collaboration with ANPAL Servizi s.p.a. The aim of the project was to foster social-labour integration of unaccompanied foreign minors in transition to adulthood and of young migrants up to 23 years old who entered Italy as unaccompanied foreign minors. Therefore, the project intended to guide and support the recipients in their path towards autonomy after having turned 18 years old and in exiting the reception

system as envisaged by the relevant regulations, in view of their legal residence on the national territory, and of preventing the risk of their exploitation.

Action Plan on Childhood and Adolescence: [Piano nazionale d'azione per l'infanzia \(PNI\)](#)

The national plan of action and interventions for the protection of the rights and development of subjects in developmental age National Childhood Plan (PNI) is a very important document as it contains the fundamental strategic lines and concrete commitments that the Government intends to pursue to develop an adequate policy for children and adolescents.

The Plan is provided for by Law 451/1997, as amended by the D.P.R. 14 May 2007, n. 103 "Regulations on the reorganization of the National Observatory for Childhood and Adolescence and the National Centre for Documentation and Analysis for Children." It is drafted by the National Observatory for Childhood and Adolescence and draws upon the participation of children and young people

Action and Cohesion Plan '[Youth for Social](#)' - **Giovani per il sociale (PAC)**

The "Youth for the Social" Notice is intended for social inclusion and personal growth. On 12 December 2017, a new Notice was published in the context of the Action and Cohesion Plan (PAC), with a loan of 14 million euros: the "Youth for Social 2018" Notice, for the presentation of projects of the private social sector. The intervention, aimed at young people from the regions of Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicily, is aimed at social inclusion and personal growth, promoting employability, activation, integration, inclusion and innovation policies and social inclusion, also to be understood as a managerial, economic and technological transformation of services, spaces, and public goods.

[Youth Guarantee](#)

Youth Guarantee is the application of the European Plan to combat youth unemployment in Italy. With this objective, funding has been provided for Member States with unemployment rates above 25%.

[TimeTo Care Call](#)

The Call "Time to Care" is aimed at young people between eighteen and thirty-five years old who want to engage, for a period of six months, in support and assistance to the elderly, as part of project actions proposed by the Third Sector entities on the national territory. The Call aims to promote system actions in the territories which, through the work of the associative networks (as per art. 41 of the legislative decree 3 July 2017, n.117 and subsequent amendments - Code of the Third Sector), increase intergenerational exchange.

[Care Leavers inclusion project](#)

The Care Leavers Project is a pilot programme of interventions for youth who, upon reaching the age of majority, live outside their family of origin on the basis of a provision of the judicial authority. It is promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies within the Poverty Fund. Technical assistance, drawing on the resources of the PON Inclusion, is provided by the Istituto degli Innocenti on the basis of a collaboration agreement with the Directorate General for the fight against poverty and for social planning of the Ministry.

Sweden / Gothenburg

National Strategies

National Youth Strategy

The National Youth Strategy has a clear focus on social inclusion and states that all young people must have good living conditions, the power to shape their lives, and influence over societal development. In the bill, the government also reports its assessment that all initiatives that affect young people should have a youth perspective.

The focus is on young people between 16 and 20 years, whose social, participatory, educational, or health-related conditions were more severe compared to other young people. The strategy ran from 2014-2017; a renewed action programme will be presented in Autumn 2020. The strategy includes an [Action programme](#), with initiatives within the following priority areas: young people's influence, self-sufficiency, and mental health.

Finally, amendments to the Education Act have been proposed. The so-called information responsibility for non-compulsory young people is clarified and is instead called activity responsibility for young people. The responsibility means that the municipalities have the task of offering the young people affected appropriate individual measures. The measures must primarily motivate education. The municipalities may be required to keep a register of the young people covered by the responsibility and to document their efforts in an appropriate manner. Principals for upper secondary schools and upper secondary special schools must as soon as possible notify the home municipality if a pupil without a valid reason is absent to a significant extent.

Ways forward - a strategy for young people who neither work nor study: [Vägar framåt - strategi för unga som varken arbetar eller studerar](#)

This strategy reports measures that the government has taken or intends to take during the years 2015–2018 for young people who neither work nor study. The purpose of the measures is to improve the opportunities for these young people to establish themselves in working life and society.

Programmes and initiatives

Living History Forum : Forum för levande historia

The Living History Forum is a public agency operating under the Ministry of Culture. Its purpose is to strengthen the resilience of democracy and human initiative – with historical knowledge as its most important tool. Its mission is to be a national forum encouraging efforts to promote democracy, tolerance, and human rights, using the Holocaust as its starting point. The organisation has a specific mission to raise awareness about the Holocaust and about crimes against humanity committed by Communist regimes, as well as to strengthen the public will to work actively for equality between all people.

National plan to combat racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime

The overarching objective of these plans is strategic, effective and coherent work to combat racism, similar forms of hostility, and hate crime in Sweden. The measures in the plan are to be linked to objectives laid down by the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) for the different areas addressed in the plan. There are two former national action plans for human rights for the periods [2002–2004](#) and [2006–2009](#).

Strategy for the national work on human rights: [Regeringens strategi för det nationella arbetet med mänskliga rättigheter](#)

In the document, the Government describes its strategy for national work on human rights (Part I) and submits a progress report on Sweden's international commitments to human rights (Part II). The strategy is based on the new goal for human rights policy adopted by the Riksdag, namely to ensure full respect for Sweden's international commitments on human rights. The strategy means that compliance with Sweden's international commitments on human rights cannot be taken for granted, either in the short or long term.

Strategy for equal rights and opportunities regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression

The strategy provides an overview of the situation in Sweden today and what efforts have been made to promote equal rights and opportunities regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. The strategy gives the work a more unified and long-term form by placing it within the framework of a cohesive structure. This structure consists of a number of focus areas and strategic authorities. The focus areas included in the strategy are judged to be of central importance for LGBTQ people's equal rights and opportunities. For each area, there is an ambition expressed by the government that is based on the goals already decided by the government and the Riksdag for each policy area. For certain focus areas, strategic authorities are identified, which thereby play an important role in the implementation of the strategy.

Swedish Center for Preventing Violent Extremism: Center mot våldsbejakande extremism

The Swedish Centre for Preventing Violent Extremism (CVE) shall, based primarily on crime policy grounds, strengthen and develop preventive work against violent extremism. The primary aim of the centre is to prevent ideologically-motivated criminality and terrorism in Sweden. The centre is placed under the auspices of Brå, the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, and was established on January 1, 2018.

Swedish gender equality centre: <https://www.jamstalldhetsmyndigheten.se/en>

The overarching goal of Sweden's national gender equality work is for women and men to have the same power to shape society and their own lives. This goal is separated into six sub-goals in the following areas: influence, economy, health, education, work, and bodily integrity. The gender equality work is ultimately a matter of redistributing power and resources in order to achieve the goals. The Swedish Gender Equality Agency was established on 1 January 2018 to contribute to effective implementation of Swedish gender equality policy. The work of the agency requires close cooperation with other government agencies, municipalities, county councils, regions, civil society, business, and industry. The main task of the gender equality agency is to coordinate, follow up, and provide various forms of support in the area of gender equality.