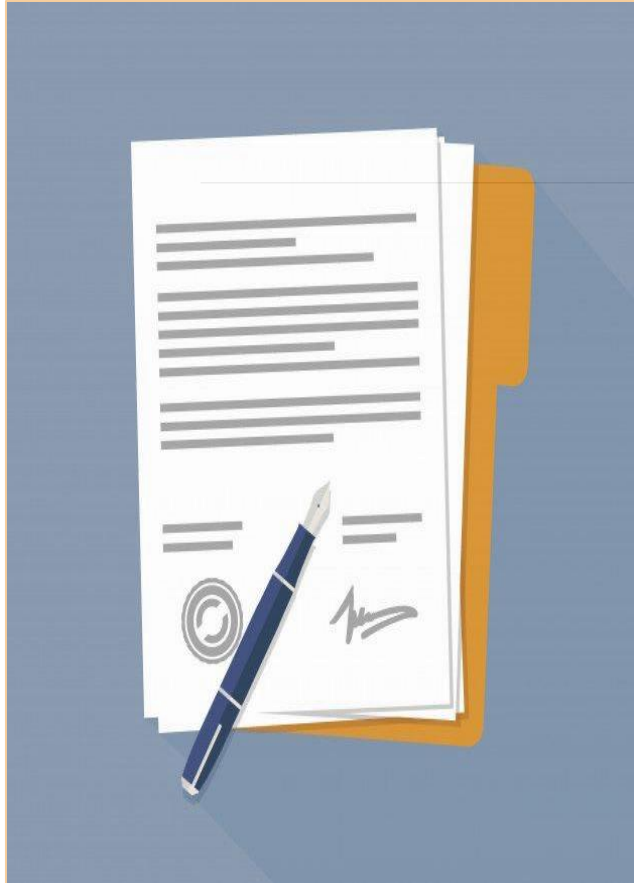


Center-Based Youth Work Boosting Local Youth Participation



THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE
AND SPORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, guided by the principles of youth policy such as the primacy of youth rights, participation, equality, and evidence-based approaches, has developed the **Law on Youth Policy**.



5 MARCH 2025



YOUTH ENVIRONMENTS

YOUTH CENTER

A youth center is a youth environment operating according to the methodology and principles of youth work, equipped with the appropriate staff, physical space, and material-technical resources, providing youth services and implementing youth programs.

YOUTH SPACE

In youth spaces, young people, on their own initiative and following the principles of youth work, implement youth programs aimed at revealing and developing the potential of young people, organizing intellectual leisure activities to fulfill their interests, and encouraging youth participation in decision-making.

Based on the existing experience of youth work in Armenia, several clustering options can be considered for target groups

By Age:

- ☐ Younger Youth – 13-18 years old
- ☐ Youth – 18-25 years old
- ☐ Older youth – 25-35 years old

By needs and interests:

Educational needs, employment, entrepreneurship, political youth, neighborhood youth, athletes, artists, religious groups, members of healthy lifestyle movements, residents of “Hayordyats” Houses, students, and others

By limited opportunities:

Socially vulnerable youth, youth from border villages, youth with disabilities, refugees, Armenian diaspora youth, youth deprived of parental care, residents of orphanages and care institutions, and beneficiaries of other types of institutions

By geographical location:

Youth from specific administrative districts of Yerevan, youth from regions (village and small-town youth)

The functions of

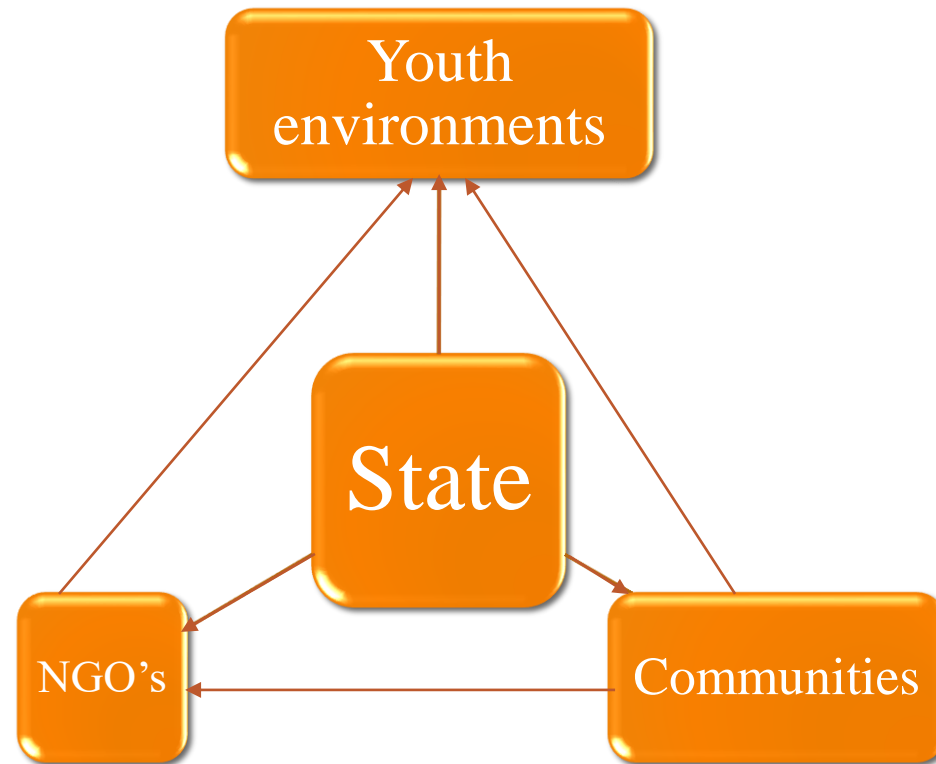
YOUTH CENTER

- Awareness-raising through meetings and informational materials
- Creation and development of youth communities, including online communities
- Counseling and guidance
- Thematic workshops and courses
- Discussions and hosting speakers
- Educational and thematic clubs, Intellectual leisure and non-formal activities
- Study visits
- Excursions and hikes, Thematic and public events
- Community initiatives and programs
- Organization of volunteer work and mentorship
- Unstructured leisure and provision of working space

YOUTH SPACE

- Providing an environment for the implementation of youth ideas and initiatives
- Providing an environment for youth self-development and intellectual leisure
- Implementing youth programs and events
- Providing space, material-technical, and educational resources

In Armenia, youth environments are created by the State, communities, or NGOs (civil society organizations), or through their bilateral or multilateral cooperation.



Through the grant programs of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports, 8 youth environments have been established and are operating in various regional towns and villages of Armenia since 2022. By the end of this year, an additional 6 environments are planned to be opened.



Through cooperation between communities, NGOs, and international organizations, **10 youth environments** have been created and are operating by YIC since 2018, including **7 youth centers (Youth Houses)** and **3 youth spaces**.



The **Alternative Youth Center** also operates, which was established by APY.



From the perspective of youth participation, the purpose of establishing youth centers is to create active young people, to involve them in the political, socio-economic, and cultural life of the country, and to increase the level of youth participation in decision-making. There are 3 formats of activities carried out in these centers aimed at achieving this goal.

- The centers, as an environment, teach how to participate in decision-making through various courses, equipping participants with the different tools necessary for effective participation.
- Ensuring participation in community life, for example, by teaching how to participate in local government meetings, as well as through Youth Policy Labs, where participants are taught specific methodologies on how to engage in the decision-making process of local government bodies.
- Participation in the national-level decision-making process, for example, participation in discussions on the draft law on 'Youth Policy'. It should be noted that 30 proposals suggested by young people were included in the law-making process. Since the field of youth intersects with various other sectors, it is important that the beneficiaries attending the centers can also participate in the review of other sectorial strategies. The centers serve as a platform for this as well, for example, discussions organized in the centers by the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports ensures that such processes are continuous. We also have an agreement with the Ministry of Finance to discuss the topic of 'Participatory Budgeting in Schools' with young people at the centers.