MAINSTREAMING YOUTH AND CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION IN THE YOUTH POLICIES

Barbara Bello

Expert Youth Policy
MAINSTREAMING

- Public Policy concept - United Nations

**GENDER MAINSTREAMING:** “The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.” *(1997 UN Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC)*.

It means bringing the experience, knowledge and interests of women and men on the development of an agenda or programme.
...ensuring that youth concerns, visions and contributions are fully taken into account through a variety of approaches. The principal objective of UNESCO’s efforts is the empowerment of young people so as to ensure and enhance their full participation as equal and valuable partners, especially in the design and shaping of the knowledge society.

In more concrete terms, mainstreaming youth at all stages of UNESCO’s programmes and activities implies placing two objectives at the centre of all considerations: 1) to take into account the distinct and expressed needs of young people and 2) to promote opportunities for the development of partnerships which will foster young people’s capacities and empowerment
In 2001 after the White Paper on European Youth (European Commission 2001), the EU called for:
- a new framework of **co-operation** in the field of youth
- inclusion of the youth dimension in other policies and programmes at European and national levels, with special reference to employment.
2005: the European Youth Pact (Lisbon Strategy): mainstreaming the youth dimension in other EU policies. The pact envisaged three key areas:

1. employment, integration and social advancement;
2. education, training and mobility;
3. reconciliation of family life and working life.

Actions in these areas were to be mainstreamed in the European Employment Strategy, the Social Inclusion Strategy and the Education and Training 2010 Work Programme.
CROSS SECTORAL???


Youth mainstreaming in other policies (such as anti-discrimination, health)

EU YOUTH STRATEGY FOR 2010-18

- The European Commission promotes dialogue between youth and policy:
  - to **provide more and equal opportunities for young people** in education and in the job market
  - to **encourage young people to actively participate in society**.
- The Strategy proposes initiatives in **eight fields of action**:
  - Education and training
  - Employment & entrepreneurship
  - Health & well-being
  - Participation
  - Voluntary activities
  - Social inclusion
  - Youth & the world
  - Creativity & culture
1. How to develop a national youth strategy, fostering intergovernmental cooperation and maintaining a cross-sectoral approach.

2. Furthermore, the active participation of young people and non-governmental youth organisations is topical for the YOUTH STRATEGY FOR YOUTH (above).

3. Inspires also local policy developments.

4. Youth policy should include a coherent and integrated strategy for how a government will view different policy sectors in relation to each other.

Life Long Learning

formal education,

vocational skills

non-formal learning
Gender

youth ↔ Culture/religion/disability/etc.
CROSS-SECTORAL: VERTICAL/HORIZONTAL

- DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNANCE

DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS/MINISTRIES

DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS impacting young people

CONSULTATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
PROBLEM

(National/local) Government’s ACTIONS and MEASURES are co-ordinated into one comprehensive strategy addressing youth, although the RESPONSIBILITIES for implementing the different parts of the strategy will remain in the relevant ministries or government bodies.
SUBJECTS AND STRUCTURE

- National coordinator (strong management)
- Secretariat (Ministry of Youth)
- Steering Committee (highest decision-making authority on the development of the national youth strategy)
- Interministerial Working Group
- Thematic working groups (experts and various «voices»)
- Local consultation partners (in order to involve youth who do NOT belong to NGOs)
SUBJECTS AND STRUCTURE.

- VISION
- GOAL and OBJECTIVES
- MULTILEVEL (national/local; State/citizens)
- Expected outcomes
- Indicators
Youth policy cannot advance without effective coordination with other sectors. In turn, youth policies can contribute to delivering results in areas such as child and family policy, education, gender equality, employment, housing and healthcare.

Member States should consider implementing at national level cross-sectoral policy-making.

Cross-sectoral cooperation should also be developed with local and regional actors, which are crucial for implementing youth strategies.

Attention will be paid not to duplicate existing mechanisms. Improved knowledge-base and effective dissemination of best practice are also needed.
GOOD PRACTICE EU LEVEL

- First Eastern Partnership Youth Forum that took place in Lithuania – 2013 on youth policy

The Forum itself is a good example of cross-sectorial work in practice, the combination of different Lithuanian Government ministries, the youth sector, the European Commission, the European Union and Council of Europe Youth Partnership, and elements of the business sector all worked together to produce and implement the Forum.
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Cooperation between Formal and non formal education
- Youth work sector and the labour market
- Intergenerational
NATIONAL LEVEL?


*Cross-sectorial policies and cooperation strategies* aim to develop *linkages* across sectors in a way that broadens and deepens the overall impact and support base for innovation. Ideally, an integrated approach would encompass mutually reinforcing government, community, and individual efforts.
Governmental Laws or other Regulative Frameworks

Paid labour

Supportive (care and welfare) services

Governmental Budgets

Non-formal education

Self esteem / autonomy / self reliance

Development of (social) skills

Social contacts

Social recreational activities, sports

Voluntary support networks and civil society

Participation and contribution to society

Transformed from the Wheel of Participation (Mijnside, NL)
SOME EXAMPLES

Czech Republic

- An inner (ministerial) working group for coordinating the implementation of the current Youth Policy and preparing a new generation of national youth policy after the 2013 year
- Thematic cross-sectorial working groups on 8 fields covering the EU Youth Strategy plus two more thematic working groups on “Information for and about Young People” and “Research on young People”
- A newly established Youth Chamber as a cross-sectorial advisory body for drafting, implementing and evaluating current and future youth policies of the Czech Republic

Models and instruments of Cross-sectorial Youth Policy. A comparative survey of 9 countries
At: https://www.jugendfuereuropa.de/downloads/4-20-3463/130930_JfE__MKP_Ergebnisse.pdf
The task of coordinating Government youth policy presupposes active cross-sectorial efforts within the Government Offices and vis a vis other National Agencies. The National Board for Youth Affairs is the National Agency that is assigned by the Government to implement youth policy on national level and support the development on local level.

The follow up of youth policy focuses on how the two main objectives are achieved within each of the following prioritised areas of activity:

- Education and learning
- Work and income maintenance
- Health and vulnerability
- Influence and representation
- Culture and leisure
LITHUANIA

Two projects in 2009–2013 in the context of developing an integrated youth policy in Lithuania:
- “Promoting the partnership between national and non-governmental sectors in order to implement integrated youth policy”
- “Developing integrated youth policy”

- The aim of these projects is to foster the national sector working in the field of youth policy; non-governmental sector working with youth; develop, promote, and foster the forms of cooperation between the national and non-governmental sectors. Youth policy is integrated, if interdepartmental and intersectoral cooperation structures, unanimous database of young people and institutions working with them, combination of activity priorities of different institutions as well as recruitment of human and material resources is available.

- Project activities: evidence-based Youth Policy (researches on local and national level); empowering YNGOs to become partners of governmental sector (trainings and evaluations); evaluating the competences and certification of youth workers working in different sectors; development of cooperation (trainings, seminars, discussions, meetings, conferences etc.).

- The Ministry of Social Security and Labour as well as the Department of Youth Affairs invite all stakeholders in the field of youth to gather into joint working groups, meetings, and discussions with the view of developing an integrated youth policy in Lithuania.
FRANCE (NEW YOUTH POLICY)

Establishment of a cross-ministerial youth delegate

A permanent cross-ministerial coordination will be established. The coordinator will monitor the coherence of actions launched by the ministries, examine progress in the inclusion of youth priorities by ministries and Government agencies, and will guarantee that a strategic approach is adopted by all ministries.
RESOURCES - NON FORMAL EDUCATION

https://www.youthpass.eu/da/youthpass/for/youth-initiatives/learn/information/non-formal-learning/

Salto- youth.net

Http://eycb.coe.int/compass/# and other manuals

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION