

# **IPA- EU SUPPORT TO THE COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA'S NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY**



**Seminar x:  
Council of Europe and Youth policies  
implementation  
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**Lessons from the 'second seven' 2002-2007  
Council of Europe international reviews  
of national youth policy**



**SSTE: Behrooz Motamed-Afshari**



# Concepts of 'youth' and 'youth policy'



## YOUTH

- Better description and comments on the 'lived experiences' of **different segments/sections** of young people.
- More debate on separation and integration of 'youth' issues in relation to questions of **childhood and family life**. (Who is youth?)
- Critical reflective analysis of the **social condition of young people** – a 'youth sociology' – should be strengthened as a component of national reports. (Youth research)



# Concepts of 'youth' and 'youth policy'



## YOUTH Policy (not static!)

- More explicit consideration to the duration of **contemporary phases** of youth policy development in different countries.
- The **evolution** of national youth policy should be a stronger component of national reports, identifying distinct **developmental phases** and the reasons for them.
- Both national and international reports need to pay attention to how 'youth policy' relates to the 'pathway' between **tradition and change**, and its position between affirmatory and anticipatory culture.



# Structures and infrastructure



## Legislation

- Its less about absence of formal legislation, then **the strength of the mechanisms in place**, which causes youth policies remain incoherent and slow in development.

## Relationships

- need to explore more closely the nature of relationships between stakeholders. **Independence and authenticity** are often taken as granted and not well discussed.



# Structures and infrastructure



## Budget and funding allocations

- **Documenting the absolute and relative allocations to young people** is a challenge to which future international reviews must rise.

## National agency (for youth issues and affairs)

- More clear description of **roles, responsibilities and functions.**
- More attention is needed to the **role of Ombudspersons** in youth field (not only children) who have the potential to play a key role in the protection of human rights and extension of opportunities for young people.



# Structures and infrastructure



## Delivery of youth policy

Greater attention needs to be paid to the organisation of 'delivery relationships'

- **how** is youth policy taken forward
- **who** is included within (and excluded from) the processes of decision-making as implementation shifts from central planning to local delivery.



# Policy domains



## Education

In addressing educational issues, international reviews need to ensure

- (1) a close focus on
  - (a) structure and organisation, (b) content, (c) delivery, and (d) standards.
- (2) **drop-out, inclusion and achievement**
- (3) the real understanding and practice of the concept of **non-formal education**.



# Policy domains



## Training and employment

- Young people opt, or are forced, to create their own **individualised version of 'sliced life'**. More careful attention is needed to explore these complexities.



# Policy domains



## Health

- Concerns about illegal drug use should not overshadow wider, and usually **more prevalent, health concerns.**
- More attention to the range of dedicated **youth health services** available and the extent to which young people are aware of, and make use of them.



# Policy domains



## Values and religion

- The place of religion in the contemporary lives of young people – whether as the basis for values or as the mechanism for social and community integration – has perhaps been **underestimated**.

## Leisure and culture

More consciousness needed regarding:

- a) the **use** of leisure time for both traditional and modern culture,
- b) issues concerning **unequal access** to leisure-time activities,
- c) the **contraction** of leisure time in the interests of enhancing formal learning and qualification.



# Policy domains



## Family policy and child welfare

- More attention to the family context and family policy.
  - overwhelming evidence about **extended youth transitions** and greater sustained 'attachment' to families of origin.
  - increasingly **migratory working habits** of young adults in relation to both families of origin and destination.



# Policy domains



## Housing

- More **robust data on housing** issues affecting young people.

## Youth justice

- mapping the **changing profile** of youth offending
- consider the **coherence** of youth justice responses in relation to wider youth policy
- exploring the range of **interventions** available for the character and severity of that offending profile.



# Cross cutting issues



- **Youth participation and citizenship**
- **Inclusion**
- **youth information**
- **Multiculturalism and minorities**
- **Mobility and internationalism**
- **Equal opportunities**



# Emergent issues demanding a stronger emphasis



- **Radicalisation**
- **Local v. global pressures**
- **New technologies**
- **More focus on local youth strategies versus national policies**
- **Urban–rural polarisation**
- **Elites and outsiders**
- **Environmental issues**
- **The role of diaspora**





Thank you for your attention!

