

Certain Aspects of the Advanced Practices of European Union Countries in the Implementation of State Youth Policy

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ABSTRACT: This article analyzes the implementation of international standards used in the implementation of youth policy based on the achievements in the advanced countries of the world and the regulatory documents based on these standards. Also, from the point of view that the future of civilization is related to the youth, the processes related to the policy related to the field are revealed based on the views of experts.

KEYWORDS: youth work, youth social work, youth political associations, Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Finland, European Union, international standards, youth organizations, youth groups, youth associations.

INTRODUCTION

An analysis of international experience in youth policy shows that today there is a growing trend toward developing new models of working with youth and applying innovative mechanisms and technologies in their implementation.

In designing such models, particular attention is given to ensuring that they meet the demands of the time and are capable of attracting substantial investments to fulfill their intended functions. Additionally, international experience is widely consulted to improve models for implementing youth policy and to define the unique characteristics of national approaches.

While certain international standards for youth policy have been developed, the implementation models in individual countries are shaped by their specific national, socio-political, socio-cultural, and economic conditions.

Unlike other studies that focus primarily on either international or national perspectives, this research also highlights the regional dimensions of youth policy. Regional political structures such as the European Union, Council of Europe, CIS, and the Arctic Council serve as clear examples of how youth policy is developed and implemented at a regional level.

Literature Review on the Topic

Among the scholars who have conducted research on the normative and legal foundations for introducing international standards in the implementation of youth policy—considered a priority area—are notable researchers such as M. Qirg'izboev, Q. Quronboev, A. Jalilov, O. Hasanov, F. Ravshanov, J. Yusupov, A. Boliev, N. Boymuradov, O'. Shakarov, A. Yuldasheva, N. Turg'unova, and D. Kattaxanova.

Furthermore, scientific and theoretical views in this field have also been reflected in the scholarly works, articles, and monographs of several foreign researchers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the course of this research, the following methods were used: objectivity, historicism, comparative-historical analysis, structural and structural-functional approaches, analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, document analysis, data processing, and classification.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Extensive efforts have been made to pilot and test various approaches to implementing state youth policy. European countries have accumulated substantial experience in this regard. For Uzbekistan, studying the experiences of countries with governance systems similar to its own is of great importance. In particular, examining the experience of the Federal Republic of Germany in implementing youth policy at the national level is highly relevant.

In Germany, the legal foundation of youth policy is based on the "Child and Youth Welfare Act" (KJHG), originally adopted on June 26, 1990, and later revised on June 7, 1993 [1]. This law clearly and specifically defines responsibilities in the field of youth work in a structured and differentiated manner. These include:

– youth work;

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- youth-related social work;
- support for parenting within the family;
- early childhood development in daycare institutions and family settings;
- assistance with education in special circumstances;
- participation of youth welfare institutions in court proceedings involving minors;
- guardianship;
- family and juvenile courts;
- protection of children in guardianship institutions and families.

To implement this federal law, funds are allocated from the state budget. These funds are used to support youth and children's public associations and organizations, as well as projects related to extracurricular youth engagement in culture, sports, politics, and international student exchange programs [2].

As in most European countries, in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), the state's social—particularly youth—policy is implemented in three stages based on sectors. The legal framework and overall federal directions of youth policy are developed at the central government level, which in turn provides the foundation for the implementation of youth policy by municipal and regional administrations.

This structure accounts, on the one hand, for the adaptability of local and municipal authorities, and on the other hand, for the ability of regional and local governments to effectively carry out tasks that the central government may find difficult to implement directly. A similar trend can be observed in Uzbekistan's approach to youth policy governance.

A clear example of this is the Interagency Commission, a collegial body that coordinates the activities of state and non-state organizations involved in youth affairs in Uzbekistan. This commission functions not only at the national level but also at the regional and local levels, coordinating the efforts of organizations involved in implementing youth policy through regional and local interagency commissions.

Moreover, specialized youth organizations across different sectors, as well as primary youth units within local, regional, and national organizational structures, are being developed to ensure consistent execution of youth policy at all levels.

These two aspects demonstrate that the mechanisms used to implement youth policy are being effectively applied within the territory of Uzbekistan.

As part of the analysis of the role of non-governmental organizations in youth policy implementation, it is noteworthy that in Germany, over 90 interregional youth unions and organizations are united under a single structure, collectively covering approximately 25% of the youth population [3]. For this reason, referring to Germany's experience holds significant theoretical value. In Germany, when it comes to implementing state youth policy, the government delegates many of its responsibilities to independent organizations such as associations, unions, foundations, and religious communities.

As a result, the range of services offered in connection with various directions of social development expands, opening up a wide array of opportunities for both young people and their parents [4].

Certainly, such experience in Germany has also contributed to the development of a well-structured and carefully designed system in Belgium for working with organizations involved in the implementation of state youth policy.

In particular, the Ministry of Youth and Sports Management of the Flemish Community in Belgium supports and subsidizes national youth associations based on specific conditions.

To facilitate these activities, in 1993, Belgium adopted a local-level law titled *"On Subsidizing City Councils and Flemish Community Commissions for the Implementation of State Youth Policy."* According to this law, municipalities obtained the right to make independent decisions in the field of youth policy.

Moreover, the law allows for financial support of action programs aimed at implementing youth policy, which are developed by city councils and commissions and approved every three years with the consent of the Municipal Youth Council.

Financial resources allocated to city councils are distributed based on the number of residents under the age of 25 living in the municipality. Additionally, extra financial support is provided to municipalities in cities with a high number of unemployed and migrant youth [5]. This experience is particularly important today, as Uzbekistan is actively pursuing the development of its regions using local budget funds. If this approach is applied effectively by state and non-state organizations working in the field of youth policy, it will create an opportunity to improve the infrastructure of state youth policy using these allocated funds.

Another noteworthy example comes from Finland, whose experience in this area is of great interest from the perspective of policy analysis. In Finland, the government provides financial support for political youth and student organizations, interest-based youth organizations, cultural youth associations, religious groups, youth clubs, and various other organizations working with young people.

The Finnish Ministry of Education allocates annual subsidies to a wide range of national youth organizations and associations. Notably, youth political organizations are not funded by political parties themselves, but rather by their youth wings, to ensure the independence of these youth groups.

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At the national level, youth organizations may qualify for state support and grants if they have more than 3,000 members under the age of 29, and if at least two-thirds of their membership consists of youth.

At the local level, youth organizations receive financial and other forms of support—such as training, equipment, and accommodation—from local government bodies [6].

In Uzbekistan, the training of qualified personnel to work with youth-related issues is considered one of the key priorities of state youth policy.

This challenge has been addressed differently across various European countries. For example, in Finland, there is a practice of training professional youth workers, while in contrast, in Luxembourg, such personnel are prepared through a volunteer-based system, where individuals undergo various trainings and courses on specific topics [7]. The experience of the European Union in addressing challenges related to the implementation of youth policy at the intergovernmental level is of significant interest to researchers. This experience holds considerable relevance for Uzbekistan, particularly in terms of resolving youth policy issues through international cooperation, as well as in developing a cooperation model in the field of youth policy among CIS and Central Asian countries.

Supporting youth-driven socially significant innovative initiatives, including the development of civic engagement, investment in youth creative associations, fostering trust in social institutions and organizations, aligning the objectives of youth associations with the genuine interests of young people, increasing youth participation in local self-governance, fostering a positive attitude toward historical and cultural traditions, and strengthening youth civic identity are all vital to overcoming the crisis of norms and values among youth and establishing a strong civil society in Uzbekistan.

Supporting youth policy also helps foster a value-based attitude in the socio-political consciousness of Uzbekistan's population toward solving youth-related issues. It contributes to the optimization of social institutions working in education, healthcare, culture, sports, and meaningful leisure activities.

The Joint Council on Youth Affairs of the Council of Europe has identified the following priority areas for the Council of Europe's youth sector in the near future:

- ensuring peace,
- advancing reforms in human rights,
- promoting human dignity,
- strengthening democratic citizenship and participation,
- and developing a youth policy that is inclusive and acceptable across Europe,

taking into account both national-level experiences in European countries and pan-European approaches to youth engagement [8].

The Council of Europe's youth sector is equipped with a necessary governance structure, resource support, and a monitoring system to implement its stated goals and objectives.

Key decisions regarding the content and structure of youth policy are adopted at the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, which is convened regularly.

During the periods between conferences, issues related to the implementation and monitoring of priority areas are addressed by the Joint Council on Youth, composed of government representatives from member states and representatives of youth public organizations.

Within the Council of Europe's Secretariat, the Directorate of Youth and Sport operates as the key administrative body.

Two European Youth Centres, located in Strasbourg and Budapest, serve as institutional hubs for the youth sector's activities in education, information, training, and research.

Since the 1970s, the European Youth Foundation [9] has been actively funding youth projects and programs implemented at the pan-European level. Decisions on grant allocation for specific projects are made by the Programming Committee, whose members include equal representation from both state authorities and youth organizations.

The youth sector of the Council of Europe also maintains partnership relations with a number of organizations, including:

- the Council on Youth Research and Documentation,
- the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA) [10],
- and the European Youth Card Association [11] among others.

Another influential international organization, the European Union, for many years did not consider youth policy a priority area of its activity. Its involvement was largely limited to allocating significant financial resources for youth-oriented programs such as “Youth for Europe” [12] and the “European Voluntary Service” [13].

However, as the necessity of supporting youth was more deeply recognized, this led to the adoption of the “White Paper on Youth” [14] by the European Union in 2000. Relying on its network of national agencies for youth programs, the EU began to develop initiatives aimed at the training of youth workers and professionals engaged in the youth sector.

As a result, over the past twenty years, youth-related issues have become increasingly prominent on the agendas of many regional and intergovernmental organizations.

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Within the framework of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, a Youth Working Group was established, supported by the council's secretariat. Additionally, in 1998, the Ministerial Conference on Youth Work held in Sweden adopted an Action Plan aimed at establishing cooperation in the field of youth policy. [15].

Since 1999, a Working Group on Youth Policy has been operating under the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. Additionally, since 1996, the Council of Ministers for Youth Affairs of the CIS Member States has been active. Regular meetings are held, during which priority directions for cooperation in youth policy among post-Soviet countries are identified and developed.

CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, it should be noted that regional policies in the field of state youth policy are gradually giving way to the development of national youth policy models. However, in shaping national models, the experiences of developed countries in implementing youth policy cannot be directly applied. Instead, they must be adapted to national or regional characteristics, conditions, and capabilities.

In other words, the experiences of developed countries should be viewed as examples of modernity, but synthesized with traditional local features. Only in this way can advanced foreign experiences lead to positive outcomes, rather than negative ones, as observed in Eastern and Central European countries that directly adopted the practices of Western Europe and the United States

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