Approach Paper:

Mainstreaming Youth Issues in Europe and Central Asia

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ECA Region, World Bank
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Executive Summary

Young people have been major instruments of positive social and political change in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region through their participation in democratization processes, peace movements and anti-corruption efforts. In spite of their potential, young people are falling through the cracks of public policy in the ECA region, following the collapse of the communist system and its state and party-sponsored youth programs which left a vacuum in youth policy and programming.

Although the countries of Europe and Central Asia (ECA) have been at the forefront of youth specific-interventions across the Bank, there is an urgent need for more systematic youth programming and policy making across the region. Despite improved economic growth in many ECA countries, youth poverty, unemployment and exclusion are widespread and increasing. Young people in these countries have virtually no role in many areas of social and political life and the failure of the labor market to absorb them exposes them to numerous risks, including that of political extremism.

The region is witnessing a significant increase in childbearing outside of marriage. Given weakening family support structures and declining social services in the region, many children will be raised in single-parent families, making them especially vulnerable to the inter-generational transmission of poverty. Finally, many indicators of youth well-being are declining in the region as a whole. For example, more than half of the people infected with HIV/AIDS in the ECA region are between 20 and 30 years of age, compared to only 30 percent in developed countries.¹

The objective of this Approach Paper is to discuss the World Bank’s ongoing work on youth in the ECA region. Specifically, the paper:

• considers why a youth-focused approach is essential to the World Bank, particularly in the ECA region, and identifies priority areas that require youth interventions;
• identifies multiple modalities for strategic youth development in Bank products and investments;
• reviews good practices in youth programming; and
• develops a roadmap for mainstreaming youth issues in policy and operational work, with a particular focus on self-standing youth programs.

The paper suggests a focus on four youth policy priorities in the ECA region, priorities that also support youth-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

i) school-to-work transition;
ii) HIV/AIDS prevention and risk management;
iii) youth, conflict prevention and peace building; and
iv) youth policy development with youth participation.

Finally, the paper encourages the World Bank to promote youth development in the ECA region through integrated youth-focused interventions and the incorporation of youth components into sectoral

investments, existing policy instruments and due diligence Analytical and Advisory Activities (AAAs) and Economic and Sector Work (ESW).
Introduction

**Rationale for Mainstreaming Youth Issues in ECA.** Young people have been major instruments of positive social and political change in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region through their participation in democratization processes, peace movements and anti-corruption efforts. They have also been a constructive force for social cohesion and reconciliation in conflict-affected countries, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia, and have brought innovation, energy and flexibility to rapidly changing workplaces. Given the opportunity, young people can play a critical role in the development of these countries.

In spite of their potential, young people are falling through the cracks of public policy in the ECA region. The collapse of the communist system and its state- and party-sponsored youth programs has left a vacuum in youth policy and programming in many ECA countries. The relative marginalization of young people in these countries is incurring high economic costs in terms of the brain drain and health and security issues. Disillusioned youth in the region are, for instance, beginning to join politically extremist organizations. Although the number of young people who join such organizations is relatively small, the number who look at the future in despair is much larger, especially in countries with large youth bulges.

In 1999, there were approximately 65 million youth in the region, an increase of 10 percent over 1989. Today, young people comprise approximately 16 percent of the ECA population. Although economic growth has improved in many countries in the region, employment opportunities remain limited for young people. In Central Asia, almost one out of every three young people aged 15–29 is unemployed.

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2 In Serbia, for instance, the student movement Otpor played a key role in ousting Milosevic in 2000. The movement relied on a philosophy of non-violent resistance, used ever-present slogans and attempted to include rather than oppose local law-enforcement officials. In Georgia, the youth movement Kmara organized anti-government protests and called for free elections. Their message was clear: an end to corruption, instability and President Shevardnadze’s government. Kmara spearheaded protests in Tbilisi in the summer and fall of 2003 that led to the resignation of the President, a series of events known as the Rose Revolution. Young people also played a leading role in Ukraine’s Orange Revolution, which led to the resignation of Prime Minister Yanukovych and the inauguration of President Yushchenko. Similar youth movements are shaping up in other countries of the region, such as Kelkel in Kyrgyzstan, Zubr in Belarus, the Orange Movement in Azerbaijan and the Youth Movement in Ingushetia.

3 Where explicit youth interventions exist, they are often limited in scope and resources.

4 For an analysis of the economic costs of not investing in youth see World Bank, 2006, “Young People in South Eastern Europe.”

5 For example, most followers of the radical religious group Hizb-ut Tahrir in Central Asia are disillusioned youth.

6 Many middle-income countries in the ECA region face declining and aging populations, but youth bulges (i.e., high proportions of young people in the population as a whole) in Kosovo, the North Caucasus, Central Asia and other parts of the region have increased the risk of social and political instability.

7 This percentage varies across the region. It is considerably higher in Turkey, Kosovo, Central Asia and the Caucasus, and lower in the Baltic States and Central Europe (UNICEF, 2000, “Young People in Changing Societies,” 1, 5).

8 In 2002, the average GDP growth for the region was 5.1 percent (World Bank, 2005, “The Millennium Development Goals in Europe and Central Asia.” World Bank, Washington, DC, 3).

9 Figures from U.S. Census Bureau, 2005, http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbsum.html (accessed January 2006). In Tajikistan, the youth population is over 30 percent of the general population and is expected to double to 3 million by 2025. Similarly, in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, youth populations account for more than 30 percent of the population.
Given that young people in ECA countries have limited access to quality education, labor markets and housing, they are delaying marriage. Later marriages mean a longer period of economic dependency on parents and a postponed departure from the family home.\(^{10}\) In the majority of countries in the region, the mean age at first marriage increased several years between 1990 and 2002.\(^{11}\) In Croatia, for instance, the mean age of females at first marriage increased from 21.4 to 25.6 years between 1970 and 2002.\(^{12}\) In 2002, average age at first marriage for men in Croatia was 28.8 years,\(^{13}\) a trend mirrored throughout the region.\(^{14}\) Unfortunately, postponed marriage has not translated into delayed parenthood. Rising rates of births outside of marriage and single-parent families are consequently threatening to lock a new generation into poverty.\(^{15}\)

In response to emerging youth challenges and the increased attention that governments, international development organizations and NGOs are placing on this segment of the population, the World Bank launched the Children and Youth initiative in 2002 and a Children and Youth Framework for Action in June 2004. The Bank’s upcoming *World Development Report: Development and the Next Generation*, will specifically address the challenges faced by young people in developing countries worldwide.

The ECA region has pioneered work on youth development along multiple trajectories. Social exclusion of youth was identified as a key strategic issue for South Eastern Europe (SEE) in 2000\(^{16}\) and for ECA as a whole in 2003.\(^{17}\) Several recent regional research studies address different aspects of youth issues, including: “Changing Minds, Policies and Lives: Improving Protection of Children in Eastern Europe and Central Asia” (2003); “Young People in South Eastern Europe: From Risk to Empowerment” (2004); “HIV/AIDS in the Western Balkans” (2004) and; “Human Trafficking in South Eastern Europe: Beyond Crime Control, an Agenda for Social Inclusion and Development” (2004).

The youth agenda has been prioritized in country-based initiatives throughout the ECA region. Operations like the Macedonia Children and Youth Project, the Moldova and Turkey JSDF (Japanese Social Development Fund) grants and Youth Post-Conflict Grants in Kosovo and the North Caucasus

\(^{10}\) See World Bank, 2006, “Young People in South Eastern Europe.”


\(^{12}\) Council of Europe, 2003, *Demographic Year Book*. (Strasbourg: Council of Europe).

\(^{13}\) Ibid.

\(^{14}\) The age at first marriage has also risen in Macedonia. In 2002, the mean age at which women first married was 23.8 years, while for men it was 26.8 years. A similar trend of postponing first marriages could be observed in Serbia and Montenegro both between 1971 and 2001. Among men it rose by 1.7 to 3.6 years, and among women, by 2 to 3 years, depending on the region. During the period 1991–2001, the average age at first marriage in these regions increased from 27.25 to 28.23 for men and from 23.61 to 24.73 years for women. In Bulgaria, the average age at first marriage has similarly increased and is now 28.1 years for men and 24.8 years for women, an increase of roughly 2.1 years over the period 1995–2002. In Romania, mean age at first marriage has also increased, reaching 29.3 years for men and 25.7 for women in 2001, up 2.4 and 2.0 years, respectively, from the figures recorded in 1990. Council of Europe, 2003, *Demographic Year Book*. (Strasbourg: Council of Europe).

\(^{15}\) From 1990 to 2002, extra-marital births increased from 2.6 to 7.6 per 100 births in Azerbaijan, 7.4 to 10.6 in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 12.4 to 42.8 in Bulgaria, 9.3 to 13.2 in Armenia, 18.2 to 45.9 in Georgia, 11.1 to 20.5 in Moldova, 4.0 to 26.7 in Romania, 14.6 to 29.5 in Russia and 7.1 to 10.7 in Macedonia (Council of Europe, 2003, *Demographic Yearbook*; UNECE, 2005, *Statistical Yearbook*). For data on intergenerational transmission of poverty, see World Bank, 2006, “Young People in South Eastern Europe.”


emphasize a multi-dimensional framework, including youth empowerment and citizenship. This approach contrasts with youth work in other regions, which mainly focuses on youth at risk.  

The process of developing the Moldova Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), for example, included the establishment of a multi-sector working group on youth chaired by the government’s Youth and Sports Department, which subsequently adopted youth development priorities and proposed actions stemming from the PRSP. Six “Youth Voices” groups, which channel youth perspectives and priorities into World Bank programming, were also launched in the region in 2004.

Nevertheless, major gaps in youth programming in the ECA region remain unaddressed. Within the countries of SEE, for example, only Macedonia and Moldova have a comprehensive youth policy. In sub-regions such as Central Asia and the Caucasus, where youth are exposed to the multiple risks of HIV/AIDS, high unemployment, substance abuse and violent conflict, there is an urgent need to better incorporate youth policies into national development strategies. While youth unemployment cannot be tackled in isolation from Bank-supported labor-intensive growth strategies in the region, the specific disadvantages and barriers to employment faced by young people require labor market policies explicitly targeted at this age cohort. Operational and policy linkages with youth organizations, which are still at an early stage, also need to be expanded to better promote young people’s participation in public policies and programs.

At the same time, more research on youth-related issues is needed across the region. The specificities of labor-market barriers, as well as how to best position young people to benefit from economic growth in their countries, merit additional research. The gender dimension of youth exclusion also needs to be better understood and addressed. In short, young men demonstrate higher levels of suicide, substance abuse and violence, whereas young women are more vulnerable to trafficking and domestic violence. And while young women’s educational attainment is improving, these advances have not generally translated into labor market gains.

Report Objectives. The objective of this Approach Paper is to discuss ongoing youth work in ECA and align youth interventions with the Bank’s corporate priority of investing in youth development. Specifically, the paper:

- considers why a youth-focused approach is essential to the World Bank, particularly in the Europe and Central Asia region, and identifies priority areas that require youth interventions;
- identifies multiple modalities for strategic engagement with youth development in Bank products and investments;
- reviews good practices in youth programming; and
- develops a roadmap for mainstreaming youth issues in policy and operational work, with a particular focus on self-standing youth programs.

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18 In the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, for example, Social Investment Funds in Nicaragua, Honduras and St. Lucia feature a “Youth in Action” component, which supports such interventions as centers for young girls with delinquency problems. The Children and Youth Innovation JSDF in Honduras focuses on vulnerable and at-risk children and youth (0–18 years) in that country, with a particular emphasis on youth affected by HIV/AIDS and disabled youth living in extreme poverty.

19 The groups were established in Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Priority Areas. Based on the needs expressed by young people, their representatives and other youth stakeholders in the ECA region, this Approach Paper highlights best practices and entry points for constructive engagement of young people, provides an assessment of priority youth needs on which the World Bank should focus and discusses strategies for mainstreaming the youth agenda within World Bank programs. Specifically, the paper outlines four policy priorities for which the Millenium Development Goals have also established specific youth targets: the school-to-work transition, HIV/AIDS prevention and risk management; youth, conflict prevention and peace-building; and youth policy development with youth participation.

School-to-work Transition

The school-to-work transition represents the transition of young people to working life from formal secondary or tertiary education, non-formal education or vocational training. Successful transitions are crucial to young people’s social and economic well-being. Failed transitions, increasingly common in the ECA region, are marked by increased school dropout rates, youth unemployment, underemployment, idleness and brain drain. A recent OECD study highlights that the school-to-work transition is “concerned not only with education policies, but with employment and labour policies and welfare and social policies, as well as with the interaction between these policy domains.”

Box 1 discusses success factors for effective school-to-work transition programs in the Latin America region, which provide useful lessons for future ECA programming.

Multiple indicators are needed to judge the effectiveness of transition policies in a given country, including (i) the proportion of young people completing full upper secondary education with a recognized qualification; (ii) the level of knowledge and skills among young people at the end of the transition phase; (iii) the proportion of teenagers and young adults neither in school nor employed; (iv) the proportion of young people remaining unemployed for lengthy periods after leaving education; and (v) equitable distribution of outcomes by gender, social background and region.

21 These needs were defined at the first World Bank Conference on Youth, Development and Peace in Paris in 2003 and elaborated further at subsequent numerous consultations held with youth groups in the region in 2003 and 2004, including a second conference in Sarajevo (2004). Regarding the 2003 conference, see European Youth Forum, 2003, Compact Report (Brussels: European Youth Forum). Young people who attended these conferences advocated a stronger World Bank role in conflict prevention and resolution and greater youth participation in decision-making processes and institutional reform, particularly in education and youth policy.

22 Half of the MDGs include specific targets and indicators that relate directly to youth. These targets address the literacy rate among 15–24-year-olds; the ratio of literate 15–24-year-old females to males; reducing the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS among 15–24-year-old pregnant women; and reducing the unemployment rate among 15–24 year-olds.


24 Ibid.
An analysis of school-to-work transition programs in Latin America suggests that the following factors play an important role in the potential success of these programs:

- **Focus on long-term employability and productivity.** Effective school-to-work transition programs address all aspects of the school-to-work transition. Programs that put high priority on long-term employability and productivity of youth are accordingly more successful than those that focus on short-term job placement.

- **Develop effective targeting for different groups of youth.** In most cases, completely different designs are needed for different age and income groups. Targeted programs should also reflect gender sensitivities.

- **Differentiate between programs for the competitive skilled labor force and low-income youth.** Differentiating policies and programs that address economic growth and issues of the skilled labor force from those that address unemployment among low-income youth (i.e., social inclusion programs) increases the potential success of school-to-work transition programs.

- **Use community-based outreach models.** Programs that target low-income youth employment are more effective if they are integrated into community-based outreach models, which differ significantly from competitive labor market training programs (which target skilled workers).

- **Extend education to non-formal programs that grant certification.** Non-formal education provided at community and youth centers encourage young people to go back to school without the stigma of failure associated with the formal education system.

- **Rethink expensive unemployment training programs for youth.** The emphasis of training programs should be on generic and basic business skills that address the needs of low-income youth. Remedial education that emphasizes basic skills in the informal sector—the main point of entry into labor market—should also be incorporated into training curricula.


Although widespread monitoring of such indicators in the ECA region remains inadequate, it is well known that the region—which once had nearly universal school enrollment—is experiencing declining secondary school enrollment rates and rising illiteracy.25 Young people have also expressed concern about the quality and relevance of education in preparing them for the labor market, as well as their lack of participation in educational reforms.26 World Bank poverty assessments demonstrate that “youth from poorer and less-educated families are likely to leave school before completing basic education or at the time of its completion,”27 which tends to reinforce poverty over time. Not only do issues of access to tertiary education persist, youth concerns over corruption in the formal education system are growing in the region.28

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In 1999, there were 65 million young people aged 15–24 in the ECA region, 27 percent of whom were neither in school nor employed. The region reported a youth unemployment rate of 18.6 percent in 2003, second only to the Middle East and North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa regions. Youth unemployment is particularly high in South Eastern Europe (71 percent in Macedonia, 35 percent in Bulgaria), in the Caucasus (46 percent in Azerbaijan, 27 percent in Georgia) and in Central Asia (37 percent in Kyrgyzstan, 33 percent in Tajikistan). Many young people work long hours for low pay or struggle to make a living in the informal economy. Unemployment, moreover, is not spread evenly among young people. Several groups are especially at risk, including rural youth, youth with disabilities and youth from minority communities, all of whom are excluded from formal labor markets.

What are the causes of this exclusion? Young people’s low levels of job-relevant skills and lack of prior work experience mean that employers have low incentives to hire them. Employers require employees who can become operational immediately; they rarely have the financial or human resources to assume the cost of training young people. Internships and on-the-job training programs are thus of great benefit to young people in ECA countries.

A second factor affecting young people’s marginalization from the labor market is asymmetries of information regarding job and training opportunities, especially in rural areas. Employment services in the region often lack funds, appropriate job search strategies for youth and market-oriented training programs. They also exclude young people who have not completed secondary school. High levels of corruption and lack of transparency in human resources and recruitment practices are additional factors in many countries in the ECA region. These factors often render employment services less effective and family connections and money more important in determining youth labor market outcomes.

Lack of adequate employment opportunities is responsible for out-migration of young people from the region, a phenomenon that has become a key policy issue in several ECA countries. Although remittances may represent an important source of income for individual countries, labor migration often involves the loss of valuable human capital from the region and can weaken family structures and intensify the spread of HIV/AIDS. Participants in the first World Bank “Youth Development and Peace Conference” in 2003 noted that many young people in ECA countries would prefer to contribute to development within their own countries, but are compelled to emigrate due to the lack of opportunities.

International evidence suggests that the absolute level of youth unemployment is strongly tied to the aggregate level of unemployment, suggesting that labor-intensive growth is crucial for addressing the youth employment problem. Yet a relative dimension of youth employment remains, as young people are at a disadvantage to older workers in many labor markets. Many ECA countries, for example, share similar levels of aggregate unemployment, but exhibit large disparities among youth unemployment.

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31 Brander, 2002, Compass.
32 A study by Redmond and others on the 1999 round of the International Social Survey Programme found that “knowing the right people” and “coming from a wealthy family” were judged much more important to getting ahead by survey respondents in Central and Eastern Europe than by respondents in Western countries (Redmond et al., 2001, as cited in World Bank, 2006, “Young People in South East Europe”). Available Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) data for 5 regions of South East Europe (SEE) further confirm the importance of family and friends as a way to find a job, as well as the limited use of employment services by young people.
rates. Further investigation of the countries that are more successful in reducing the youth employment disadvantage is needed, together with an assessment of how best to incorporate youth-targeted measures into national pro-employment growth strategies.

**HIV/AIDS Prevention and Risk Management**

The effects of growing poverty, idleness and unemployment among young people are being magnified by social stresses in the ECA region. As noted earlier, family structures have become more fragile and, in many cases, have broken down under the pressures of poverty. The social networks of the poor have decreased in scope and potential during the transition years, adding to the social exclusion of poor people. Cultural and leisure activities for youth have also declined. All of these factors have combined to increase young people’s levels of isolation and despondency. Their social exclusion is reflected in rising youth suicide rates, particularly in conflict-affected countries.

In many countries of the region, petty and street crime, together with violence and substance abuse, result from economic decline and the boredom of idle youth, who have very few ways to occupy themselves. State legislation in these countries often does not differentiate between misdemeanors and severe crime, nor between younger and older criminals. As a result, young people suffer harsh sentences. This approach to law enforcement is not only very costly, it has not proven effective for reintegrating young offenders into society. Alternatives from other regions, such as Latin America, point to the potential positive role of restorative justice. These programs utilize required community service to build the productive potential of young people, which significantly improve young offenders’ prospects for reintegration into society after they complete their sentences.

As a result of porous borders and the transit of cheap heroin across many of the countries in the ECA region, there has also been an increase in destructive behaviors, including drug trafficking and drug use. Intravenous drug use has been a major factor in the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region, where it is estimated that 70 percent of intravenous drug users are under the age of 25. More than 80 percent of reported HIV infections in ECA countries are among people below the age of 30 years.

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34 The lack of time-series data on youth employment does not permit direct analysis of whether growth has been instrumental in boosting youth employment across the ECA region. Annual data on overall employment in the region does, however, exist and provides interesting insight on the relationship between economic and employment growth (see TransMonee database of UNICEF). Given the positive relationship between youth employment and aggregate employment observed worldwide, one may infer its impact on youth employment. An analysis of data during the period 1989–2002 shows that a clear positive association exists between economic and employment growth, but no straightforward relationship exists between growth and the level of employment. In other words, there are many cases where employment has declined during periods of robust economic growth, although the decline in employment always decelerated when growth accelerated. What really matters, then, is the quality of growth and the extent to which it is rooted in strategies friendly to youth labor.


compared to only 30 percent in the countries of Western Europe.\textsuperscript{40} In Russia, for instance, 80 percent of people diagnosed with HIV at the end of 2003 were between the ages of 15 and 29.\textsuperscript{41} Similarly, most infections in Belarus and Moldova occur among young drug injectors and their sexual partners.\textsuperscript{42} The proportion of sexually transmitted HIV infections throughout the region is also increasing due to rising rates of commercial sex work and unsafe sex practices among young people.

National AIDS programs throughout the region face a range of challenges, from insignificant coverage of marginalized groups and youth in general, to lack of action on regional epidemic drivers (e.g., youth unemployment, migration, drug trafficking and the trafficking of young women and children).\textsuperscript{43} The policy and regulatory environment in ECA countries is, moreover, generally unfavorable to the most vulnerable members of the population.

Young people thus lack the mechanisms—knowledge, opportunities and social support—to deal with the increasing risks that they face. Responding to the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic among young people requires multisectoral interventions in addition to traditional health sector projects and the associated scaling-up of preventive measures. Such multidimensional interventions should include access to youth-friendly services and involving youth themselves in prevention efforts, including peer education.\textsuperscript{44} A successful example of a strategy that targets young people through prevention, integration and youth-friendly services is the anti-drug policy of the Netherlands (see Box 2).

### Box 2. Youth program on drug addiction in the Netherlands

**Youth policy** in the Netherlands can be described as **preventive** and **integrative**. A preventive youth policy addresses all young people, not just those who have problems, especially those at risk. Curative youth policy and social participation are integral parts of the policy. Cooperation between institutions providing services to young people is highly important to the implementation of the policy and the government is working to further improve this cooperation. Schools, youth welfare programs, judicial authorities and social workers, as well as relevant ministries, are all involved in the effort. Policies are implemented at the local level, with provincial authorities in charge of managing youth care services and municipalities responsible for funding, defining and implementing youth policy on leisure and the participation of young people (thus ensuring youth-friendly services).

**Drug policy** focuses on primary and secondary prevention. The venues in which the drug problem is encountered in the country are particularly connected with adolescents and young people. The country’s drug policy, although separate from the youth policy, therefore applies mostly to youth. The majority of drug users in the Netherlands fall into the 20-to-24-year-old age group. Similar to national youth policy, Dutch drug policy is aimed to provide professional care and prevention. Preventive strategies are designed to reduce the demand for drugs, while professional care seeks to limit the harm they cause users, the people they associate with and the public in general. The Dutch government refers to this broad focus as the “principle of harm reduction.” To prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis B through infected needles, for instance, the government employs a carefully administered syringe distribution program. Accessible care, counseling and information mean that fewer addicts administer drugs with used needles and the number of injecting drug users is reduced. As a result, the incidence of HIV infection among drug users remains low.


\textsuperscript{41} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{42} EuroHIV (European Centre for the Epidemiological Monitoring of AIDS), 2004, *HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Europe: End Year Report 2003*, no. 70 (Saint-Maurice, France: Institut de veille sanitaire).
\textsuperscript{44} Godinho et al., 2004, *HIV/AIDS in the Western Balkans.*
The Macedonia Children and Youth Project recently launched a new program cycle for 20–24-year-olds that addresses healthy lifestyles, reproductive health and prevention of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. In specifically identified geographic areas, the centers supported by the project will be equipped and trained to provide counseling and testing services and will eventually distribute condoms. These centers will contribute to implementing some of the guiding principles of the Macedonia National HIV/AIDS Strategy. This strategy requires cross-sectoral approaches and empowers young people to protect themselves against HIV infection.

Youth, Conflict Prevention and Peace Building

Researchers are increasingly recognizing the linkages between conflict and poor economic prospects for young people. Just as unemployment contributes to poverty and inequity, it can also contribute to psychological stress, reduce social cohesion, strain social institutions and lead to political exclusion and violence. The socioeconomic impact of unemployment on young people is not, moreover, limited to the uneducated. Where employment opportunities for well-educated young people are limited, a high incidence of conflict is observed, the result of unmet expectations and foregone opportunities.

Young people who do not have access to community and social networks, education and labor markets are also more likely to feel alienated and develop a sense of hopelessness and isolation. From an early age, many young people in the ECA region develop a mistrust towards a system that fails to support their needs and its officials, who claim to speak on their behalf but act against their interests.

Researchers often point to trust as an indicator of an individual’s sense of security and faith in the societies in which they live. The World Values Survey shows that increasingly, religious institutions are becoming the institutions most trusted by young people in the 18–34 age group. In addition, low trust in the effectiveness of governments, the justice system and the police can lead to other, more violent forms of reaction among youth, many of whom may turn to violence to overcome their lack of socioeconomic opportunity. In Russia, for instance, the number of crimes committed by young people aged 14–29 grew about 8 percent between 1995 and 2003. In addition, aggression and the severity of crimes committed by young people are rising in the region. The number of offenders under the age of 30 sentenced for murder increased from 3,900 in 1990 to 10,600 in 2002; for deliberate grave physical injury, from 8,300 to 19,200; and for drug-related offenses, from 5,000 to 62,000.

45 See, for example, Tarik Yousef, 2003, “Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Demography, Employment and Conflict”, in Youth Explosion in Developing World Cities: Approaches to Reducing Poverty and Conflict in and Urban Age, ed by Ruble, Tulchin, Varat, and Hanley. World Bank, Washington, DC.
48 International Crisis Group (ICG), 2003, “Youth in Central Asia: Losing the Next Generation,” Asia Report, no. 66 (October), ICG, Brussels, Belgium.
49 The survey notes that “the high trust young people have in religious institutions may indicate their potential use by young people to negotiate social disorder” (See National Research Council, 2005, Growing Up Global, 396).
Young people in the ECA region are also vulnerable to recruitment by militant and extremist organizations. In the Southern Federal District of Russia, for example, which is characterized by high levels of ethnic diversity and economic disparity, the overall lack of economic opportunity for young people has provided fertile ground for violence and extremism. In some cases, the financial benefits and/or free education provided by these movements provide a powerful incentive for young people to join them. In other cases, extremist movements offer young people a strong social support network, a moral code and a channel to express their dissatisfaction with existing political systems and leaders—all packaged in a “youth-friendly approach” that employs everyday language, direct slogans and modern technology.

Inadequate investment in young people across the region can result in high costs. In Kosovo, for instance, some 50,000 young people frustrated by poor economic and political opportunities rioted in the streets in March 2004. The damage from the riot has been estimated at USD 75 million; the cost of youth violence in Kosovo overall totaled more than USD 220 million in 2004.

Peace and tolerance activities aimed at enhancing the role of youth stakeholders in conflict prevention should become an integral part of youth-targeted interventions in the ECA region. Such interventions should aim at both young people and adult decision makers and opinion leaders. Such programs, like those currently supported by World Bank Youth Post-Conflict Grants in the North Caucasus and Kosovo, may include activities related to:

- youth information and communication;
- joint summer programs and student work teams for young people, NGOs and youth workers;
- youth gatherings and social cohesion activities, such as workshops, conferences, trainings, camps, art and culture activities and exchange visits; and
- inter-university peace and tolerance programs for students and teachers.

In addition to inter-youth exchange, such programs should promote capacity building and dialogue with government representatives, religious leaders (e.g. imams, Orthodox Christian priests, etc.), journalists, teachers, government officials, civil society and other opinion shapers. Initiation of dialogue between representatives of different religious communities would be particularly relevant.

**Youth Policy Development with Youth Participation**

Financially sustainable and flexible national youth policies are crucial for the region because they establish a framework in which youth programming can develop. Several ECA countries have taken the first steps towards a national youth policy. Although roughly half of ECA governments have issued a

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54 Madrasa students in Uzbekistan, for instance, acknowledged that madrasa courses represented their only access to education of any kind. A similar trend can be observed among Tajik youth who choose Islamic universities due to low tuition fees. See ICG, 2003, “Youth in Central Asia.”


56 World Bank, 2006, “Young People in South East Europe.”
youth policy document, only a few have succeeded in implementing such policies. Unfortunately, such policies are rarely designed, implemented or monitored with the involvement of youth stakeholders. As a result, many youth interventions remain localized and scattered across sectors, with no linkages between local-level activities or integration into national policy.

The structures for national youth policy structures in ECA are often centralized and lack connections to non-governmental youth organizations, reflecting their communist legacy. In addition, the pressures of administrative reforms have downgraded youth ministries to departments or agencies within other ministries. The shift to sub-ministerial level does not necessarily result in a loss of effectiveness if the relevant agency or department has adequate autonomy, financial resources, technical capacity and the appropriate skills mix for youth interventions. However, these attributes are rarely found among youth sub-departments. Youth ministries and sub-departments also need support to build adequate statistical capacity for collecting disaggregated data on youth trends, as well as to monitor and evaluate the impact of government interventions for young people.

At the same time, increased support should be given to youth organizations in the region, which range from student groups to service delivery agencies to grassroots-based advocacy groups. Donor-supported initiatives have focused on developing the capacity of youth organizations in many countries in the region, but additional skills training and support are needed to facilitate youth group involvement in national policy development, as well as to promote the institutional and financial sustainability of these groups. A successful example of youth policy development with effective youth participation is the Integral Plan for Youth in Spain (see Box 3.).

**Box 3. Youth policy Development in Spain: The integral plan for youth**

**Overview.** Using a comprehensive approach to reduce social exclusion in Spain, the Integral Plan for Youth focuses on systematizing and improving access to education and training, housing, and employment. It envisages the devolution of these programs, moreover, to local governments. As part of the Spanish Government’s “decentralized aid” process, funding for such efforts is made available to Spanish regions and municipalities. (Policymaking on youth issues is being transferred to local governments to ensure that municipalities are more responsive to their respective young citizens.)

**Implementation.** Beginning in 1983, the Spanish government began to initiate dialogues with youth associations and organizations, convene youth meetings and legally established a Council of Spanish Youth. In 1985, the Institute for Youth and the newly created Inter-ministerial Committee for Youth and Infancy helped create the Integral Plan for Youth. This plan was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in November 1991. The Committee, the Ministry of Social Matters and the Youth Institute (INJUVE) have promoted the plan. First implemented on a municipal level and in certain Autonomous Communities, the original Youth Integral Plan has been succeeded by two additional three-year efforts: the Youth Plan of 1994–1997 and the Global Action Plan on Youth of 2000–2003.

The Catalonia City Council of Badia des Vallès is one example of the local implementation of the Youth Plan for a small town (17,000 inhabitants). The city council has empowered its local youth advisory board and local youth services agencies to run a number of initiatives, including a youth program, social work program, occupational and educational services, a public library and street work programs.

57 A National Youth Policy clearly defines the role of youth in society and the responsibility of society to youth. It considers the needs, problems and aspirations of youth from an integrated, gender-balanced perspective. Such a policy promotes the establishment of appropriate services and structures to meet the needs and aspirations of young people with their participation. It also encourages youth to participate actively in the life of society and decision-making processes to enhance their impact on national development.
**Success Factors.** The Youth Plan has led to the creation of local youth centers and councils and transferred policymaking on youth issues from the central to local governments. NGOs are involved in the plan as implementation partners of both the central and local governments.

**Key Program Components.** Key components of the Integral Plan for Youth include participatory youth policy development at the national, regional and municipal levels (contributions from youth organizations, associations and local governments), institutional development (creation of the Spanish Youth Institute, Council of Spanish Youth and inter-ministerial committees on youth affairs), and the provision of decentralized aid (assistance to youth in such areas as education, quality of life, equal opportunities, participation, association and international cooperation).

**Effectiveness.** Some observers believe that making municipalities responsible for their youth programs resulted in a positive rivalry between different autonomous regions and municipalities. Among the Plan’s concrete achievements is the creation of local youth centers and councils. Of note, the methodology of the plan was later replicated to address issues of other groups in the country, including those of the elderly, the disabled, women, children and immigrants.

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Bosnia-Herzegovina provides another example of how to encourage young people’s participation in policy making. Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) consultations in the country included young people and highlighted the need for the strategy to address youth emigration by creating quality education and work, as well as raising living standards. A Youth Parliament held in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2002 created additional openings for youth leaders to discuss youth policy development with government representatives.

Building on these consultations, the World Bank Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for FY05–FY07 engages youth in development and planning processes in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Macedonia, the World Bank is similarly supporting young people’s participation in developing cross-sectoral youth policy through the Children and Youth Project. This approach has gained the support of local and European youth organizations and can be replicated in other regions and countries.

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**Sub-regional Perspectives**

Countries across Europe and Central Asia share many priority youth issues, including high rates of youth unemployment, growing secondary school dropout rates and rising rates of drug use, unsafe sex practices and HIV/AIDS infection. Yet variations exist with respect to the severity, root causes and potential remedies to these issues in the various ECA sub-regions. This section highlights the priority youth problems of the individual sub-regions, together with current government responses to these areas, with the goal of incorporating relevant strategies and mechanisms into youth programming at the country or sub-regional level.

**Russia and Ukraine.** Rural youth and youth from depressed regions are the most socially and economically excluded from Russian society. The national youth unemployment rose from 16 to 21%

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59 Consultations with youth on PRSP were held at three sites in Bosnia-Herzegovina in June 2002: Mostar, Banja Luka and Sarajevo.
60 This meeting was held immediately following the May 2002 Rome Youth Conference.
percent between 1990 and 2001, a situation exacerbated by youth underemployment. Dropout rates among students are greater among the poor: the proportion of 17–19-year-olds from low-income households in school is one-third lower than that of children from high-income households. Finally, the majority of HIV/AIDS infections in Russia are occurring among young people. As previously noted, 80 percent of people in Russia diagnosed with HIV at the end of 2003 were between the ages of 15 and 29.

National-level institutions that supported youth weakened or disappeared in Russia in the 1990s. The youth NGO sector in the country also remains relatively undeveloped. The federally targeted programs for youth that do exist suffer from limited resources, weak management capacity and social impact. Currently, local and, especially, regional allocations make up the greatest proportion of youth investments, with richer regions benefiting from higher investments and poorer and younger regions having the lowest per-capita spending on youth. Addressing regional imbalances may ultimately require direct sub-national youth investments implemented at the regional and local level.

Russia is planning to halve absolute poverty among its population by 2007, while aggressively pursuing economic growth. The new government “Strategy for the State Youth Policy in the Russian Federation” is setting a clearer framework for youth investments. The strategy may lead to greater financial resources and youth outcomes, provided that its implementation can avoid the problems of over-centralization, lack of transparency and existing regional gaps. The strategy identifies three relevant priority areas: (i) youth awareness of potential development opportunities and social inclusion (i.e., support to information networks, youth-friendly spaces, student work brigades, etc.); (ii) developing youth innovation efforts (i.e., youth participation in local governance, youth leadership development, business development, etc.); and (iii) social integration of vulnerable and at-risk young people (i.e., support to Volunteers of Russia in conflict-affected areas, targeted mobile social work, support to young people with disabilities, etc.).

Ukraine is experiencing similar problems: increasing youth education dropout rates, unemployment and a rapid spread in HIV/AIDS. The country presently offers few economic opportunities specifically for youth. Nevertheless, the strong role of young people in Ukraine’s recent Orange Revolution provides a window for increasing the participation of young people in economic development and decision making related to youth policy. Accordingly, development of youth advocacy organizations and targeting investments at priority youth issues should be a central theme of the World Bank’s policy dialogue with the Government of Ukraine.

The Caucasus. Social exclusion, vulnerability and poverty are leading youth in the Caucasus to engage in risky behaviors, such as substance abuse, unsafe sex and prostitution. These behaviors pose a substantial risk for the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region, one of poorest in ECA. In Georgia, for example, the majority of drug use is intravenous (e.g., heroin and opium) and the majority of intravenous drug users report never using a condom. At the same time, just under half of all adolescents report using

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drugs and practicing unsafe sex. As in the other subregions, youth unemployment rates in this region are high and enrollments in secondary and tertiary education, low.

Policy makers’ recognition of the importance of youth issues in the Caucasus creates an opportunity to mainstream the youth agenda in World Bank programming in these countries. In Azerbaijan, the government has outlined the importance of addressing youth issues as part of its national development strategy. In Georgia, young members of parliament have emphasized the need to increase opportunities for youth in non-formal education, sports and employment. However, institutions that represent youth and mechanisms for incorporating the youth voice into national decision making remain weak in the country. A key strategy for the World Bank in the Caucasus is to promote greater involvement of youth stakeholders in the development of PRSPs and CAS documents.

Central Asia. Youth-related problems in Central Asia are magnified by the large size of the youth population. More than 60 percent of the sub-region’s 50 million people are under the age of 25. Due to this large youth cohort, few young people are able to secure regular employment; many work in casual labor or subsistence agriculture. Unemployment is driving labor migration, both within the region and to Russia, contributing to fragility of the family and other social institutions.

Upper secondary enrollment ratios have fallen significantly during the years of transition in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Education is perceived as too costly by many young people in the sub-region because it does not translate into jobs. The low quality of education and the high level of corruption associated with many educational institutions, moreover, make education a less-than-appealing alternative for many youth.

Growing levels of prostitution across the sub-region, increasing intravenous drug use and lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS make youth-targeted interventions crucial to prevent a wide-scale epidemic in the sub-region. Official figures show that the number of people in the sub-region with HIV reached 50,000 in 2003, most of them young people, compared to 2,600 just two years earlier. Even if these numbers underestimate the real situation, the rise in numbers is alarming.

Several youth trends in Central Asia have a distinct gender component. In the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan, for example, unemployment, deprivation and disillusionment have left many young men vulnerable to recruitment by extremist organizations that offer food, shelter and educational opportunities.

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69 Labor migration is also becoming a factor in the spread of sexually-transmitted diseases.
71 In Tajikistan, almost 90 percent of HIV-positive patients are intravenous drug users, the average age of which ranges between 20 and 30. In Kazakhstan, registered cases of HIV/AIDS have doubled every year since 2000. Over half of the total HIV-positive persons in the country are between 20 and 29, the majority of whom are unemployed young men (ICG, 2003, “Youth in Central Asia”).
opportunities. At the same time, the return to traditional general roles (“retraditionalization”) is excluding girls and young women from education and labor market opportunities. Poor young women are, for example, increasingly involved in polygamous marriages, which remain illegal and offer little formal protection to them or their children.

A further gender dimension that needs to be better understood is the disparity between the knowledge and practice of safe sexual practices in the sub-region. In Uzbekistan, for example, while knowledge of contraceptives among young women is high (86 percent of 15–19-year olds and 94 percent of 20–24-year-olds), the practice of actual contraceptive use is remarkably low (16 percent of 15–19 year olds and 36 percent of 20–24-year-olds).

World Bank engagement on youth issues in Central Asia can build on existing youth interventions in the region. Priorities should include a rationalization and prioritization of existing initiatives, scaling up projects with proven social impact (especially among marginalized youth), increased attention to gender-sensitive and socially inclusive programming, and capacity building for governments and youth representatives. A multi-country JSDF on youth could help address some of these needs.

**South East Europe and Turkey.** The situation of youth in South East Europe has deteriorated precisely at a time when it should be improving to prepare these countries for accession to the European Union (EU). Youth unemployment in the sub-region is 2.5 times higher than EU youth unemployment and inadequate education is leaving youth unprepared to compete for jobs within the EU. Young people who were both jobless and out of school accounted for more than 35.6 percent of the youth population in 2001. Secondary school enrollment rates have declined in the post-transition period and are now lower than the southern European countries of the EU.

Unlike their EU peers, the majority of youth in SEE practice unsafe sex and thus risk a potential HIV/AIDS epidemic. Similar trends are observed in Turkey, despite rapid economic growth. In particular, high youth unemployment rates in Turkey weigh negatively on public opinion in Europe regarding the country’s potential accession to the EU. The country also continues to suffer from an East-West divide in terms of wealth and opportunity, with young people most vulnerable to the divide.

The main challenge for World Bank engagement in this sub-region is to consolidate work on youth development in: (i) conflict-affected areas (expanding interventions from Macedonia and Kosovo to Southern Serbia, in particular), (ii) post-conflict areas to restore youth’s role as an asset to sustainable recovery (Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia as a whole), and (iii) supporting pre-accession countries to enable the social inclusion of youth and contribute to economic competitiveness (Romania, Croatia and Turkey). A horizontal Adaptable Program Loan (APL) covering SEE countries and Turkey could be a potentially suitable instrument for scaling up interventions with a positive impact.

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76 This section is based on World Bank, 2006, “Young People in South East Europe.”
Youth issues in the new EU member countries could cause certain youth groups to perceive themselves as “losers” in the European integration process and risk become increasingly marginalized in an integrated labor market. While many young people in these countries are contributing to meeting the ongoing development challenges of integration, youth unemployment, job skills, rural youth and HIV/AIDS remain crucial challenges. The current youth unemployment rate in Poland is, for example, more than double than that of the total population unemployment rate; similar patterns exist in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Estonia and Latvia.

Many young people in these countries lack the skills that would allow them to compete in the widening labor market. In 2000, for example, only 37 percent of Hungarian youth in the labor market spoke at least one foreign language, compared to 74 percent of the 15–29 age group enrolled in formal educational institutions. Frequently, youth are especially marginalized in rural areas, where lack of opportunities has begun to affect demographic patterns and gender balances, as in Hungary and Poland.

The World Bank has a continuing role to play in supporting youth in EU-accession countries, primarily through technical assistance and selective participation in sector-wide interventions that promote opportunities for young people in collaboration with other donors and national governments.

**Modalities for World Bank Involvement**

The World Bank is uniquely positioned to act on multiple fronts in the ECA region to facilitate youth engagement in development, an engagement that can serve to increase the region’s focus on attaining the MDGs. The level of awareness of youth issues is high in ECA countries, in part due to the legacy of youth investments in the pre-transition years, and this awareness is growing. Client countries from Turkey to the Russian Federation have already requested Bank assistance on youth policy development and implementation, suggesting a potential new area of operations. In the meantime, the region has been developing innovative, cross-sectoral approaches to youth issues, the lessons of which can be instrumental for designing larger investment programs.

The World Bank is encouraged to utilize four different modalities for youth development in the ECA region, each of which reflects a different level of technical and financial resources and can be adapted to individual country contexts depending on the level of national ownership of youth issues. This paper recommends self-standing youth programs, governed by an integrated youth policy, as the most important of these modalities.

The first modality is integrated youth-focused interventions that address the causes of youth exclusion. Such interventions should address poverty, youth unemployment, idleness, prevention of risky behaviors and violence, as well as the empowerment of young people (so that they may influence policies

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77 The EU8 are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.
80 Ibid. In Poland, there are some 114 males for every 100 females in the 30–34 age group in rural parts of the country, compared to 97 males per 100 females in the urban areas (Uwe Deichmann and Vernon Henderson, 2000, “Urban and Regional Dynamics in Poland,” *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper*, no. 2457 [Washington, DC: World Bank]).
that affect their lives). Specific instruments would include investment lending or grants, such as JSDF and Youth Post-Conflict Grants.

Because young people’s behaviors and attitudes are mainly shaped in informal venues, this modality would combine community-based approaches with youth policy development. In particular, such interventions would involve scaling up promising initiatives tested by other donors, NGOs or the World Bank by (i) establishing community-based, youth-friendly spaces that offer life and livelihood skills training, lifelong learning and prevention of risky behaviors, (ii) creating income-generation opportunities (i.e., self-employment) and links to formal labor markets (e.g., support for wage employment), and (iii) developing national and local youth policies in conjunction with national governments and youth stakeholders.

As a complement to reform efforts on education and public health, the Macedonia Children and Youth Development Learning and Innovation Loan (LIL) has proven that community-based non-formal education for youth can be cost effective. This program is currently the only self-standing youth lending project being implemented in the ECA region. A Youth Development Project for USD 25 million was approved in early 2006 for the LAC region. Given the growing interest in youth matters by governments in ECA and worldwide, self-standing youth projects are likely to increase across all regions supported by the World Bank.

The **second modality** is a **youth component in sectoral investments**, such as those related to secondary and tertiary education, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, community development, rural development and the environment. A youth dimension can be incorporated into these investments through: (i) social analysis at the project level that is attuned to young people’s needs and strengths; (ii) introduction of specific instruments in secondary and tertiary education projects to assist students in the school-to-work transition; (iii) establishing linkages between unemployed youth and the workplace, as well as supporting self-employment; and (iv) structured participation of youth organizations in project implementation.

For example, the Russia Education Innovation Project supports governance reform in higher education institutions. The project funds well-functioning student councils that promote student self-governance and co-management of student affairs with faculty members. In Moldova, the HIV/AIDS project financed by the International Development Association (IDA) and the Global Fund Against AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) similarly provides grants to youth-based NGOs. These grants support efforts to reach highly vulnerable groups through information and education campaigns, condom distribution, and needle exchange and disinfection programs.

The **third modality** emphasizes the **integration of priority youth issues into existing policy instruments** (PRSPs, CASs, and Programmatic Adjustment Lending). Making the policy environment more responsive to youth issues is an important first step towards mainstreaming these issues at the country level, as exemplified by the Bosnia-Herzegovina CAS for FY05–07. The CAS includes a proposed Education Restructuring Project that broadens the access of students from poor families to tertiary education, as well as a proposed Programmatic Adjustment Program that would remove regulations that keep young people from accessing the formal job market. The Bosnia-Herzegovina Youth Commission, together with local youth organizations, will also develop a Youth Action Plan with support from the World Bank-administered Italian Trust Fund. The plan will be guided by the findings of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Economic and Sector Work (ESW) that focused on youth empowerment policy.

The **fourth modality** is the **integration of a youth dimension into existing or planned due diligence AAAs and/or ESWs**. Such a youth component would be integrated into Development Policy Reviews,

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82 Analytical and Advisory Activities and Economic and Sector Work, respectively.
Poverty Assessments, Public Expenditure Reviews, Country Economic Memoranda, as well as other ESWs, such as the current ECA poverty and migration studies, respectively. This modality has two dimensions:

(i) **Regional.** To provide a more accurate basis for policy instruments and AAAs to address youth, the ECA region should consider investing in stronger data sets. For example, on the basis of the MDGs, the LAC Region generated a regional youth profile with a common set of indicators for all countries in the region. The Social Development Team in ECA has begun to gather data on school-to-work transition indicators in several ECA countries in line with comparable OECD data sets. This effort requires further systematization, however, especially in collaboration with the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management (PREM) Network. In particular, Living Standards Measurement Surveys and Labor Force Surveys should include better youth indicators that allow for comparison and monitoring of trends over time and across countries.

(ii) **National or sub-national.** The youth development needs of specific countries can be explored through relevant ESWs, consisting of diagnostic studies of youth issues and policy recommendations. An example of ESWs specifically focused on youth issues are the upcoming “Russian Federation: School-to-work Transition and Youth Inclusion in Southern Russia” and “Building Youth Policy in Bosnia Herzegovina: Youth Inclusion, Empowerment and Development.”

**The Way Forward**

Appropriate use of the modalities identified in this paper to mainstream youth issues in ECA will require a sustained effort by ECA technical staff and management and, most importantly, by Country Units. There is a need for better data analysis within and across countries, use of multi-sectoral-approaches, openness to new modes of engagement, and exploration of multi-country investments, particularly at the sub-regional level.

The ECA Region is well positioned to continue its role as one of the leading regions for World Bank engagement in youth development (see Annex 1 for selected ongoing investment projects and ESWs that have a substantive youth focus). Various partnerships are already in place (with, for example, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, UNICEF, bilateral donors, and the European Youth Forum). These partnerships need to be better leveraged to support specific programs and initiatives across ECA countries.

As a result of consultation with different country units, the ECA region should elaborate a specific action plan for addressing youth issues with a two-to-three-year time frame. Such a plan would include specific modalities carefully tailored to the interests and needs of different countries and sub-regions. Based on the preliminary information available at this stage, Annex 2 presents a matrix of youth risks, opportunities and policy options applicable to individual countries in the region.

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84 While junior staff are often tasked with responsibility for youth programming and have an important role to play in the youth agenda, they cannot substitute for experienced technical youth specialists. In addition, the short time commitment of Junior Professional Associates (JPAs) at the World Bank can result in a loss of institutional memory on youth initiatives.
### Annex 1.
Selected Operational and Analytic Work in the ECA Region with a Youth Dimension in FY05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operational Work</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name of Project</th>
<th>TTLs</th>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Description of the involvement of youth organizations and Youth Voices Groups</th>
<th>Modalities for improving the situation of youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bosnia-Herzegovina</td>
<td>Health Scale-up Project</td>
<td>Betty Hanan</td>
<td>ECSD</td>
<td>Health Innovation Grants. This activity will target youth and expand on successful experiences under the Basic Health Project. The Grants will target youth promotion activities, including HIV/AIDS prevention, which has been identified by Youth Voices as a priority. The project can also promote youth participation in communications activities to inform the population about health reforms. The YVG will be involved in the project design through: (i) participation in a workshop held during the November 2004 mission to discuss important design issues, and (ii) involvement in consultations for the social assessment. In addition, discussions on possible youth activities to be supported by the project are undergoing.</td>
<td>It will expand health innovation grant activities under the Basic Health Project, which supported health promotion activities, including tobacco control, a youth health fare and HIV/AIDS prevention.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Social and Economic Recovery Project</td>
<td>Gloria La Cava /Mark Woodward</td>
<td>ECSSD</td>
<td>Youth organizations can apply under the social inclusion window for grants to provide non formal education and other community services to youth from different ethnic background and conflict affected groups</td>
<td>Forty-five youth facilitators will directly assist young people in developing rural cooperatives and bankable proposals for micro and small enterprises.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Agriculture Project</td>
<td>Rapeepun Jaisaard</td>
<td>ECSSD</td>
<td>Youth organizations that manage existing youth activities can apply for grants to upgrade management and sustainability of youth-related activities. Youth Voices members participated in the grant identifications and will help in supervising it.</td>
<td>The grant will increase the social cohesion and inter-ethnic interaction and cooperation among young people with different ethnic backgrounds in Kosovo, with special emphasis on improving the relationship between young Albanians and Serbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>Post-Conflict Grant &quot;Kosovo Youth Development&quot;</td>
<td>Gloria La Cava</td>
<td>ECSSD</td>
<td>Youth organizations that manage existing youth activities can apply for grants to upgrade management and sustainability of youth-related activities. Youth Voices members participated in the grant identifications and will help in supervising it.</td>
<td>The grant will increase the social cohesion and inter-ethnic interaction and cooperation among young people with different ethnic backgrounds in Kosovo, with special emphasis on improving the relationship between young Albanians and Serbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Leader</td>
<td>Implementing Agency</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>Kosovo Community Development Fund I&amp;II</td>
<td>Caroline Mascarell</td>
<td>ECSHD</td>
<td>A number of these projects were implemented in collaboration with informal youth groups.</td>
<td>This project financed a total of 14 social services projects for the benefit of the youth of Kosovo. These included a wide range of projects such as Anti-drug and Anti-AIDS campaigns, health education programs, sports activities, and multi-ethnic summer camps and radio talk shows. In addition to these, a total of 16 school infrastructure projects were also completed, benefiting youth and children. CDF II will include social services projects similar to those under CDF I.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>Education Modernization Project</td>
<td>Peter Darvas</td>
<td>ECSHD</td>
<td>YVG members will participate in the work of the Regional Evaluation Boards. They will also participate in the Regional SIG (School Improvement Grants) Approval Boards. YVG will review and discuss the National Education Strategy, participate in a training course on gender issues, and provide inputs into the draft paper “Gender Equity in Education”.</td>
<td>The project is opening new avenues for youth participation in the reform of secondary education, as a result of the requests by various youth stakeholders to make secondary schools more responsive to students’ needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Implementor</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Note</td>
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| Macedonia,      | Children and Youth Development Project       | Gloria La Cava | ECSSD                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1. Youth NGOs throughout Macedonia have participated in the preparation and drafting of the National Youth Strategy led by the Agency of Youth and Sports (AYS), which the project implementing agency.  
2. The YVG has been actively engaged in the implementation and supervision of the National Drug Abuse Campaign, which is part of the project institutional development component.  
4. The YVG is participating in WB supervision missions.  
5. Two YVG members participate as interns in the PIU. Their tasks include: a) preparation of a project for youth Euro-integration, to be considered by AYS; b) a plan to revive the work of the former youth high-school offices (as part of the Drug Abuse prevention campaign); c) revive the summer youth education camps (to be considered by AYS).  
As indicated by the M&E system, the project has significantly increased the social cohesion through the social integration of youth at risk from different ethnic backgrounds, including Roma youth. |
| Moldova          | Moldova Social Investment Fund               | Yasser El-Gammal | ECSHD                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Some YVG members could participate in the Advisory Boards as observers as well as in the MSIF teams for field trips or missions.  
The Youth Voices group also featured the SIF Project during their Youth Caravan activity. The Caravan consisted in weekend visits to rural communities, during which the YV groups made presentations to local communities (young people, mayors, other community leaders and adults) on four World Bank projects that are specifically designed to help these communities and their young people.  
The project seeks to strengthen social capital, community solidarity and participation young people in local level decision-making processes. The project also seeks to increase the number and quality of services addressing the needs of young people. It also tries to develop networks of the Community-Based Organizations that promote community priorities at the national level (including those of young people). |
<p>|                  | Rural Education Project                      | Ana Maria Parchuc de Jeria Figueroa | ECSHD                                                                                                                                                                                                 | One or two YVG members could take part, upon prior agreement with the TTL, in some of the forthcoming mission's meetings with Ministry of Education officials, and join the mission for a field trip to a rural school. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moldova, continued</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS Control Project</td>
<td>Joana Godinho</td>
<td>ECSHD</td>
<td>The majority of providers of services under the project are young people. Youth NGOs provide outreach services to groups at risk, including in prisons. Some YVG members, mainly those who had previous similar experience, may get involved in M&amp;E studies on the project's impact. The manager said the young people could become &quot;the eyes of the project&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Socio-Economic Empowerment through Inclusive Business Development and Innovative Social Service Delivery</td>
<td>Carine Clert</td>
<td>ECSSD</td>
<td>The YVG is linked to the Rural Investment Services Project (RISP), TTL Pierre Olivier Colleye. The YVG will be involved in the JSDF public awareness campaign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Education Innovation Project</td>
<td>Isak Froumin</td>
<td>ECSHD</td>
<td>The project supports governance reforms in Higher Education Institutions with well functioning students’ councils that promote students’ self-governance and co-management of students’ affairs with faculty members. One example of this type of involvement is the students’ council at the Economics Department of the Plekhanov Academy. This is considered a best practice and has been replicated in other universities across the Russian Federation.</td>
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<td>The main development objective of the JSDF is to enable disadvantaged rural and peri-urban young women and men (ages 14-30) in five selected regions to create/participate in activities leading to their increased socio-economic empowerment, through inclusive support for business creation and innovative, community-based service delivery.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The majority of project beneficiaries are young people. Youth Friendly services focused on HIV prevention are being established.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Responsible Person(s)</td>
<td>Implementing Entity</td>
<td>Description</td>
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</table>
| Turkey      | Social Risk Mitigation Project                                               | John Innes                                    | ECSHD              | The YVG will participate in supervision missions. Youth organizations could possibly submit youth focused projects under Local Initiatives, inputs on “citizen friendly government”. | The project will improve the situation of youth by:  
• testing community-based approaches to support young people to prevent marginalization  
• strengthening institutional capacity at the local and national level to address youth issues  
• piloting youth employment initiatives  
• promoting and supporting the participation of young people  
• providing youth-oriented services through youth centers.                                                                                                                                               |
|             | Proposed JSDF for Youth Development and Social Inclusion                      | John Innes/ with Gloria La Cava and Zeynep Ozbil | HDN/ ECSSD         | Extensive consultations were conducted with youth and youth-serving NGOs in the preparation of the JSDF.  
National umbrella youth organizations will play an advisory role in the JSDF Steering Committee.  
The YVG has been involved to date, and will be also involved in all stages of grant implementation.  
Consultations with local youth stakeholders in pilot areas will also be conducted. | The majority of beneficiaries under the AIDS component are young people. Youth-friendly services focused on HIV prevention will be established.                                                                 |
| Uzbekistan  | Uzbek Health II (under early implementation)                                 | John Langenbrunner                            | ECSHD              | Some providers of services under the component are young people  
Youth NGOs will provide outreach services to groups at risk | The majority of beneficiaries under the AIDS component are young people. Youth-friendly services focused on HIV prevention will be established.                                                                 |
| Central Asia| Central Asia AIDS Fund (appraisal stage)                                     | Joana Godinho                                 | ECSHD              | The majority of providers of services under the project will be young people  
Youth NGOs will provide outreach services to groups at risk, including in prisons | The majority of project beneficiaries will be young people. Youth-friendly services focused on HIV prevention will be established.                                                                 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional or Country</th>
<th>Name of Publication</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regional – Europe and Central Asia</strong></td>
<td>Averting AIDS Crises in Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>Olusoji Adeyi, Enis Baris, Sarbani Chakraborty, Thomas Novotny, Ross Pavis</td>
<td>ECSHD</td>
<td>This Regional Support Strategy is in recognition of the threats that unchecked epidemics of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis pose to many of the World Bank’s client countries. For all of ECA, youth are found at the heart of the growing epidemics. The strategy represents an instrument to help guide the World Bank’s role in the global development agenda on these topics. The strategy identifies the potential costs of inaction, the constraints on an effective response, priority actions to resolve such constraints, and the Bank’s plans for helping countries do so as part of a multi-institutional effort.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regional – South East Europe</strong></td>
<td>Young People in South Eastern Europe: from Risk to Empowerment</td>
<td>Gloria La Cava, Paula Lytle, Alexandre Kolev With Carine Clert, Diana Marginean, and Zeynep Ozbil</td>
<td>ECSSD/E CSPE</td>
<td>This study addresses the following questions regarding youth aged 15 to 24 in SEE: What is the age structure of the economies of SEE? How are young people at risk in the sub-region? What are the dimensions of these risks? What are the economic and social implications of these risks? How is youth disadvantaged in the labor market? How does economic exclusion influence risky behaviors of youth? What are the elements of an effective youth policy? The study finds that youth in SEE need urgent attention, particularly young males in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). The study contends that, to be effective, youth policy in SEE must adopt an integrated approach to the social, economic, and political participation of young people in society. Specifically, these needs are for education appropriate to the job market (formal and non-formal), employment, childcare and development, preventive health practices, youth-friendly services (particularly mental health and rehabilitation services), leisure time activities and participation in decision-making.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regional – South East Europe</strong></td>
<td>Human Trafficking in South Eastern Europe: Beyond Crime Control, an Agenda for Social Inclusion and Development</td>
<td>Carine Clert Elizabeth Gomart With Ivana Aleksic and Natalia Otel</td>
<td>ECSSD</td>
<td>This study represents the first World Bank analysis that focuses specifically on human trafficking. It is not a comprehensive study, but rather a scoping exercise that takes stock of current facts, contributing issues, and responses to human trafficking in SEE. The goal of the paper is to assess how these issues relate to inclusive poverty-reduction strategies, and how World Bank efforts in poverty reduction could also indirectly lead to a reduction in human trafficking. This is particularly relevant for the young generation, since the overwhelming majority of trafficked people (either for purposes of sexual bondage or forced labor) are young females and young adults in general (and to a certain extent, children under the age of 14).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional – Central Asia</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis in Central Asia - Country Profiles</td>
<td>Joana Godinho, Thomas Novotny, Hiwote Tadesse, Anatoly Vinokur</td>
<td>ECSHD</td>
<td>The Central Asia HIV/AIDS and TB Country Profiles were developed to inform Bank management and other stakeholders: 1) about the main characteristics of the epidemics in the sub region; 2) to describe differences among the countries; and 3) to develop an understanding of the main issues related to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and the control of TB. This report carries special relevance for all of ECA, since youth are found at the heart of the growing epidemics of both HIV/AIDS and TB. The Country Profiles summarize information available from Governments and partner organizations. They cover the following aspects: epidemiology; strategic and regulatory frameworks; surveillance; preventive, diagnostic, and treatment activities; non-governmental (NGO) and partner activities; and funding resources available. The Country Profiles are based on review of existing statistics and reports and on discussions with key stakeholders – Governments, donors, and NGOs – during several missions to Central Asia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional – Central Asia</td>
<td>Reversing the Tide: Priorities for HIV/AIDS Prevention in Central Asia</td>
<td>Joana Godinho, Adrian Renton, Viatcheslav Vinogradov, Thomas Novotny, George Gotsadze, Mary-Jane Rivers, and Mario Bravo</td>
<td>ECSHD</td>
<td>This study aims to identify strategies for ensuring early and effective intervention to control the AIDS epidemic in Central Asia at national and regional levels, considering priorities based on global evidence. The study outlines key emerging issues on the HIV/AIDS in ECA and the extent of the epidemics in Central Asia. It explores the risk environment and behavior patterns and how appropriate and effective early actions may be able to prevent the epidemic. This carries particular importance for young people, since they are one of the groups most at-risk for infection with HIV/AIDS. The study also discusses HIV/AIDS strategies and programs in Central Asia and the institutional capacity to prevent and control HIV/AIDS. The goals of the study are: 1) to inform the Bank’s policy dialogue and the operational work to control HIV/AIDS in Central Asia; 2) to strengthen the regional partnership between Governments, civil society, UN agencies, and multilateral and bilateral agencies to prevent HIV/AIDS and STIs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional – Western Balkans</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS in the Western Balkans: Priorities for Early Prevention in a High-Risk Environment</td>
<td>Joana Godinho, Nedim Jaganjac, Dorothee Eckertz, Adrian Renton, Thomas Novotny, and Lisa Garbus</td>
<td>ECSHD</td>
<td>This Study was undertaken to enable regional decision-makers and Bank management to agree on the priorities for early action that should be undertaken in the Western Balkans to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS - and its potential human and economic costs - in the framework of the UN ‘Three Ones’: one national AIDS Strategy that drives alignment of all partners; one national AIDS authority to coordinate it; and one nationally-owned monitoring and evaluation system. The study also aimed at (i) informing the Bank’s policy dialogue and operational work to control HIV/AIDS in the Balkans; and (ii) contribute to building up the regional partnership between Governments, civil society, UN agencies, and multilateral and bilateral agencies to prevent HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and TB; and to improve public health in this region.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Authors/Supervisor</td>
<td>Institute</td>
<td>Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia-Herzegovina</td>
<td><strong>Building Youth Policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Youth Inclusion, Empowerment and Development</strong></td>
<td>Paula Lytle, Diana Marginean</td>
<td>ECSSD</td>
<td>The report explores the linkages between education and the labor market, social exclusion and risky behaviors, and youth participation in decisions and policy-making processes that affect directly the lives of young people. Building on these issues, the report outlines policy options with respect to youth issues and provides guidance to the relevant bodies responsible for youth policy development on the process of mainstreaming youth issues and building youth empowerment in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The report contributes to the formulation of the National Youth Strategy, currently undergoing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td><strong>Poverty Assessment</strong></td>
<td>Alexandre Kolev</td>
<td>ECSPE</td>
<td>The PA highlights the fact that youth unemployment rate (currently 75%), is more than two times higher than the adult unemployment rate. This high rate of unemployment is an important cause of income poverty that reflects the difficulty of the Kosovo economy to generate sufficient viable jobs for its large youth population. These large pools of unemployed and idle youth are a worrisome fact in Kosovo and a major potential cause of social instability. In addition, the PA highlights important health risks, particularly the threat of a rapid HIV/AIDS epidemic and the prevalence of risky behaviors among youth. Thus, the PA recommends that specific measures need to be undertaken to address the multidimensionality levels of youth poverty, for example, by: a) reducing the large youth relative labor market disadvantage; b) empowering young people in the economic, social and political spheres of life; c) improving the level of knowledge of youth on HIV prevention and influence the public debate to reverse the social stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. Given that more than half of Kosovo’s population is under age 25, the report stresses the fact that youth should be at the center of the World Bank’s programs and assistance to the government of Kosovo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td><strong>School to Work Transition and Youth Inclusion in Southern Russia</strong></td>
<td>Gloria La Cava, Isak Froumin, Alexandre Kolev, Sarah Michael Leigh Hammill</td>
<td>ECSSD/ ECSPE/ ECSHD</td>
<td>The study will: a) provide an overview of youth trends in the Russian Federation; b) explore the differential access to opportunities among different youth groups; c) explore the multidimensionality of youth needs and risks in Southern Russia, focusing on the importance of easing the transition from school to work and reducing idleness; d) identify what institutions influence young people’s cultural identity and values of tolerance, intolerance and xenophobia; e) review methods, incentives and challenges to youth participation in community processes and services; f) assess the specific challenges and opportunities for supporting youth; g) identify a policy road map and costing of investments to ease the transition from school to work, support social cohesion among youth and reduce risky behaviors. (forthcoming 2005)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td><strong>Youth Governance Study</strong></td>
<td>Youth Voices Group Supervisor: John Innes</td>
<td>Country Office/ ECSSD</td>
<td>The report focuses on the following topics: education, rural development, employment and governance. The report will provide input to the Bank’s work in Turkey on public sector reform and will also feed into the CAS process. (forthcoming 2005)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>Sectors</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Knowledge Economy Forum</td>
<td>Marialisa Motta</td>
<td>ECSPF</td>
<td>The general objective of the 2005 Istanbul KEF IV was to discuss with representatives from ECA countries how to increase their private sector productivity and economic growth. The Forum focused on two main themes: (a) improving the business environment to facilitate business start up and operation – e.g., through reduction of regulatory and logistical barriers, and (b) improving firms’ use of knowledge – e.g., through facilitation of technology adoption and diffusion at the firm level, and improvement of the skills of the labor force. Eight young people, representing Bosnia Herzegovina, Moldova, Russia and Turkey, participated in this event. The participants were selected based on their knowledge and experience on youth employment and business development issues. They also had to be members of youth NGOs that work on such issues. These criteria ensured that the nominated youth were able to contribute to the discussions in this high level forum, particularly in the country breakout sessions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex 2. Policy Option Matrix for Youth Issues in ECA Countries*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All ECA Countries</th>
<th>Adolescents up to 18 years old</th>
<th>Young people 19–24 years old</th>
<th>Adolescents up to 18 years old</th>
<th>Young people 19–24 years old</th>
<th>Adolescents up to 18 years old</th>
<th>Adolescents up to 18 years old</th>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Risks and Vulnerabilities</td>
<td>Youth Opportunities</td>
<td>Policy Options</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Unsafe sex</td>
<td>• Exponential growth of HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>• Healthy lifestyles</td>
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<tr>
<td>• High IDU, needle sharing and exposure to HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>• Early childbearing (especially for Roma and other minority groups) and single parenthood,</td>
<td>• Life skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Abandonment and street life</td>
<td>• Brain drain</td>
<td>• Leadership skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Domestic violence</td>
<td>• High involvement in commercial sex work</td>
<td>• Livelihood skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>• High incidence of human trafficking for minors</td>
<td>• High youth unemployment</td>
<td>• Cultural, artistic and physical expression</td>
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<tr>
<td>• High incidence of human trafficking for minors</td>
<td>• High rate of idleness (out of school/out of work) in Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>• High incidence of out of school/out-of-work youth</td>
<td>• Exclusion from participation in decision-making</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Higher suicides of young males</td>
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* Criteria for country typology include: (i) conflict-affected or not; (ii) income level; and (iii) position in the EU accession process.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECA Conflict affected countries and areas</th>
<th>Kosovo</th>
<th>Macedonia</th>
<th>Bosnia-Herzegovina</th>
<th>Serbia and Montenegro</th>
<th>North Caucasus</th>
<th>South Caucasus</th>
<th>Central Asia Republics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>• Brain drain</td>
<td>• Healthy lifestyles</td>
<td>• Exposure to other cultures and lifestyles</td>
<td>• Preventive/reproductive health</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsafe sex</td>
<td>• Growing HIV/ AIDS</td>
<td>• Youth as agents of peace</td>
<td>• Youth representation and participation through associative life and public decision-making</td>
<td>• Psycho-social services for adolescents and youth</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Heroin addiction</td>
<td>• High rate of idleness (out of school/out of work)</td>
<td>• Life skills</td>
<td>• Greater income-generation opportunities for youth</td>
<td>• Drug prevention and treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suicide of young males, esp. in BH</td>
<td>• High youth unemployment rate</td>
<td>• Leadership skills</td>
<td>• Education reform with youth participation in the reform process</td>
<td>• Education reform with youth participation in the reform process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Involvement with violence and crime for young males</td>
<td>• Exclusion from participation in decision-making (less applicable to Macedonia where there is an ongoing youth-investment project)</td>
<td>• Cultural, artistic and physical expression</td>
<td>• Empowerment policies through non-formal education/community based approaches</td>
<td>• Empowerment policies through non-formal education/community based approaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Possible recruitment into extremist organizations for young males</td>
<td>• displacement</td>
<td>• Livelihood skills</td>
<td>• Participation in National Youth Policy</td>
<td>• Participation in National Youth Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retraditionalization of Islamic societies, particularly affecting young women</td>
<td>• Conflict-related trauma</td>
<td>• High incidence of idleness (out of school/out of work)</td>
<td>• Early child care and development/community-based support to young parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Brain drain</td>
<td>• Healthy lifestyles</td>
<td>• Exposure to other cultures and lifestyles</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>• High rate of idleness (out of school/out of work)</td>
<td>• Life skills</td>
<td>• Greater income-generation opportunities for youth</td>
<td>• Drug prevention and treatment</td>
<td>• Youth targeted active labor markets policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• High youth unemployment rate</td>
<td>• Leadership skills</td>
<td>• Education reform with youth participation in the reform process</td>
<td>• Empowerment policies through non-formal education/community based approaches</td>
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<td>• displacement</td>
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<td>• Conflict-related trauma</td>
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Notes:
- BH: Bosnia and Herzegovina