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National Youth Policies are the building blocks that determine the position of young people in societies, directly affecting their well-being across every aspect of life. They are put in place to create an environment for young people to develop their skills, engage as active citizens and drive change.

UNESCO’s Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021 recognizes the importance of youth policies and aims to support national youth policy processes across the globe.
WHAT WE DO

A policy process is complex and incorporates a variety of layers: from elaboration to implementation, and from monitoring and evaluation to policy revision. These processes engage a multitude of stakeholders from different levels of governance, specializations, population groups and sectors.

UNESCO works to provide four types of support for the elaboration, implementation and revision of youth policies, with a focus on engaging all stakeholders, particularly youth and youth organizations:

- Youth-specific policy advice, knowledge and standards in multiple policy areas within UNESCO’s mandate including education, employability, social development, democratic representation, scientific research, culture, sport, communication and health

- Tailored training and capacity building for youth and youth organizations on leadership, civic skills, policy analysis and dialogue, strategic planning and advocacy, media monitoring, freedom of expression, strategic communication, media production skills and understanding of labour market trends

- Technical guidance on how to put in place multi-stakeholder processes for the development or revision of transversal and inclusive National Youth Policies

- Spaces for youth engagement at different levels of the policy process or cycle
HOW WE DO IT

• **EVIDENCE BASED:** UNESCO respects specific contexts and realities—every situation is different and there is no one-size-fits-all approach. As such, each policy project includes a phase of evidence and data collection about the characteristics of youth, the different stakeholders concerned, and the various quantitative and qualitative youth development indicators.

• **SHARED OWNERSHIP:** UNESCO’s intervention seeks to ensure ownership by all primary stakeholders, including government and youth. This is done primarily through methods that allow for multi-stakeholder consultations and the joint design and management of policy initiatives.

• **YOUTH AT THE DRIVER’S SEAT:** UNESCO works to empower and engage young people to meaningfully participate and co-drive, from design through to implementation and evaluation. To achieve this, UNESCO facilitates and enables youth access to legislative and policy-making bodies, builds capacities of youth organizations and facilitates communication channels between youth networks and other actors involved in the policy process.

• **BUILDING ALLIANCES:** UNESCO’s intervention seeks to identify and collaborate with other actors working on specific aspects of the policy process, whether at the global, regional or national levels. From UN agencies and UN country teams to research institutions, NGOs, bilateral organizations or other intergovernmental organizations, UNESCO pays particular attention to maximizing efficiency by combining efforts and expertise around common objectives.
As part of the UNESCO-EU NET-MED Youth Project, an analytical study on the legal and political frameworks related to youth was developed in Tunisia in 2015.

This provides evidence on the situation of the Tunisian Youth Sector, as well as the basis for a new youth strategy for democratic transition in Tunisia.

In 2012-2014, UNESCO supported the revision of the National Youth Development policy in Zambia.

The process engaged stakeholders, from government to civil society, multilateral donors and agencies, academia, as well as young women and men. Youth engagement and participation was facilitated from the design of the review process to its implementation and finalization, through the direct involvement of the National Youth Development Council and other youth NGOs and associations. Extensive consultations were also held with young women and men in all provinces of Zambia.

In 2016, UNESCO supported the establishment of a multi-partisan Group of Young Parliamentarians in El Salvador.

Composed of members of parliament below the age of 35, the group will work to build an agenda of inclusive policies with an intergenerational perspective, and promote mechanisms for youth participation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies.