



VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

Youth Power – on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



REPORT

on the situation of young people
in the Republic of Moldova and
their interaction with the
Sustainable Development Goals



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The author thanks all participants in the Voluntary National Review process and in the activities during the national campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals. The involvement of young people is crucial in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. Young people in the Republic of Moldova have demonstrated that #YouthVoiceMatters and #YouthIsThePresent not the future.



This report is part of the national campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals, implemented by the National Youth Council of Moldova in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The National Youth Council of Moldova and its partners are not responsible for the estimates and opinions presented in this publication. For any quoted material, the report should be cited as the source.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CNTM	National Youth Council of Moldova
GATU	Gagauzia Autonomous Territorial Unit
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ASAP	International Student Assessment Program
MDL	Moldovan leu (currency of the Republic of Moldova)
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NEET	Not in employment, education or training
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VNR	Voluntary National Review

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MESSAGE

Starting from the premise that young people are the present and not only the future, they are a key element in promoting and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers young people from the Republic of Moldova a wide range of opportunities for their development and empowerment in various socioeconomic fields.

Youth-led initiatives motivate and mobilize other young people to implement SDGs at home. In the context of the Voluntary National Review process under the auspices of the national campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals, implemented by the National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM) and its partners, hundreds of young people from all over the country came together to learn, promote, and evaluate the degree of implementation of the SDGs. Young people and youth organizations are supporters and strong allies in implementing the SDGs, alongside government, local public authorities and the private sector.

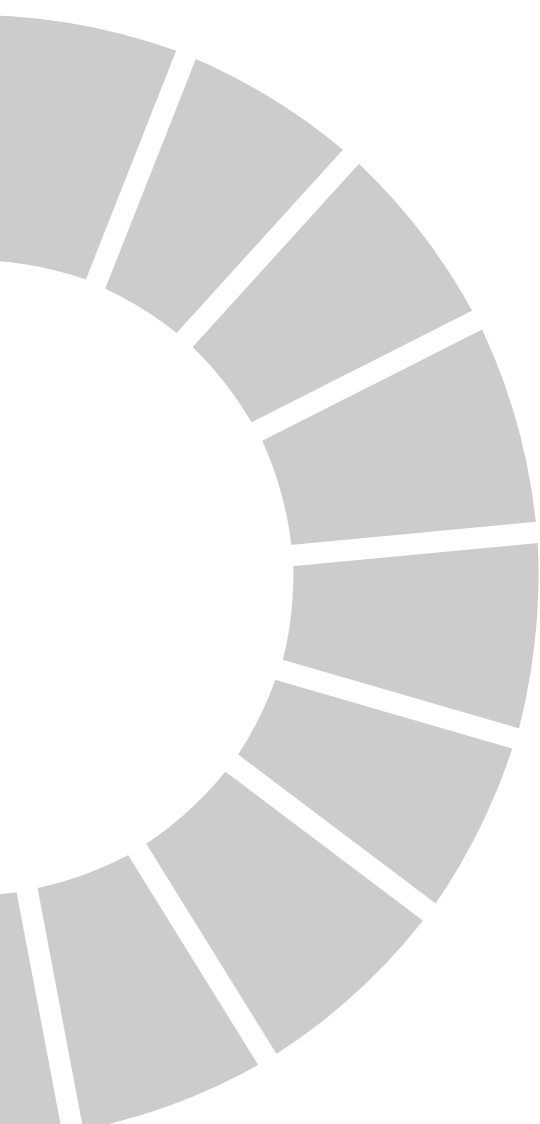
According to national statistics, in 2019 in the Republic of Moldova, 743,200 people, or 27.7 per cent of the country's population, were aged 14–34. This figure is constantly declining, as **young people emigrate because of the lack of opportunities at home**. Young people migrate in search of better educational opportunities and paid jobs to help reduce the risk of poverty.

Limited economic opportunities **prevent young people**, especially vulnerable groups, **from finding attractive well-paid jobs** and achieving their personal and professional aspirations, and thus increase the risk of poverty.

A considerable problem among young people is their **inability to buy their own home due to lack of financial resources**. Also, many young people, especially the socially vulnerable, cannot access the state programme First House.

Disparities in welfare, education, health, and economic opportunities are evident between urban and rural areas: young people in cities have access to a much wider range of opportunities compared with young people in villages. At the same time, disparities also exist in the quality of services that young people can access in rural and urban areas. Thus, young people in rural areas are exposed to more discrimination in their access to goods and services, and hence experience more poverty.

At the same time, **young people are subject to discrimination**, including in the workplace. Discrimination towards socially vulnerable young people is high. An example is the situation of **young people with disabilities**: due to the lack of accessible public transport and buildings, young people with disabilities are limited in their access to education, work and health services. Moreover, the amount of accessible information (Braille, sign language, easy-to-read text) is limited. **Young Roma** face inequalities such as those relating to poverty, absenteeism in the education system, and the marriage of adolescent girls before adulthood. And, last but not least, gender discrimination persists.



Even though the Republic of Moldova has adopted educational policies to modernize and streamline the provision of education to meet the current and future needs of the labour market, the education system is not yet aligned with labour market requirements, and entrepreneurship is not included in the educational curriculum; thus, both are barriers to the integration of young people into the labour market.

Against the background of a reduction in the total employed population, **there is also a constant reduction in the share of young population in the total employed population.** Inactivity and unemployment are characteristic of young people aged 15–24.

Alcohol and tobacco use are widespread among young people and have a detrimental effect on their health and development. At the same time, young people, compared with adults, are **constantly exposed to stress and daily worries**, which risks influencing their health. Young people also face problems such as **pregnancy and childbirth at a young age, and sexually transmitted diseases.**

In the context of the importance of SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, young people in the Republic of Moldova have **limited opportunities because of a lack of local facilities** (youth centres, youth clinics, places to spend free time) as well as of **public transport in villages and inter-city connections to enable travel for informal youth activities.** At the same time, the Republic of Moldova is missing out on the considerable potential in the development of infrastructure and communities by **not using the principles of ‘smart cities’**, and by not using digitalization to help consolidate the youth sector.

Moreover, **young people remain concerned about environmental pollution in the Republic of Moldova** and the authorities’ ignorance of the issue, failure to protect the country’s environment and lack of investment in the regeneration of plants and aquatic resources. At the same time, in **the field of justice, young people see distrust** because of the suspicions in society of there being a corrupt system.

Regarding **partnerships for goals and strengthening the youth sector in the Republic of Moldova**, young people are missing out because a functioning national agency for development of youth programmes and activities, a governmental commission for youth policies, and district co-management commissions regulated by national legislation have not been established. There is also a problem related to insufficient local budgets for youth. Finally, young people report that their voice is not always heard by decision-makers; moreover, a real challenge is encouraging young people with limited opportunities to participate in decision-making processes.



INTRODUCTION

Starting from the premise of the need to intervene to support the socio-economic development of humanity, protect the environment, protect humanity against abuse, and promote peace, the international community aligned itself around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thus, in September 2015, together with the other 192 member states, the Republic of Moldova approved the new Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 objectives and 169 global indicators relevant to the Republic of Moldova.

The SDGs, unanimously accepted by the international community, highlight the major problems facing humanity in contexts such as poverty, hunger, women's rights, the environment and justice, and comprise a set of targets to improve the situation both at national level and globally. Governments of the world know that the time has come to start doing what is necessary to meet the needs of those living today without affecting future generations. As such, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents an action plan for population, planet and prosperity.

The Republic of Moldova faces a series of challenges both locally and nationally, which will undoubtedly have consequences for the socio-economic development of the country in the coming years. All the issues that the Republic of Moldova currently faces are fully covered by the provisions of the SDGs, so implementation of the provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial.

As part of the consultation of the young population of the Republic of Moldova on the SDGs, the National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM) conducted two surveys through the digital platform U-Report, which aimed to highlight the level of awareness of the SDGs among young people. The surveys had over 1,300 respondents. Results showed that young people in the Republic of Moldova have a low degree of awareness of the SDGs: two thirds said they had heard of them. On the other hand, 7 out of 10 respondents said they think about their future and consider that global problems and trends affect their lives.

National statistics show that the population with habitual residence in the Republic of Moldova on 1 January 2019 comprised 2,681,700 people, of which 743,200 (27.7 per cent) were young people aged 14–34 years. The distribution of young people by sex was as follows: 49.9 per cent women and 50.1 per cent men. The proportion of the young generation is constantly declining. In recent years, the population aged 14–19 years has decreased by 58,200 people, and the share of those aged 14–19 years in the total number of young people decreased from 24.6 per cent on 1 January 2014 to 22.8 per cent on 1 January 2019. The number of people aged 20–24 years decreased by 79,000 (4.4 percentage points) over the same period.

¹ https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=6431&parent=0&fbclid=IwAR0-cl20h9OGn4tK7D1QacBa_0O9i5Pf3wxGIJkp-FbbZH6zTo1phqllEFk



CONTEXT

An important part of the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the Voluntary National Review (VNR); member countries voluntarily join and then report on their progress. The Republic of Moldova intends to present its first VNR report in July 2020 at the high-level political forum in New York.

Considering that young people play a key role in achieving the SDGs, the National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM) aims to make the voice of young people in the Republic of Moldova heard at the high-level political forum. The CNTM presents the views of young people in the VNR report, which aims to assess progress towards the implementation of the SDGs in the Republic of Moldova and present the vision of young people on the impact of the SDGs on them.

To evaluate the implementation of the SDGs and identify the views of young people on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CNTM, as a national organization promoting youth rights, launched the national campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals. The campaign is supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and UNICEF, with media support provided by the Youth Media Center.



Figure 1: Web page of the campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals

Launched on 24 January 2020 at the National Conference of Youth Organizations, Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals aims to enable young people in the Republic of Moldova to contribute to the development of society. Monitoring the implementation of the SDGs is an opportunity for young people to express their views and make their voice heard globally. At the conference, about 90 young people from different cities and villages in the Republic of Moldova had the opportunity, over 2 days, to interact with decision-makers and experts in the field discussing the SDGs and their implementation in the Republic of Moldova.

Through the contest Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals, young people from the Republic of Moldova had the opportunity to be involved in monitoring the SDGs through photography. About 180 photos were received from young people, in which they show the challenges related to implementing the SDGs in the Republic of Moldova, and also their expectations – their visions regarding the SDGs. Several of these photographs are presented in the analytical part of this report.



Figure 2: Images from 22 workshops to inform and promote the SDGs in the youth centres in the countryside, attended by over 500 young people from rural and urban areas



Figure 3: The contest Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals



Figure 4: Web page for the photo contest Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals



Figure 5: Training for trainers in using the game Imagine 2030 with young people to evaluate the SDGs

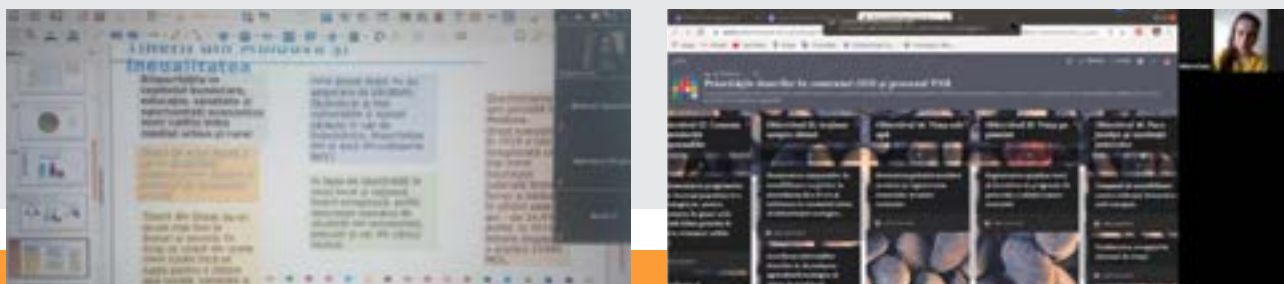


Figure 6: Conference to present the results of the national campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals, as well as to appoint 17 media ambassadors for the SDGs. The conference was organized online, with a live broadcast on CNTM's Facebook page



Figure 7: Photos of the online consultation with young people on their vision of the SDGs in Moldova



Following the monitoring and evaluation process of the national campaign, to ensure the full involvement of young people in the consultation process, the draft VNR report was made available online. Young people contributed suggestions and recommendations to improve the mechanism for implementing the SDGs from their perspective.

This final VNR report highlights the priorities of young people for the next decade in implementing the SDGs. The report also provides government with a vision of the problems and needs of young people in the Republic of Moldova.

It will be possible to measure the impact of the SDGs on the development of young people and the youth sector in the Republic of Moldova.

METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS

OBJECTIVES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

From the point of view of macro research, this report aims to present the priorities for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for youth development in the Republic of Moldova, as well as to analyse the level of achievement of the SDGs in the Republic of Moldova. The vision of young people was analysed based on the impact of the SDGs on them and the developments that have taken place in the Republic of Moldova since the adoption of the SDGs.

The research focused mainly on young people aged 14–24 years, with some exceptions being 29 years of age. The voices of about 5,000 young people are reflected in this report.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the evaluation process: CNTM was unable to start the planned four regional youth consultation workshops on the SDGs. Instead, an online consultation and questionnaire procedure was used, including through the U-Report Moldova web platform.

METHODOLOGY

Both quantitative and qualitative research methods were used to assess the degree of implementation of the SDGs in terms of youth needs and the impact of the SDGs on young people in the country. The qualitative and quantitative assessment included conclusions and a number of key recommendations from young people that the authorities could consider when implementing the SDGs.

The quantitative method was an analysis of statistical data on young people and their vision of the SDGs and how they affect them. Insufficient statistical data were available on the 17 nationalized SDGs, including data disaggregated on the criterion of youth.

The statistical data provided by the U-Report Moldova platform also serve as data on the perception of young people of the SDGs. Some conclusions regarding the achievement of the 17 SDGs and their impact were drawn from discussions with young people in local activities within the national campaign as well as from experts and practitioners in the field.

U-Report is a digital tool for expression and social mobilization for young people. U-Report aims to encourage young people in Moldova and around the world to question, debate and be heard on the problems and subjects that concern them on a regular basis, while also issuing frequent polls.

The report was based on primary and secondary data on the implementation of the SDGs in the Republic of Moldova. The qualitative component of the research included documenting and evaluating the national and local mechanisms for promoting and implementing the SDGs, and the impact of the SDGs on the development of young people and the youth sector.



OTHER AVAILABLE INFORMATION SOURCES WERE ANALYSED THAT HELPED TO ELUCIDATE THE IMPACT OF THE SDGS ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE YOUTH SECTOR.

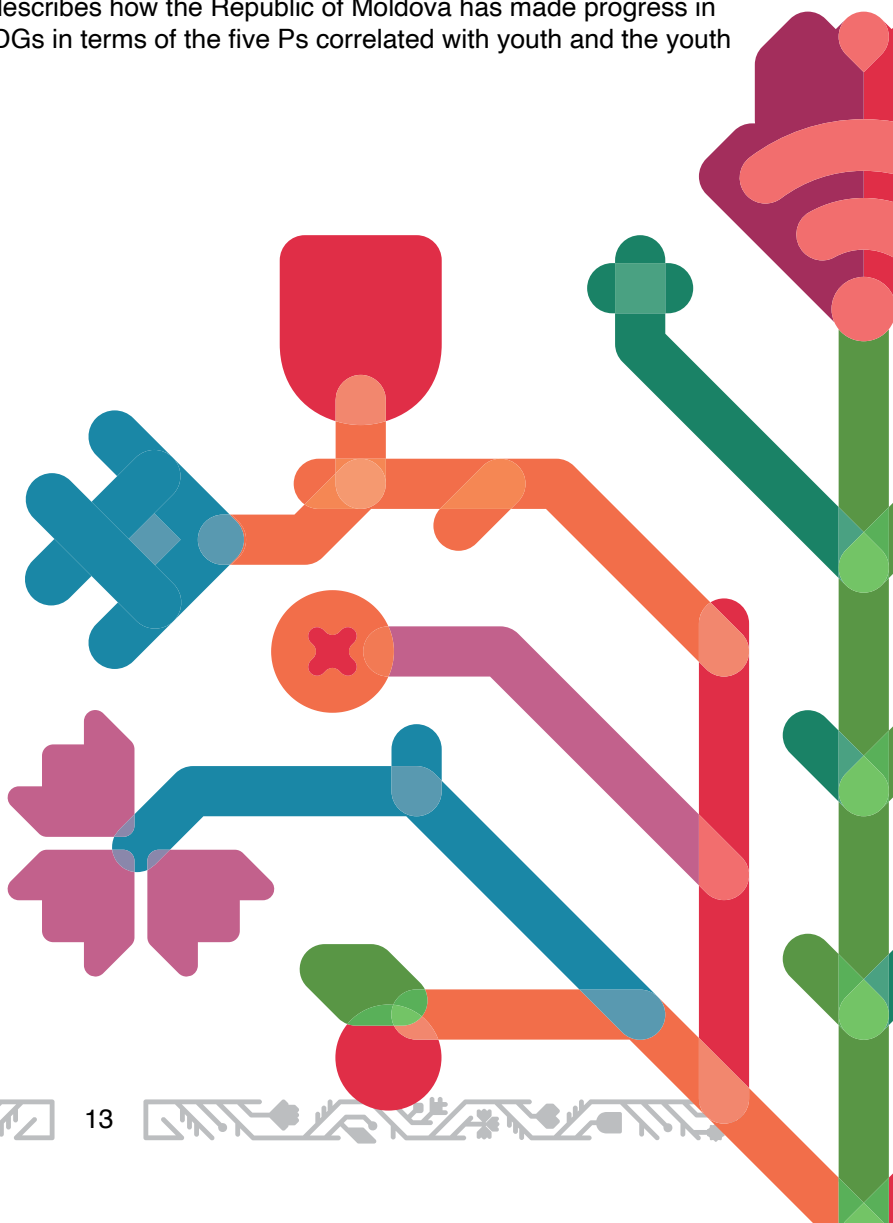
A considerable challenge for CNTM was coronavirus (COVID-19) and the state of national emergency that stopped the implementation of the national campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals. As a result, it was not possible to consult young people on their vision of the SDGs. The public consultations were originally planned to use the Imagine 2030 game developed by the United Nations agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Instead, young people's vision of the SDGs was measured using online tools, such as the U-Report Moldova platform, which currently has over 29,000 members, of whom about 14,000 are 14–24 years old. Evaluation questionnaires were developed to collect quantitative and qualitative data on the SDGs and how young people feel about their implementation in the Republic of Moldova, which were completed by 253 respondents. The first aspect of the U-Report surveys aims to get young people to identify the issues they face on a personal, local and national level, and how they relate to the SDGs.

Also, as part of the process of monitoring the SDGs in the Republic of Moldova, photos taken by young people involved in the competition Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals were used to develop the present report.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE REPORT

This report examines the impact of the SDGs on youth, based on the five basic pillars of the SDGs: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. It describes how the Republic of Moldova has made progress in meeting the commitments to implement the SDGs in terms of the five Ps correlated with youth and the youth sector.

PROGRESS IN
IMPLEMENTING
THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS IN
MOLDOVA,
AND THEIR
CORRELATION
WITH THE YOUTH
SECTOR



PEOPLE



1 NO POVERTY



The latest available data show that the proportion of poor people in the Republic of Moldova is constantly decreasing. National and World Bank estimates show a similar trend for both urban and rural poverty. Although the poverty rate has decreased, the number of people at risk of poverty is significant.

According to the Public Opinion Barometer of 2019, when asked about the current income of their family, 21.7 per cent said that their family income is not enough for their basic needs, 43.3 per cent that it is enough for their basic needs, and only 3.2 per cent that it is enough for everything they need.¹

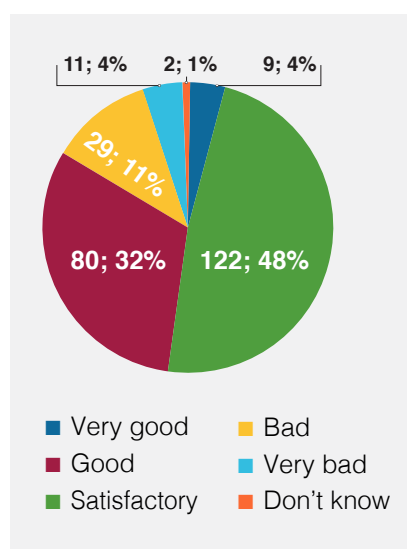


Figure 8: Young people's assessment of their living conditions in the Republic of Moldova

Thus, poverty in Moldova is quite high, especially among vulnerable groups, for example families with many children and single-parent families. The most exposed to poverty are children, the elderly, and adults with disabilities. Statistics from different studies also indicate that Roma are one of the poorest categories of the population in the Republic of Moldova.² In 2015, the poverty rate for children was 11.5 per cent, while that for the general population was 9.6 per cent. Overall, 0.2 per cent of children are exposed to extreme poverty. The poverty rate for rural children is nine times higher than the poverty rate for urban children.³

Significant impacts on reducing poverty and raising the living standards of disadvantaged people were achieved through a change to the mechanism of granting social assistance,⁴ which helped reduce the absolute poverty rate by 0.7 percentage points, and through aid for the cold period of the year, which helped reduce the absolute poverty rate by 0.2 percentage points.⁵ According to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data, 1.9 per cent of young people aged up to 24 years received unemployment benefits in 2015, and only 1.5 per cent in 2019.

Low incomes and increased risks of poverty are caused by limited economic opportunities, which prevent the population, especially vulnerable groups, from achieving their professional aspirations. The Republic of Moldova has one of the lowest employment rates in Central and Eastern Europe (41 per cent in 2016).

Among young people in the Republic of Moldova, the quality of life varies from 5.52 (Chişinău) to 6.57 (central region) on a scale from 1 to 10. Women (compared with men), young people in urban areas (compared with in rural areas) and young people in the Gagauzia Autonomous Territorial Unit (GATU) region (compared with non-GATU) tend to report a lower quality of life. Moreover, young people in urban areas report lower quality of life than young people in rural areas. In general, women report lower quality of life than men.⁶

The 2017 Youth Progress Index, which measures young people's quality of life (for ages 14–18 years), places the Republic of Moldova in 64th place out of 102 countries evaluated.⁷

The responses of the 253 young people surveyed in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process for the SDGs indicate that about half of the respondents consider that young people in the Republic of Moldova have satisfactory living conditions, 32 per cent consider that young people have good living conditions, and only 4 per cent believe that young people live in very good conditions (see Figure 8).

¹ Institutul de Politici Publice (IPP), Barometrul Opiniei Publice Republica Moldova, December 2019, <http://ipp.md/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/BOP-FINAL-decembrie-2019.pdf>.

² World Bank Group, Evaluarea sărăciei în Republica Moldova 2016: Reducerea sărăciei și prosperitatea partajată în Moldova: Progrese și perspective, 2016, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/715861467989513808/pdf/105722-WP-P151472-PUBLIC-ROMANIAN-Moldova-Poverty-Assessment-2016.pdf>.

³ Biroul Național de Statistică, 'De Ziua Mondială a Drepturilor Copiilor BNS publică un set de infografice despre situația copiilor', 20 November 2018, <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=30&id=6177>.

⁴ Legea nr. 133-XVI din 13 iunie 2008 cu privire la ajutorul social, care presupune determinarea eligibilității solicitantului prin testarea veniturilor.

⁵ Ministerul Economiei al Republicii Moldova, Raport privind sărăcia în Republica Moldova în 2014, Chişinău, 2015.

⁶ UNICEF, Youth SCORE Index Republic of Moldova: Secondary data analysis report, November 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/moldova/sites/unicef.org/moldova/files/2020-01/Moldova%20Youth%20SCORE%20Index%20secondary%20analysis.pdf>.

⁷ European Youth Forum, 'Youth Progress Index', <https://www.youthforum.org/youth-progress-index>.

On the U-Report platform, where the survey on poverty was launched in February 2020,⁸ the 1,476 respondents who were asked about their vision that Moldova in 2030 should be a place where people do not struggle to meet their most basic needs, such as for health, education and access to water and sanitation, 56 per cent said they believe that this goal will be half achieved, and others have even more pessimistic visions. Thus, these data show us that young people are sceptical that the SDGs will achieve their goals in the Republic of Moldova. The answers of respondents when asked what the Government's actions should be to eradicate poverty in the country are shown below (see Figure 9).

In your opinion, what needs to be done to eradicate poverty in Moldova by 2030

1476
respondents

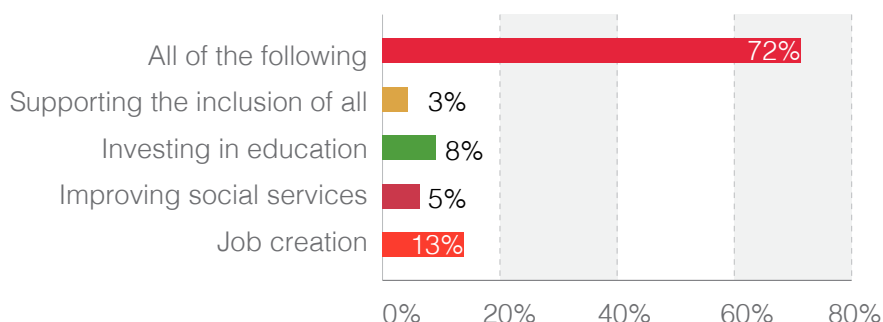


Figure 9: Young people's opinions of the Government's actions to eradicate poverty in the Republic of Moldova by 2030

Views of poverty and how it affects young people in the Republic of Moldova were also reflected by young people involved in the national campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals, implemented by the National Youth Council of Moldova (CNTM). Young people who had been involved in the competition Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals monitored the degree of implementation of the SDGs in the Republic of Moldova and presented their findings.



Author: Andreea Alexandrov

Our small country is affected by a problem that we do not seem to find solutions to. Poverty is a serious problem, largely ignored!

Poor people need help financially, but also economically and socially. A large part of the population of Moldova lives on an insufficient salary, and pensions are miserable, some people can even live on about € 1.5 a day. [...]

Sad that in our country we are facing this problem.



Author: Aliona Isac

Poverty in Moldova seems to have no end ...

#SDG1NoPoverty

In Moldova, Agenda 2030 promotes sustainable poverty reduction with the most appropriate measures to support low-income households. (THEORETICAL)!

Where are the social policies; where do they apply?

Is poverty reduced at this rate?



Author: Ludmila Hițuc

The citizens of the Republic of Moldova, often young people able to work, go abroad, either because of poverty or lack of prospects, in search of a better life and a better-paid job. In this picture we can see what the consequences are: the houses are ruined and demolished while waiting for the owner, who has left the country.

⁸ U-Report Moldova, 'Fără sărăcie', 14 February 2020, <https://moldova.ureport.in/opinion/1569>.

2 ZERO HUNGER



Food poverty affects children and young people from socially vulnerable low-income families in extreme poverty. Despite state programmes to support vulnerable families, social assistance as a financial benefit often does not achieve its goal, because its beneficiaries spend it irrationally, including on alcoholic beverages.

According to World Bank research on household budgets in 2018, about 33 per cent of households receive benefits when they should be ineligible, and 77 per cent of those eligible for benefits report that they do not receive them. Thus, a significant number of the poor are not helped by the programme.⁹

This situation affects children and young people from socially vulnerable families who are unable to feed themselves because of a lack of financial resources as well as of support through state programmes; for example, there are no places where poor people can get a free meal.

Young people say that food poverty is a major problem for homeless families.

The opinion of one of the Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals is given in the box below.

Hunger is a global problem; maybe you have known the feeling of hunger and you understand how torturous it is ... But even though you are informed, you continue to buy more food than necessary and you waste products that could be consumed, and when you throw away food you do not you once think that maybe you can give it to someone and make their day better just by a little deed.



Author: Scutelnic Ana

¹⁴ Mold Street, 'Riscuri și dificultăți majore în sistemul de informații privind asistența socială', 31 March 2019, <https://www.mold-street.com/?go=news&n=8730>.

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Today, young people are exposed to many risks that negatively affect their health. Recent data show that 45 per cent of teenage boys and 22 per cent of teenage girls start drinking before the age of 15. Only 36 per cent of young women and 28 per cent of young men between the ages of 15 and 24 know how HIV is transmitted and how to protect themselves against HIV infection. Thus, adolescents and young people are at high risk of addiction, unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.¹⁰

Regarding the nationalized SDG target on reducing HIV transmission and sexually transmitted infections, especially in key populations, as well as reducing HIV-associated mortality, the incidence of HIV per 100,000 uninfected people was: in 2015, 17.2 per cent of young people aged 15–24 years; in 2016, 16.4 per cent; in 2017, 15.7 per cent; and in 2018, 15.3 per cent. Thus, infection rates among young people aged 15–24 years are decreasing.

At the same time, for SDG indicator 3.3.2 regarding the incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 population, statistical data on the disease in young people aged 15–24 years show: in 2015, 43.5 per cent of young people; in 2016, 47.9 per cent; in 2017, 40.5 per cent; and in 2018, 37.4 per cent.

Regarding ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, information and education, data from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova on births at the age of 15–19 years are, per 1,000 women of that age: in 2015, 27.91 per cent of young people; in 2016, 27.15 per cent; in 2017, 24.46 per cent; and in 2018, 23.90 per cent. Thus, for the years 2015–2020, the average is 22.4 per cent of young women giving birth at 15–19 years. Although the trend is for a slight reduction, in 2018 the pregnancy rate among teenagers remained three times higher than the European average. Also, the percentages are twice as high in rural areas compared with urban ones. In this context, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) presents its concerns about the limited use of modern contraceptives by women and men in the Republic of Moldova¹¹ which could prevent the above statistics on childbirth. CEDAW also notes the absence from school curricula of full and age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including responsible sexual behaviour.

Access to medical services for young people up to 18 years of age, young people with disabilities and those who continue their studies is guaranteed by the state. The percentage of young people aged 18–29 years who benefit from compulsory health insurance (in the population with habitual residence) was: in 2015, about 61.8 per cent; in 2016, 61.2 per cent; in 2017, 62.2 per cent; and in 2018, 66.4 per cent. Currently about 40 per cent of young people in the reference group are not insured in the medical system in the country – they are in the category of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET). Regarding nutrition and basic health care, in 2017 the Republic of Moldova registered a score of 96.27 on a scale from 1 (worst) to 100.¹²

¹⁰ UNICEF Moldova, 'Adolescent health and development', <https://www.unicef.org/moldova/en/what-we-do/adolescent-health-and-development>.

¹¹ CEDAW, 'Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of the Republic of Moldova', 10 March 2020, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/6&Lang=en&fbclid=IwAR0CwLxMepLW2ykw3YbowSx5ERy26WZWfIdxiPbqItYKQcRIBwcCg0xaTM.

¹² European Youth Forum, 'Youth Progress Index', <https://www.youthforum.org/youth-progress-index>.



Year	Age(years)	Decibels
2015	15-19	0,5
	20-24	0,9
2016	15-19	0,6
	20-24	0,9
2017	15-19	0,5
	20-24	0,8
2018	15-19	0,7
	20-24	0,8

Table 1: Mortality rate among young people

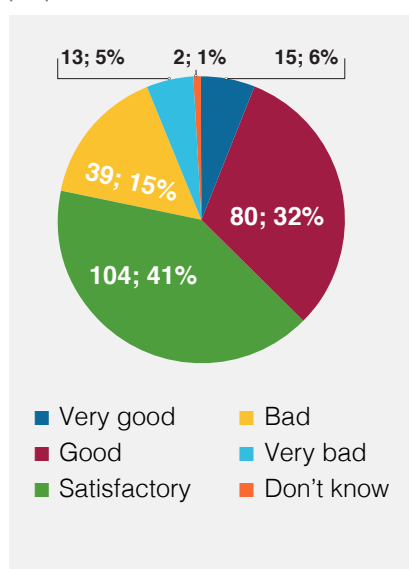


Figure 10: Young people's assessment of medical services for young people in the Republic of Moldova

Referring to data from the Youth Index for 2018 on the mental health of young people, emotional control is lowest among young people in the southern region and the highest among young people in the northern region. Mental health among young people varies from 7.04 (Chişinău) to 7.93 (GATU) on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 10. Mental health in adults is higher than in young people.¹³ The Youth Index 2015 gives the general indicator on health as 0.61.¹⁴ Referring to the Youth Scorecard for 2017, the highest score in health is recorded in Glodeni with 0.84, and the lowest score is recorded in Chişinău with 0.39 (0 being the worst performance and 1 the best).¹⁵

It is worth mentioning that young people are in the category of those who might not go to hospital even if they need a certain examination. Young people's reluctance to use the medical system is caused by their lack of free time, lack of health insurance, and other factors.¹⁶

The health of young people is largely determined by behavioural factors associated with poor diet, a sedentary lifestyle, smoking, and alcohol and drug addiction. National statistics do not show disaggregated data on alcohol or tobacco use, which are widespread among young people.

In the context of health and how it influences the lives of young people, it is necessary to present data on mortality among young people aged 15–24 years. The indicators have been revised by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on the basis of the population with habitual residence and are measured in decibels (1 per 1,000 young people) (see Table 1).

Speaking about the vision of young people in the context of the right to health, the survey U-Report Youth Vision for the National Development Strategy Moldova 2030¹⁷ also explored the opinions of young people on the most important initiatives to promote a healthy lifestyle. According to the responses received, youth-friendly health services and health education are the most important initiatives for young people.

Within the questionnaire for the evaluation of medical services by young people, developed in the context of the VNR, respondents mainly said that young people in the Republic of Moldova have access to medical services and consider them satisfactory (see Figure 10).

¹³ UNICEF, Youth SCORE Index: Republic of Moldova, 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/moldova/sites/unicef.org.moldova/files/2020-01/Moldova%20Youth%20SCORE%20index%20secondary%20analysis.pdf>

¹⁴ Petrov, Angelica, and Igor Ciurea, Indexul de Tineret 2015 Republica Moldova: Policy paper, Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, Ministerului Tineretului și Sportului and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), https://moldova.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Policy%20brief_Youth%20Index_%20Ro.pdf.

¹⁵ Morcofilo, Iurie, Score Cardul de Tineret: Notă metodologică, Expert – Grup în parteneriat cu Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, cu suportul Ministerului Educației, Culturii și Cercetării (MECC) și Fondului ONU pentru Populație (UNFPA), 2019, https://moldova.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Score_Cardul_de_Tineret.pdf.

¹⁶ Centrul Parteneriat pentru Dezvoltare, Fundația Est-Europeană, Asociația "Alianța Organizațiilor pentru Persoane cu Dizabilități din Republica Moldova", HelpAge International, Coaliția Vocea Romilor, Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, Moldova Inegală: Analiza celor mai relevante inegalități din Republica Moldova, 2019, https://eef.md/media/files/files/raport_moldova_inegalita_final_2482506.pdf.

¹⁷ U-Report Moldova, "Rezultatele primului sondaj U-Report – Viziunea Tinerilor pentru Strategia Națională de Dezvoltare „Moldova 2030”", <https://moldova.ureport.in/story/155>.

Moreover, SDG 3 was also reflected by the young people who were involved in the national campaign “Young people from Moldova for #GlobalGoals”. Thus, the young people came up with ideas for the implementation of SDG 3 in the Republic of Moldova, presented as follows:



Author: Matei Patricia

Sport – is a physical activity and may involve competition.

When we start exercising, we often get tired and sit on a couch and enjoy time watching TV, but we must also take into account the fact that sport is life. [...] Sport is a source of health and vitality, a factor in longevity.

I challenge you to do sports every day.



Author: Andreea Alexandrov

What stops us from leading a healthy lifestyle?!

As in Moldova over 60 per cent of people lead a passive lifestyle, the percentage with obesity is increasing. Sport is a remedy, it has a positive influence: it reduces stress, it reduces the risk of getting sick! Heart, psychological and physical problems can be prevented! A healthy lifestyle can improve your health!

Take care of yourself! Health is priceless!



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



This goal is one of the most relevant; it is of great interest to young people in the Republic of Moldova.

Education index shows an unfavourable situation, with the Republic of Moldova ranking 114th out of 187 countries.¹⁸

The Youth Scorecard of 2017 shows the highest score in the field of education as 0.89, registered by Taraclia district, and the worst indicator as 0.39, registered by Șoldănești district.¹⁹

Finally, there is a need to present the vision of children and young people towards the education system in the Republic of Moldova and its relevance in their development. In this regard, 31 per cent of children and young people in the Republic of Moldova (out of a total of 1,648 young respondents) consider that education is the main factor that promotes the development of young people. Other respondents gave preference to options such as active participation in social life (41 per cent) and health (17 per cent).²⁰

Another survey that directly targets the field of education is the U-Report survey on young people and how they are affected by migration, in which 1,608 respondents participated. The survey identifies key issues affecting young people that may favour their massive migration, where among the reasons is obtaining a better education (19 per cent of respondents).²²

The enrolment rate in primary schools in the Republic of Moldova continues to decline, contrary to global trends.²¹ According to NBS data, there was also a 16.4 per cent reduction in the number of children in the education system at primary level between 2014–15 and 2018–19 (when 179,500 were enrolled).

Young people in urban areas are less satisfied with the education system than young people in rural areas. For example, young people in urban areas report more often that they do not receive support from school teachers or staff (compared with young people in rural areas).²³ However, there are discrepancies in the quality of education delivered in urban and rural areas (where there are only gymnasiums – Grades 1–9). Respondents to the U-Report survey on the quality of the educational process pointed out that universities and high schools have the highest quality of education, and colleges (technical vocational education) the lowest.

Considering the quality of the education system and its impact on students, according to the results of the national report Republic of Moldova in the International Student Assessment Program – PISA 2018, the Republic of Moldova maintained average scores in all areas assessed compared with previously. However, the average score registered by the Republic of Moldova in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) cycles still remains lower than the average score of countries that are part of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In addition, the study showed a fairly pronounced gender gap in reading and science, with clearly better performance in both subjects by girls than boys. At the same time, the illiteracy rate is alarming. In 2018 in the Republic of Moldova, 43 per cent of students did not understand the meaning of what they read, and half (50 per cent) were mathematically illiterate – they do not understand numbers.

¹⁸ Emerson, Michael, and Denis Cenușă, *Aprofundarea Relațiilor UE-RM: Ce? De ce? Cum?*, ediția a doua, 2018, p.230, https://www.expert-grup.org/media/k2/attachments/Hanbook_ro.pdf.

¹⁹ Morcotilo, Iurie, *Score Cardul de Tineret: Notă metodologică*, Expert – Grup în parteneriat cu Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, cu suportul Ministerului Educației, Culturii și Cercetării (MECC) și Fondului ONU pentru Populație (UNFPA), 2019, https://moldova.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Score_Cardul_de_Tineret.pdf.

²⁰ U-Report Moldova, 'Raport consolidat în urma seriei de sondaje „Centrele de Tineret”', <https://moldova.ureport.in/story/206>.

²¹ European Commission, *Association Implementation Report on Moldova*, 2018, https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/association_implementation_report_on_moldova.pdf.

²² Biroul Național de Statistică al Republicii Moldova, 'Tinerii în Republica Moldova în anul 2018', August 2019, <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=6431>.

²³ UNICEF, *Youth SCORE Index: Republic of Moldova*, 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/moldova/sites/unicef.org.moldova/files/2020-01/Moldova%20Youth%20SCORE%20index%20secondary%20analysis.pdf>.



Additionally, 24 per cent of students reported being harassed at least a few times a month, another important issue that needs to be addressed.²⁴

Progress has also been made in the Republic of Moldova in reforming the education system towards a more inclusive education. Most children with special needs and children with disabilities are integrated into mainstream schools. According to NBS data on the SDG indicator 4.5.1.5 regarding the parity index of children with disabilities enrolled in compulsory education, based on the absolute number of students, the index (percentage of total number of students) was: in 2015, 1.96; in 2016, 1.82; in 2017, 1.66; and in 2018, 2.04.

According to NBS data from 2019, the share of students with special educational needs and disabilities in general education institutions is increasing. Thus, in the 2018/19 academic year, 10,269 students with special educational needs and disabilities were enrolled in educational institutions in the country, including 9,560 students enrolled in general education institutions and 709 students in schools for children with intellectual developmental disabilities or physical disabilities.

Roma girls are disproportionately disadvantaged from the perspective of education: only 63 per cent of young Roma women aged 16–24 years have an education, compared with 99 per cent of young non-Roma women of that age.²⁵ According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) data, only half of Roma children in the Republic of Moldova go to school. In comparison, 90 per cent of children of other nationalities attend school.

The social inclusion of vulnerable social young people also affects the field of education. According to the Youth Scorecard of 2017, the highest score in the field of social inclusion was 0.68, registered by Călărași district, and the worst indicator was 0.20, registered by the Taraclia district.²⁶

Within the education system there is discrimination, harassment and bullying against vulnerable groups of young people and others.²⁷

Another problem is that many schools in the Republic of Moldova do not have a well-equipped indoor area with toilets; instead, toilets are usually at a distance from the school. Also, the hygiene of these toilets is suboptimal. In winter, having to go outside to use the toilets can adversely affect children's health.²⁸

The percentage of the stable population that graduated from lower secondary education was: in 2015, 84.4 per cent; in 2016, 83.0 per cent; in 2017, 82.2 per cent; and in 2018, 84.5 per cent. A problem is the dropout rate in the Republic of Moldova, which was 17.9 per cent in the 2017 End of Childhood Index from Save the Children.²⁹ Other more recent sources give the percentage of early school-leavers as 20 per cent. In 2017/18, of the 209 children who dropped out of school (55 in Grades 1–4 and 154 in Grades 5–9), 41 were Roma. The high dropout rate among schools in rural areas and those belonging to ethnic minority groups, especially Roma girls, was also mentioned by CEDAW.³⁰

²⁴ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), PISA 2018 Results: Combined executive summaries, Volume I, II and III, OECD, 2019, https://www.oecd.org/pisa/Combined_Executive_Summaries_PISA_2018.pdf.

²⁵ Ast, Frédérique, Studiu privind educația incluzivă în Europa și în Republica Moldova: Acomodarea rezonabilă, accesul la educație și nediscriminarea, Consiliul European, 2018, https://egalitate.md/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Studiu-privind-educatia-incluziva_Ro.pdf.

²⁶ Morcofîlo, Iurie, Score Cardul de Tineret: Notă metodologică, Expert – Grup în parteneriat cu Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, cu suportul Ministerului Educației, Culturii și Cercetării (MECC) și Fondului ONU pentru Populație (UNFPA), 2019, https://moldova.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Score_Cardul_de_Tineret.pdf.

²⁷ Banari, Roman, 'Fenomenul discriminării în instituțiile de învățământ din Republica Moldova', Consiliul Național al Tinerilor din Moldova, 2017, <http://cntm.md/ro/publication/fenomenul-discrimin-per-centC4-per-cent83rii-per-centC3-per-centAEn-institu-per-centC8-per-cent9Bille-de-per-centC3-per-centAEnv-per-centC4-per-cent83-per-centC8-per-cent9B-per-centC4-per-cent83m-per-centC3-per-centA2nt-din-republica-moldova>.

²⁸ diez, 'Pereți dărămați, uși scoase și mizerie. Iată cum arată wc-urile școlilor din Moldova', April 2016, <https://diez.md/2016/04/21/pereti-daramati-usi-scoase-si-mizerie-ata-cum-arata-wc-urile-scolilor-din-moldova>.

²⁹ Save the Children, Stolen Childhoods: End of childhood report 2017, <https://www.savethechildren.org/content/dam/usa/reports/emergency-response/end-of-childhood-report.PDF>.

³⁰ CEDAW, 'Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of the Republic of Moldova', Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 10 March 2020, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/6&Lang=en&fbclid=IwAR0CwLxMepLW2ykzw3YbowSx5ERY26WZWfIdxiPbqItYKQcRlBwcCg0xaTM.

In a U-Report survey in 2019, when asked to rate their educational institution from 1 (low) and 5 (high), young people (993 respondents) gave an overall average of around 3.5.³¹

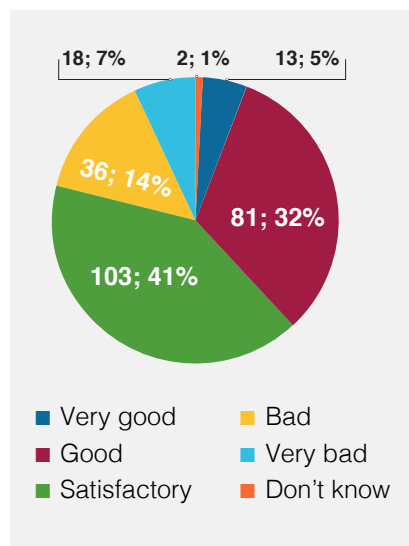


Figure 11: Young people's evaluation of the education system in 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic generated a state of emergency and the need for online lessons. Educational institutions and teachers were unprepared for online teaching. Also, students in the socially vulnerable category often do not have computers, smartphones or Internet access. These conclusions are drawn from a U-Report survey on online lessons,³² which was completed by over 5,000 respondents. Among respondents to the survey, 45 per cent stated that they know young people who do not have access to information and communication technology (ICT) and are unable to join online lessons.

Through the VNR process from 2020, the 253 respondents evaluated the education system in terms of education quality, safety and the inclusion of the socially vulnerable (see Figure 11).

Referring to SDG indicator 4.7.1 on coverage in the school curriculum of sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, and health education, using a multidisciplinary approach, the topics are included in the school curriculum, but without courses dedicated to the SDGs. However, issues related to the SDGs are addressed in other disciplines, such as education for society. But it is worth mentioning that 65 per cent of the respondents in the U-Report Moldova survey, in which about 1,000 young people from the target group participated, were unaware of the SDGs.

According to NBS data, for SDG indicator 4.a.1(b) regarding the share of educational institutions with Internet access for pedagogical purposes, data are as follows: in 2015, 85.6 per cent had Internet access; in 2016, 69.7 per cent; in 2017, 70.2 per cent; and in 2018, 69.5 per cent.

For SDG indicator 4.a.1(c) regarding the share of educational institutions with access to computers for pedagogical purposes, data are: in 2015, 97.4 per cent of schools were equipped with computers; in 2016, 98.8 per cent; in 2017, 99.4 per cent; and in 2018, 99.4 per cent. However, young participants monitoring the SDGs in the campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals attest to the inadequacy of the computers in use. Other views reflected by the young people involved in the national campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals regarding SDG 4 are presented below.

³¹ U-Report Moldova, 'Educația de calitate în școli', 24 January 2019, <https://moldova.ureport.in/poll/988>.

³² U-Report Moldova, 'Lectii online', 31 March 2020, <https://moldova.ureport.in/opinion/1648>.



Author: Adriana Negru

Let's put books on our faces!

I went from Kangaroo and Ant to Pascal. I wonder, "For what?!" "This is where our quality education begins or ends?!"

Let's be realistic. How many of us learned in high school or high school to create an email and know how to use it from A to Z??..... And Word, Excel, PowerPoint ... – so, in general I went over them, yes.

Why Pascal?! Where and when will we use it?! How long will the students spend because they have exams?! I don't want to falter, I want to learn about security on social media, video-editing applications, online design, etc !



Author: Eugenia Frumusachi

Looking at this photo, what year do you think we are in?

Although I'm sure you thought about the '90s, I want to tell you you're wrong!

We are in the year 2020, we live in an era of technology, but which, unfortunately, does not intersect with the field of education in the villages of the Republic of Moldova. The reality is cruel: children study computer languages that are totally out of date, while what is really useful is not even touched on.

PS. The place of these PCs is in the museum, not in a study room.



5

GENDER EQUALITY



The principles of equality and non-discrimination are integral to the country's constitutional framework, being expressly stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and other legislative acts.

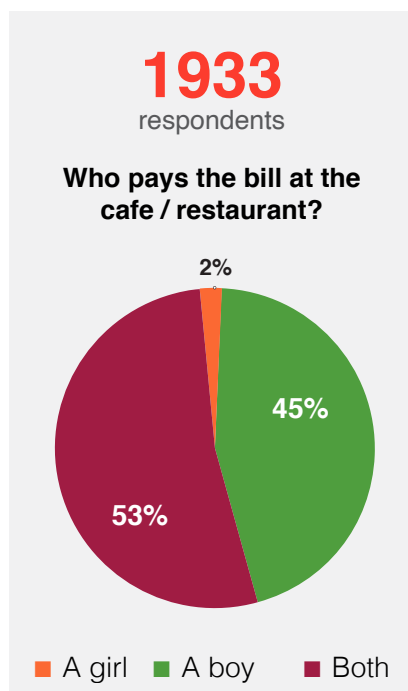


Figure 13: Young people's opinion on who pays the bill in a café/restaurant

CEDAW, in its Concluding Observations on the Sixth Regular Report of the Republic of Moldova, presents concerns about discriminatory gender stereotypes in school curricula and textbooks used by students.⁴² CEDAW also comments on the phenomenon of domestic violence that persists in the country, also raising concerns that girls and women are at risk of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour abroad. Also, CEDAW presents concerns about vertical and horizontal occupational gender segregation and the persistence of the gender pay gap. All these findings by CEDAW are directly connected to adolescent girls and young women aged 14–24 years, who are in the risk group in the field of education, health and work and beyond.

Discrimination against girls starts in society, where often the general population stereotypes the role of women in society, such as: that adolescent girls and women are good housewives, taking care of the household and raising children; women are too sensitive and emotional; in emergencies, women cannot make the right decision.⁴⁴

In order to see young people's views of gender equality, a questionnaire was launched on the U-Report Moldova platform dedicated to gender stereotypes, in which 1,934 young people participated. The rather divided response of young people to the question of how they are treated in school is surprising (see Figure 12).

Do you think that girls and boys are treated equally at school?

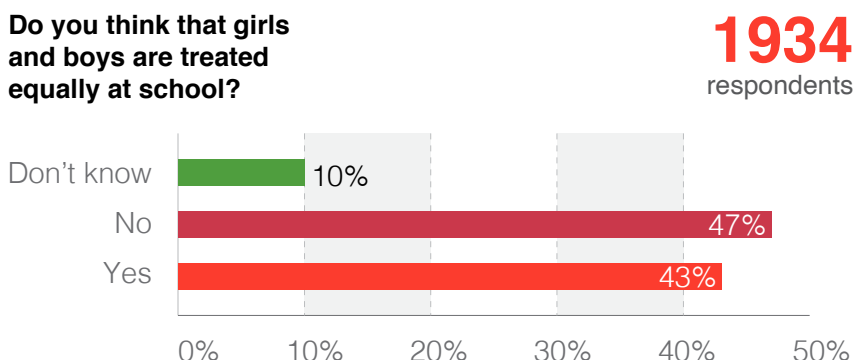


Figure 12: Young people's opinion of gender equality in school in 2020

Even more surprising are the responses to the question 'Who pays the bill in the restaurant?' where 2 per cent said that the girl pays, 53 per cent that both pay, but 45 per cent that the boy pays (see Figure 13). An analysis of which respondents chose 'boys' shows that double the number of girls than boys chose this option. This tells us that girls themselves assign certain labels in society.

⁴² CEDAW: Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of the Republic of Moldova, 10 March 2020, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/6&Lang=en&fbclid=IwAR0CwLxMepLW2ykw3YbowSx5ERy26WZWfIdxiPbqltYKQcRIBwcCg0xaTM

⁴³ STUDIU privind percepțiile și atitudinile față de egalitate în Republica Moldova, 2018 <https://egalitate.md/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Studiu-privind-percep-iile.pdf>

⁴⁴ <https://moldova.ureport.in/opinion/1570/>

Within the VNR process, 253 young people were surveyed on equality and non-discrimination among young people. Most respondents think they are protected against discrimination (see Figure 14).

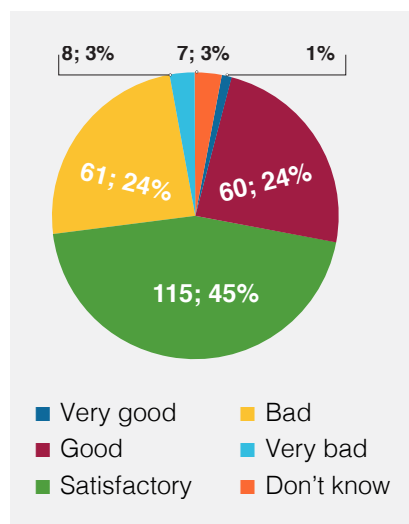


Figure 14: Young people's view of equality and lack of discrimination among young people

Discrimination against women in the workplace begins at the recruitment stage, when often, during the interview, young women are asked about their personal situation or family responsibilities, which is legally prohibited. In employment, young women are often subjected to harassment, as evidenced by the cases examined by the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality. Another inequality in the field of work is gender discrimination with different pay for similar work. In 2019, there was the highest salary inequality between women and men in the last 6 years, of 14.4 per cent; an employed woman lost 14,490 MDL because of salary discrepancies.

Child marriage and school dropout are closely linked, especially for Roma girls. Such marriages expose girls to the dangers of pregnancy and early childbirth, as well as to a high risk of violence.

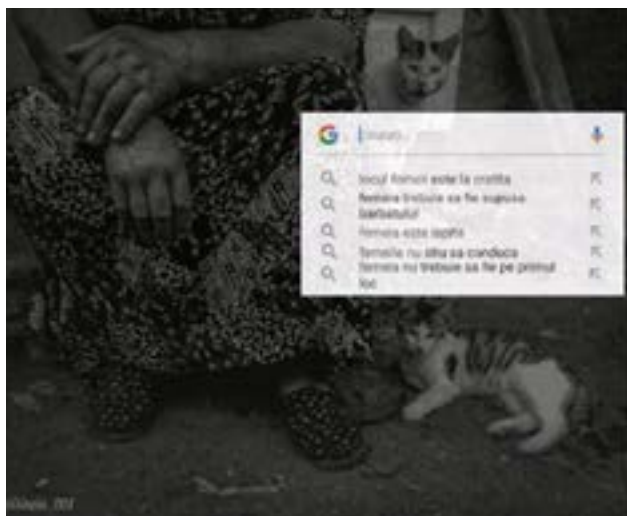
In the context of political and public participation, girls and young women up to 19–20 years old are considerably more active than boys in decision-making processes and non-formal education activities. However, young women who are married, who have obligations to take care of the house and children, and who lack free time, no longer participate. The political and public participation of girls belonging to disadvantaged groups is also low.

⁴⁵ <https://egalitate.md/prezentare-general-a/>

⁴⁶ INDEXUL EGALITĂȚII DE GEN 2020, http://www.progen.md/files/8147_cpd_indexul_egalitatii_de_gen_2020.pdf

⁴⁷ COPII ROMI ȘI ACCESUL LOR LA SERVICII, <https://www.unicef.org/moldova/media/851/file/Evaluarea-participativa-a-barierelor-copii-romi.pdf>

The examples below illustrate the vision of young people who were involved in the national campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals in the context of SDG 5.



Author: Virinea Candy

!! You don't have to fit in someone's boxes!

in short:

Don't label women! or (more directly)

Don't be misogynistic!

long:

Is the woman's place in the kitchen or office?

*Theoretically, the answer is simple: **the woman's place is where she wants to be.***



Author: Iulia Coica

Stereotypes and prejudices are the main factors that influence the daily life of both sexes. Not infrequently, they create barriers in everyone's affirmation, communication, knowledge, and acceptance of their own personality and those around them.

Do not rush to categorize the actions and behaviour of people, regardless of their gender, thus avoiding: situations of discrimination, marginalization, rejection and exclusion of peers on subjective grounds.

Know and accept those around you!

Challenge (SDG 5 – Gender equality)



Author: Ana Maria Pșenicinîi

We are women.

We work. We pass through. We survive.

From peer to peer, we have the same job as men + a lot of sweat (washing, ironing, cooking, cleaning, grooming, etc., which seem minor occupations).

Does our power, as women, stand out in such a dominant society of 'them' (male)? Can women hold positions worthy of 'them' (female)? Or we let 'them' (male) do everything, 'they' (female) being helpless and sensitive.

Bad stereotypes, which grow through us and take root the more we neglect them!!

We can be the change, only if we choose to talk when things are not OK and to capitalize on our voice as women, as 'them' (female) who wear crowns, who can change the world!

PROSPERITY

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY,
INNOVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE
CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW
WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



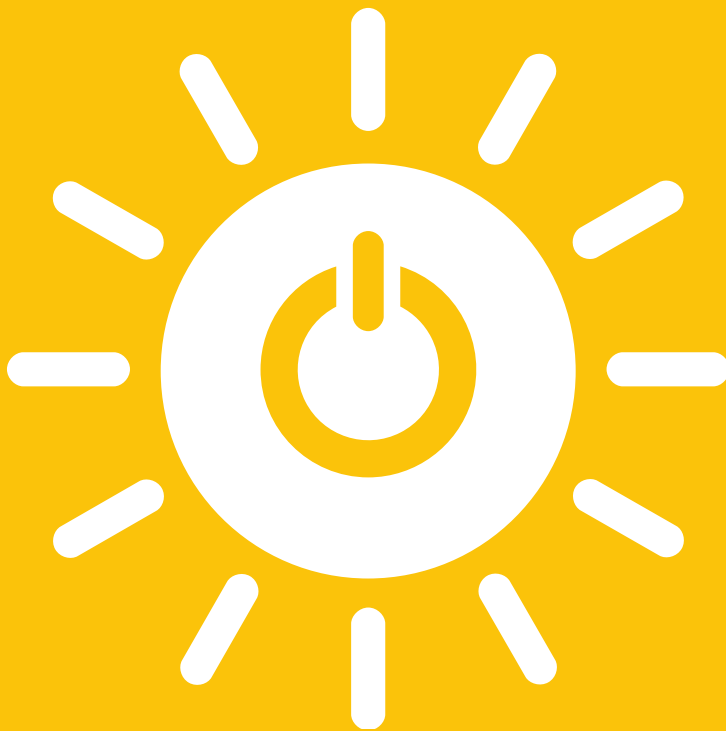
16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensuring the sustainability of the energy sector and combating climate change is one of the objectives of state energy policy. In the Republic of Moldova, energy efficiency projects and the use of renewable energy contribute to reducing the energy dependence of the country on foreign sources³⁷ and to combating climate change.

With SDG 7 in mind, the Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals raised their concerns about the country's energy system and expressed their priorities.



Author: Анастасия Робулец

I love to walk in the evening in a lighted square. But I don't like that a lot of natural resources are consumed to produce it ... But even more, it pollutes the environment...

SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy



Author: Maria Doaga

At the moment, the share of renewable energy is only 2 per cent, but in the near future the Republic of Moldova envisages the creation of a competitive and efficient energy sector that will provide all consumers with quality energy resources. [...]



Author: Alionna Isac

At this rate, where energy consumption is constantly increasing and resources are limited, it is absolutely necessary to find alternative solutions for obtaining energy.

I am glad that green energy is easily infiltrating society and we already have it in the Republic of Moldova. [...]

Of course, the costs of such investments are very high and we need financial support to implement such projects.

#MoldovaWeWantSupport

³⁷ Borosan, Constantin, Securitatea Energetică A Republicii Moldova În Contextul Funcționării Pieței Concurențiale, Soros Foundation-Moldova Public Policy Fellowship, 2019, [https://www.soros.md/files/publications/documents/Soros per cent20Studiu per cent20de per cent20politici per cent20Publice per cent20- per cent20Securitatea per cent20Energetica_compressed.pdf](https://www.soros.md/files/publications/documents/Soros%20Studiu%20de%20politici%20Publice%20-%20Securitatea%20Energetica_compressed.pdf).

8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Youth employment is a precondition for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Against the background of the reduction of the number of the employed population, there is also a constant reduction in the share of the young population in the total employed population. Inactivity and unemployment are characteristic of younger people aged 15–24 years. According to the NBS, the unemployment rate for young people aged 15–24 years was: in 2015, 12.3 per cent; in 2016, 11.0 per cent; in 2017, 11.9 per cent; and in 2018, 7.1 per cent.

Young women are disadvantaged compared with young men: in 2015, the unemployment rate for young people aged 15–24 was 15.5 per cent for young women and 13.5 per cent for young men; these statistics are replicated in the following years as well.

Due to the difficult transition from school to work, about 31 per cent of young people have an informal job, and the number of young people in seasonal work in agriculture is high. The Youth Index estimates that, since 2015, the informal employment rate has been 0.81. About 2 per cent more young people than adults receive salaries as ‘cash in hand’.³⁸

Young women seem to be even more disadvantaged in the labour market. Only about 42 per cent of young people are employed in the labour market, and about a quarter of the total number of young women.³⁹ The small share of young people in the total employed population is also determined by the difficulties they face in the employment process, especially because of employers’ requirements for work experience and skills (young people’s knowledge does not always correspond to the needs of the labour market), but also because job offers do not correspond with young people’s expectations. Hence, long-term migration is widespread and growing among young people.⁴⁰ The number of young people who went abroad to work represents about 14 per cent of the total number of young people in the Republic of Moldova. Also, the share of young people in the total number of people working abroad is significant, constituting around 39 per cent.⁴¹

In the context of labour migration, about 800 young people in education responded to a U-Report survey about whether they will migrate in search of a job: 59 per cent believe they will, and 41 per cent see their professional life in the Republic of Moldova; the majority of respondents were female.⁴²

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova shows that many young people are not in employment, education or training (NEET) (age 15–29 years with regular residence): in 2015, about 36.3 per cent; in 2016, 35.0 per cent; in 2017, 26.4 per cent; and in 2018, 23.9 per cent. A specific problem for the Republic of Moldova is the vulnerability of women and young people in rural areas to remaining outside the labour market and the education system. In the Republic of Moldova, the gender gap of NEETs is more critical than in other countries in the region: about 32 per cent for women are NEET, and 23.2 per cent of men.

³⁸ Petrov, Angelica, and Igor Ciurea, Indexul de Tineret 2015 Republica Moldova: Policy paper, Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, Ministerului Tineretului și Sportului and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), https://moldova.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Policy%20brief_Youth%20Index_%20Ro.pdf.

³⁹ Ciurea, Igor, and Daniel Cojocari, Perspectiva Tinerilor în Strategia de Ocupare a Forței de Muncă 2017–2021, Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, Ministerului Tineretului și Sportului and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), https://moldova.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Analiza_per_cent20Main-streaming_0.pdf.

⁴⁰ de Zwager, Nicolaas, and Ruslan Sințov, Inovație în migrația circulară – Migrație și dezvoltare în Moldova: Studiu de piață. NEXUS Moldova Intern. Agency for Source Country Information (IASCI), Centrul de Analize și Investigații Sociologice, Politologice și Psihologice (CIVIS) Chișinău, 2014.

⁴¹ Iațco, Mariana, Evaluarea Strategiei Naționale de ocupare a forței de muncă 2017–2021 din perspectiva tinerilor, Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, Chișinău, 2018, <http://cntm.md/sites/default/files/DRAFT%20Evaluarea%20SNOFM.pdf>.

⁴² U-Report Moldova, ‘Aspirații de carieră’, 18 April 2019, <https://moldova.ureport.in/opinion/1073>.

Regarding education level, statistical data from 2015 show: for employed people, 24.3 per cent had higher education, 22.3 per cent secondary vocational, and 19.7 per cent high school education; for the inactive working-age population, 29.7 per cent had gymnasium studies, 22.7 per cent high school, and 17.3 per cent vocational secondary education.

Although the legislative framework on the social inclusion of vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, Roma, young people, migrants or returned migrants, etc.) has thus been improved by legislation, employment services are not sufficient and adapted to the needs of vulnerable groups, and there are no mechanisms for implementing the legislation.

The ranking of territorial administrative units of the Republic of Moldova for the field 'Employment' within the Youth Scorecard for 2017 shows a colossal discrepancy: the maximum score of 1.00 was recorded by Cimişlia, and the minimum score of 0.01 by Dubăsari.⁴³

ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY

Although in the Republic of Moldova the range of support programmes for entrepreneurs is varied, there is insufficient support for young people to start or develop a business; only 2.4 per cent of entrepreneurs are up to 24 years old, and 20.3 per cent are between 25 and 34 years old.⁴⁴

In order to support young entrepreneurs, several programmes have been developed. Among the most prominent are the National Program for Youth Economic Empowerment (PNAET), which ran until 2017, and the Start for Youth programme, which is current. Despite the beneficial impact of these youth economic empowerment programmes, there is a need to reach more of the many young people in the Republic of Moldova who want to develop their own businesses. This need also emerges from the findings of a Moldovan U-Report survey on entrepreneurship,⁴⁵ in which about 1,000 respondents participated.

The views of young people on their economic empowerment (through small-business development programmes, attractive jobs, non-discrimination towards young people, etc.), are presented through the questionnaires developed during the VNR process (see Figure 15).

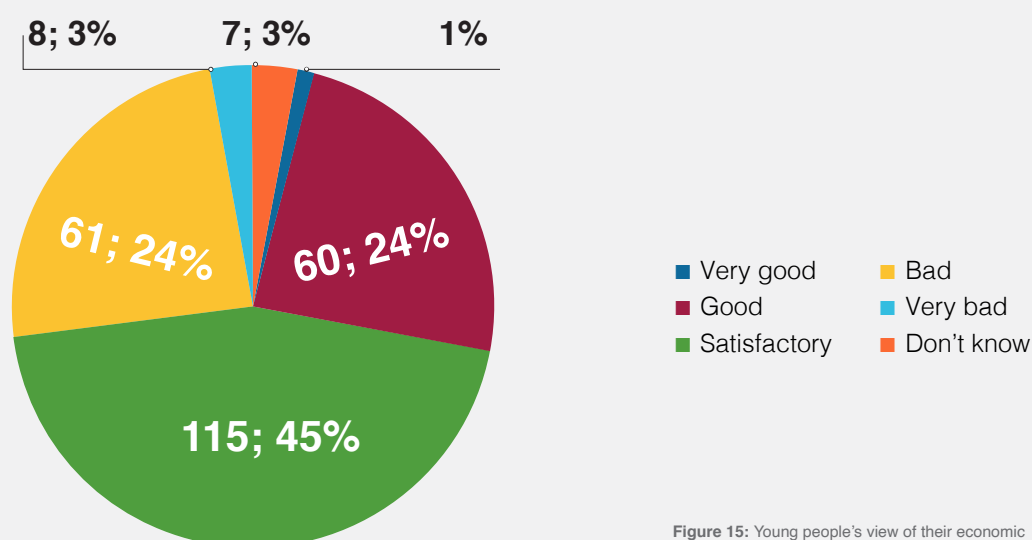


Figure 15: Young people's view of their economic empowerment

⁴³ Morcoțilo, Iurie, Score Cardul de Tineret: Notă metodologică, Expert – Grup în parteneriat cu Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, cu suportul Ministerului Educației, Culturii și Cercetării (MECC) și Fondului ONU pentru Populație (UNFPA), 2019, https://moldova.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Score_Cardul_de_Tineret.pdf.

⁴⁴ Marcu, Finodora, and Liudmila Stih, Evaluarea Gradului de Satisfacție a Tinerilor Participanți la Componenta I „Instruire Antreprenorială” în Cadrul Programului Național de Abilitate Economică a Tinerilor (PNAET) 2017, Organizația pentru Dezvoltarea sectorului întreprinderilor mici și mijlocii (ODIMM) cu suportul Ministerului Economiei a inițiat și implementat timp de 9 ani programul național de abilitare economică a tinerilor (PNAET), 2017, [http://odimm.md/files/ro/pdf/rapoarte/Evaluarea_gradului_de_satisfactie_a_tinerilor_PNAET_per_cent20\(2017\).pdf](http://odimm.md/files/ro/pdf/rapoarte/Evaluarea_gradului_de_satisfactie_a_tinerilor_PNAET_per_cent20(2017).pdf).

⁴⁵ U-Report Moldova, 'Antreprenoriat', 18 October 2019, <https://moldova.ureport.in/opinion/1395/>.

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Goal 9 is crucial in community development, and as a result also supports the development of young people and the youth sector.

Young people in rural areas currently have limited opportunities, because of a lack of adequate infrastructure: the lack of sufficient public transport between urban areas means they do not have full access to extracurricular youth activities in district centres or the country's capital.

There is also a lack of access to ICT among socially vulnerable young people. According to the National Agency for Regulation in Electronic Communications and Information Technology, in 2018 the penetration of fixed broadband Internet access services was to 17.5 per cent of residents, with about 623,135 subscribers (increasing by only 1 percentage

point compared with 2017). At the same time, the penetration of mobile Internet access services was 83 per cent. Indicators that suggest high inequality in access to and use of technologies: according to the NBS, in 2018, the percentage of households with computers was 62 per cent in urban areas and 42 per cent in rural areas. Digitization is a powerful tool for state structures and youth organizations to further develop an inclusive and accessible environment for young people with disabilities, but not enough attention has been paid to making digital tools accessible, despite the law on the social inclusion of people with disabilities.



Author: [Andreea Alexandrov](#)

In order for buildings, blocks of flats and the rest not to reach such conditions, an accessible, sustainable, strong and innovative infrastructure is needed; invest in this undervalued field!



Author: [Alionna Isac](#)

Quality technology is a priority for any enterprise, society or farm!

It is obvious from this photo that the Republic of Moldova has something to aim for – it needs changes!

#ModernizationOfTechnologicalCapacities

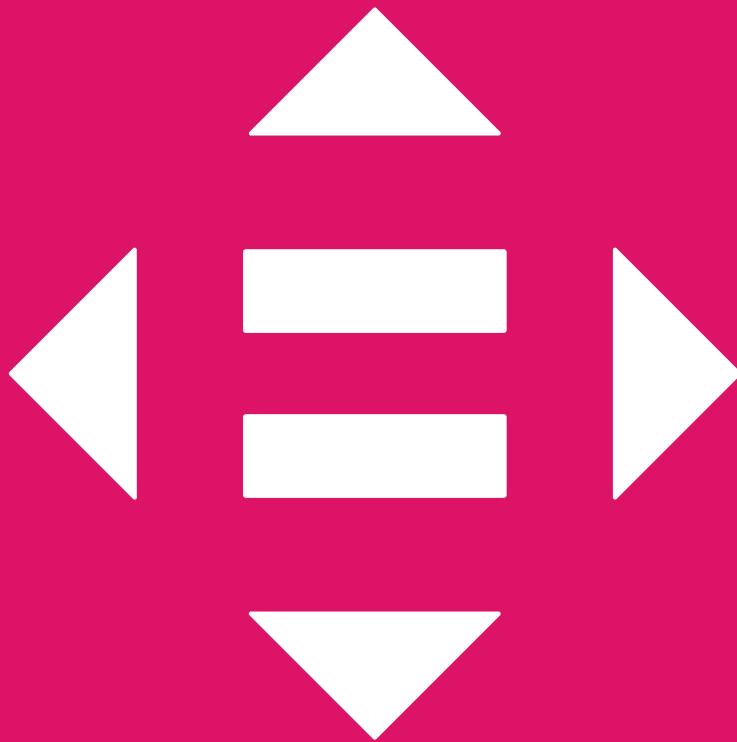


Author: [Svitic Nicoleta](#)

SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Challenge

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



The poverty level in rural areas is 7.5 times higher than in urban areas. Significant financial inequalities exist in young people compared with the elderly, between young people in rural and urban areas,⁴⁶ those with and without disabilities, young Roma and non-Roma, and between the sexes.

Young women seem to be even more disadvantaged in the labour market compared with young men, for various reasons such as pregnancy and caring for children. Only about 42 per cent of young women are employed in the labour market, or about a quarter of the total number of young women.⁴⁷ Another inequality is the different payment of men and women for similar work.⁴⁸

There is a high level of inequality in the access to and use of technology among young people, because of the level of poverty in which some young people live.

Regarding participation of young people in decision-making processes at local and national level, about 70 per cent of young women aged 14–24 years participate in decision-making processes compared with about 30 per cent of boys. But the statistics start to change when young women get married and their main occupation is housework and raising children. Young people from the socially vulnerable category are rarely involved in decision-making processes.

According to the Youth SCORE Index: Republic of Moldova, in all five regions of the country, there is a significant difference between the sexes in the belief of young people in female inferiority: boys gave a score of 4.7 and girls 6.4 (on a scale from 0 (least prevalent) to 10 (most prevalent)).⁴⁹

Another inequality relates to the young people's access to community leisure services and non-formal education, which in rural areas of the Republic of Moldova do not exist much compared with urban areas. Young people in rural areas have reduced opportunities in access to such services, since intercity transport is poorly developed. (In many villages in the Republic of Moldova, the last public transport from the district centre to their locality leaves at 3–4 p.m.)

Young Roma and those with disabilities are disadvantaged in their access to education, health and work because of stereotypes and/or inaccessible infrastructure for young people with disabilities.

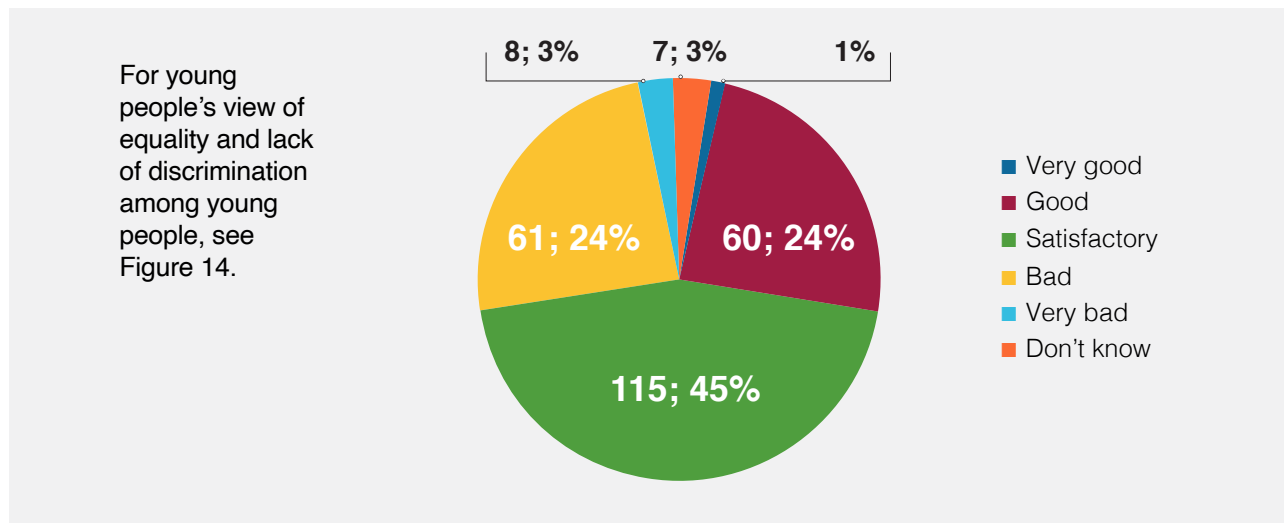
In the field of health, only 64 per cent of young people in the Republic of Moldova have a health insurance policy. In addition, young people in urban areas have access to a much wider range of medical services than those in rural areas, including access to youth-friendly health centres, which are only in district centres.

⁴⁷ Ciurea, Igor, and Daniel Cojocari, *Perspectiva Tinerilor în Strategia de Ocupare a Forței de Muncă 2017–2021*, Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, Ministerul Tineretului și Sportului and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), https://moldova.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Analiza_per_cent20Main-streaming_0.pdf.

⁴⁸ Ivașcu, Rodica, and Buzu, Alexei, *Indexul Egalității de Gen 2020*, Fundația Est-Europeană, Centrul Parteneriat pentru Dezvoltare, 2020, http://www.progen.md/files/8147_cpd_indexul_egalitatii_de_gen_2020.pdf.

⁴⁹ UNICEF, *Youth SCORE Index Republic of Moldova: Secondary data analysis report*, November 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/moldova/sites/unicef.org.moldova/files/2020-01/Moldova%20Youth%20SCORE%20index%20secondary%20analysis.pdf>.

The Youth SCORE index for 2019 estimates the level of social tolerance of diversity for the entire sample at 4.77 (on a scale from 0 to 10). There was no noticeable difference in social tolerance between the sexes.⁵⁰



Tabelul 11: Viziunea tinerilor cu privire la egalitate și nediscriminare a tinerilor



Author: [Denisa Novicov](#)

REDUCING INEQUALITIES

Social inequality is the main cause of dissatisfaction among individuals and social groups.

Learn to respect and appreciate people, regardless of whether they were born in an urban or rural environment.

~Inequality is a fact. Equality is a value.~



Author: [Andrei Gavrilita](#)

#GlobalGoals

Gate from the village of Călărași, 2020.

The gate has significance: people pass through to enter the household, a mark of social status within the village community. We must not allow this attribute to categorize us in our modern society, in which we all strive for equality.

⁵⁰ UNICEF, Youth SCORE Index: Republic of Moldova: Secondary data analysis report, November 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/moldova/sites/unicef.org/moldova/files/2020-01/Moldova%20Youth%20SCORE%20index%20secondary%20analysis.pdf>.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



One of the most common issues raised by young people today is the lack of affordable housing, especially in urban areas. Salaries are too low for most young people to afford a house. In order to support young people, the Government of the Republic of Moldova came up with a state programme, First House, which aims to help individuals purchase a home, by the state partially guaranteeing mortgages.⁵¹ Even so, financial barriers mean this programme is not yet accessible to all young people.

Most young people rent accommodation, which is usually very expensive in the capital. Hence many young people often live in the same apartment. Among young people aged 18–29 years with habitual residence, the percentage living in dwellings with more than two people per room (overcrowding) was: in 2015, 6.5 per cent; in 2016, 7.5 per cent; in 2017, 8.1 per cent; and in 2018, 10.6 per cent.

Young people in rural areas do not have access to safe and friendly spaces in which to spend their free time. Moreover, infrastructure in both the rural and urban environment is unsatisfactory in terms of roads and paths. There is also a lack of infrastructure adapted to the needs of people with disabilities – from inaccessible roads to buildings, including public buildings.

ICT has potential to contribute to community development and the social inclusion of the socially vulnerable. However, the Republic of Moldova does not apply the concept of ‘smart cities’, from which young people might benefit.

The vision of the young people who participated in the Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals contest as a result of the implementation of the national campaign Youth of Moldova for #GlobalGoals is presented below.



Author: Liuda Hițuc

Instead, these ruins could be a commercial space, but in this place we see what we have seen for several years: ruins left to the fate of time that damages the building every year.

SDG 11, ‘Sustainable cities and communities’ – ensuring the integration of cities and human settlements, in conditions of security, resilience and sustainability.



Author: Scutelnic Ana

A problem in my city is the lack of safe spaces designed for rest and sports. There is only one such space, but it is only for children; the rest of the spaces are functional but old (some even destroyed unfortunately ...). Young people have no place to go to spend their free time outside the parks (in hot weather) and cafes.

#GlobalGoals #Moldova

⁵¹ Organizația pentru Dezvoltarea sectorului întreprinderilor mici și mijlocii (ODIMM), ‘Programul de Stat “Prima Casă”’, <https://Odimm.Md/Ro/Programe-Odimm/Prima-Casa-Program>.

PLANET

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY,
INNOVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE
CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW
WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Starting from the premise that access to clean water and sanitation is a precondition for a healthy life, young people give high priority to this goal. A basic concern of young people is the increasing degree of water pollution in the Republic of Moldova.

In the Youth Progress Index in 2017, young people of the Republic of Moldova gave the country a score for drinking water and sanitation of 56.26, and 67.53 for affordable housing for young people and utilities for that housing.⁵²

Regarding SDG indicator 6.1.1.1, the percentage of the population (with habitual residence) with access to a water supply was: in 2015, 77.0 per cent; in 2016, 77.2 per cent; in 2017, 80.8 per cent; and in 2018, 82.1 per cent. From these data it can be deduced that approximately 20 per cent of the country's population, including young people, do not have access to safe drinking water.

The percentage of the population (with habitual residence) with a bathroom and bath or shower inside the home is not high: in 2015, 40.7 per cent; in 2016, 42.8 per cent; in 2017, 45.0 per cent; and in 2018, 46.7 per cent. Hence not even half of the country's population has these utilities. The share of the population (with habitual residence) connected to the sewerage system is even lower: in 2015, 22.2 per cent; in 2016, 23.0 per cent; 23.1 in 2017; and in 2018, 29.3 per cent.

The vision of young people towards this goal, as presented in the contest Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals, is given below.



Author: [Balan Dan](#)

Water is a precious resource that can be depleted or polluted if the place you take it from is not properly cared for!



Author: [Robert Gatman](#)

In the absence of a treatment plant, for more than 20 years the waste water from the sewerage system in Soroca flows into the Nistru River, a real ecological bomb.

⁵² European Youth Forum, 'Youth Progress Index', <https://www.youthforum.org/youth-progress-index>

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



The basic problem raised by young people in the consultation process related to the inadequacy of local or national measures and programmes that encourage eco-recycling, recycling and reuse where possible, both at home and in school or college.

Below is the vision of young people towards this goal, as presented in the contest Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals.



Author: Adriana Negru

Would you choose this one from paper too?!

Me too – until I realized they're on the same scale.

Paper cups are not recyclable. They contain a lot of plastic – wrapped on the inside.

The most effective choice is durable plastic cups and glasses. Take your cup with you and wear the badge of eco-friendly young person.



Author: Alionna Isac

I support #SDG !!!

Heat-resistant biscuit-glass, filled with chocolate, intended for serving coffee or milk drinks (cappuccino, latte, etc.).

It is eaten after use.

Product is 100 per cent

#Bionatural #Eco #ConsumEco

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Given its economic structure and geographical location, the Republic of Moldova is extremely vulnerable to climate change. Young people say that this is largely due to the fact that renewable energy is not used in industry and daily life.

Thus, to reduce the release of toxic substances into the atmosphere, people are encouraged to switch to electric cars and renewable energy at home and in industry. In 2018, the Moldovan Government approved the so-called 'green economy' programme, which includes, among other things, banning the import of cars older than 7 years, restricting the movement of vehicles, including public transport, older than 15 years, and gradually switching to ecological transport.

Young people report that they have little support and access to projects and grants that could help them realize their ideas related to the objectives within the SDG component related to 'planet'.



Author: [Virineia Candy](#)

Republic of Moldova – the land of unauthorized landfills.

The land of per cent of landfills in the country comply with environmental legislation.

Although 10 per cent of recyclable waste is recovered, the remaining 90 per cent is transported to landfills, affecting the quality of soil, water, air and, consequently, life.

#reduce #reuse #recycle



Author: [Ana Maria](#)

"I want air."

The world is so big, and we humans are so small. As small as they are problematic.

I mean that we are guilty, because we destroy the climate.

The rubbish of the Strășeni district, I hope that one day it will disappear.

SDG 13: Action on climate.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The Republic of Moldova does not have direct access to the sea; SDG 14 does, however, relate to all rivers and water reservoirs.

Young people are concerned about river pollution and the impact it has on life under water. Urban and industrial pollution of rivers brings challenges for the population living downstream, but the authorities do not take the problem seriously.

This SDG is one that participants in the contest Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals took the most photos for, which indicates its importance to young people.



Author: Angelica Lupusor

What is water?

A child born from the union of a father, oxygen, and a mother, hydrogen: H₂O, said Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov.



Author: Анастасия Робулец

Writers could find beauty in absolutely unpleasant things; this is called an aesthetic of the ugly ...

Unfortunately, I can't follow those who found beauty in shells, because I can't find beauty even in the rubbish of the nearby lake ...

SDG 14 – Life below water

15 LIFE ON LAND



Green spaces in the Republic of Moldova are constantly declining. According to national statistics, MoldSilva restored 4,681 ha of forest in 2015, 4,190 ha in 2016, 4,639 ha in 2017 and 4,853 ha in 2019. However, about 11 per cent of the region is forest, which is below the critical limit of 15 per cent to ensure a minimum level of environmental services based on forestry.

As for the previous goal, this goal is also one for which participants in the contest Youth Media Ambassadors for #GlobalGoals took some of the most photos; this indicates the goal's relevance to young people.



Flora and fauna have become much more important in recent decades. Why?

The simple reason is the consequences caused especially by man. Protecting nature has become an extremely important issue; people are not aware of the negative consequences of pollution. Let's not be indifferent about flora and fauna; this hedgehog can reach the Red List at any time!



Heal the earth; make a decision in favour of nature!

Nowadays, plastics surround us no matter in which direction we look; in the sky, in the water, in the earth, plastic is present as small particles that we breathe and reach our food, thus destroying our immunity and leading to disease, making the entire planet vulnerable to various diseases and epidemics [...].

Young people participating in the questionnaire about the SDGs gave the following assessment of the environment (whether it provides a clean and healthy environment, clean waters, and forests) (see Figure 16).

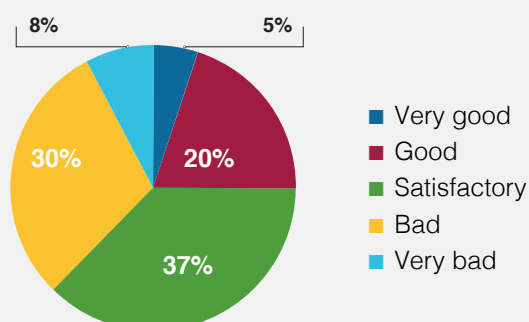


FIGURE 16: Young people's view of the environment

PEACE

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY,
INNOVATION AND
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10 REDUCED
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11 SUSTAINABLE
CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



When evaluating this objective in consultations with the 253 young people surveyed during the VNR process, they described their assessment of the safety of young people in society (see Figure 17).

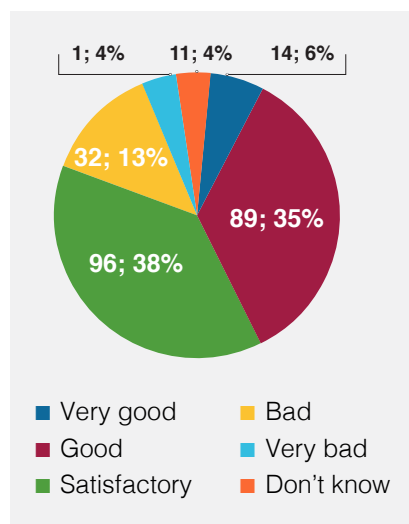


Figure 17: Young people's view of their safety in society

Statistical data on youth in the Republic of Moldova show that the number of young people aged 14–29 who commit crimes is decreasing – from 9,400 people in 2014 to 6,900 in 2018. Women comprise 7.5 per cent of the total number of young people who committed crimes. Most of the young people who committed crimes were aged 18–24 years (49.8 per cent), followed by the 25–29 years age group (33.1 per cent) and the 14–17 years age group (17.1 per cent).

Regarding the categories of offenses, most often young people aged 14–29 years commit crimes such as theft, hooliganism and robbery. In 2018, a third of young people aged 14–29 who crime carried out theft (30.3 per cent), followed by people who committed acts of hooliganism (6.8 per cent) and those who committed robbery and theft (6.0 per cent). Out of 10,000 young people aged 14–29, 131.3 people have committed crime.⁵³

At the same time, young people describe a distrust to the Moldovan legal system due to suspicions in society that the justice system is corrupt. Public confidence in the judiciary is declining. The Government of the Republic of Moldova is frequently convicted at the European Court of Human Rights, where in the last 18 years the country has lost more than 300 lawsuits and paid compensation worth 16 million euro.



Author: Constanta Rogut

***„But what power do weapons have?
If words hurt us again,
In a world I've been
We're throwing pointless weapons ...”***

Today is about peace ... diversity and human rights.

⁶⁵ Biroul Național de Statistică al Republicii Moldova, 'Tinerii în Republica Moldova în anul 2018', August 2019, <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=6431>.



Author: Mihai Zubcu

Consider how people in the Republic of Moldova are treated by 'competent' institutions. The Republic of Moldova is a wonderland, and we can do something to save the situation.

Be the change you want to see in the world. SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

#GlobalGoals #globalgoals #YouthODD



Author: Matei Patricia

Cases of violence are increasing considerably; people in my community are also suffering ...

Children are often exposed to violence because they did not do their homework, received a bad grade, told a lie ... Parents often use violence, which is completely wrong! As a result of the aggression, children suffer from exclusively negative consequences on their physical and mental health. Parents need to explain to their children calmly, telling them what to do, so that they understand what they have to correct.

PARTNERSHIPS

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



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AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Young people face multiple challenges and problems,⁵⁴ largely because of the lack of connection and partnerships between state institutions with the capacity to monitor and coordinate the development of local and national youth policies. Thus, problems in the youth sector in the Republic of Moldova may be exacerbated by the non-functioning of the Governmental Commission for Youth Policies, the failure to establish a national agency for the development of youth programmes and activities, and the lack of co-management commissions at district level.

Although 23 district youth councils have been established at the district level to make the voice of young people heard at the local level, along with student councils, young people's suggestions are not always implemented by decision-makers, for various reasons such as a lack of financial resources, disinterest and ignorance. In this regard, a U-Report survey⁵⁵ shows how effective young people think they are in advocacy processes (see Figures 18 and 19).

How often does the mayor consider your opinion?

1782
respondents

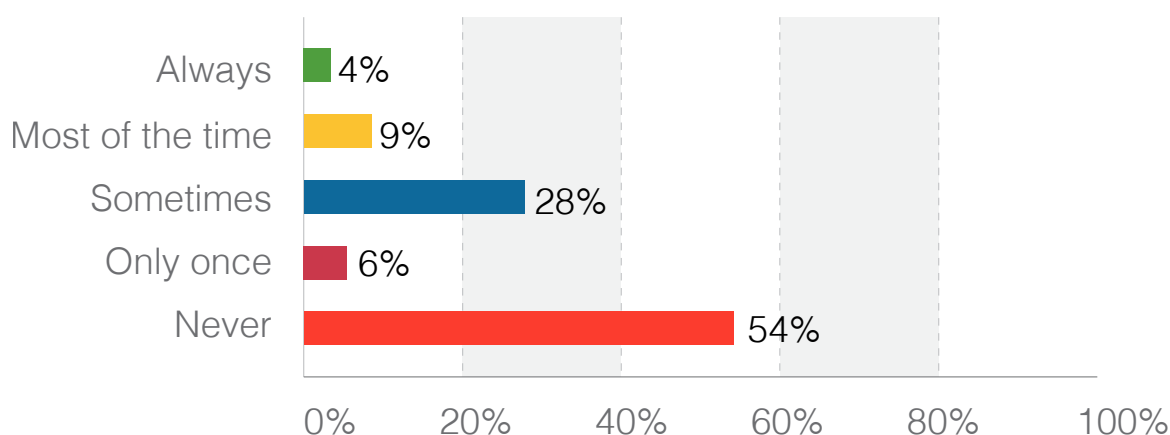


Figure 18: Young people's views of the effectiveness of young people in the advocacy processes initiated by them at the local level

Do you think that the national authorities take your opinion into account?

1754
respondents

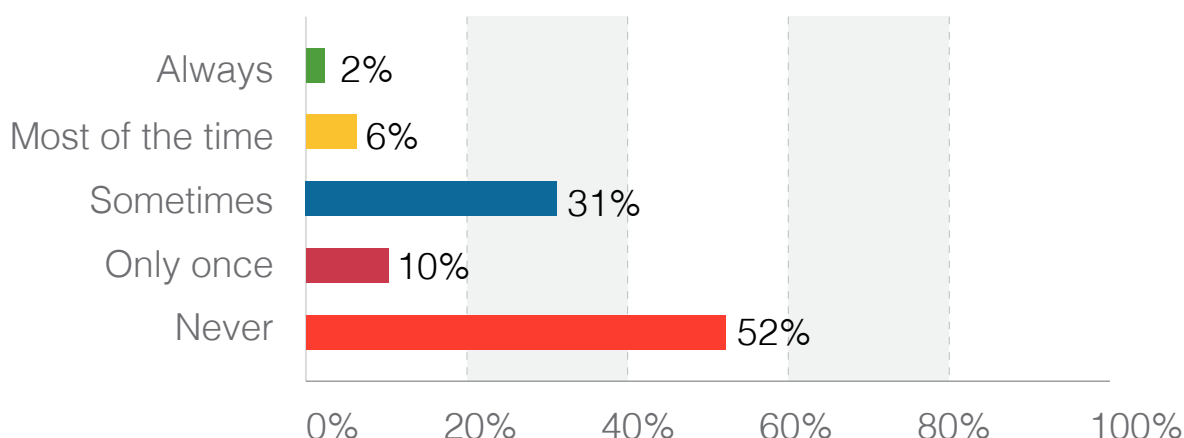


Figure 19: Young people's view of their effectiveness in advocacy processes at the national level

⁵⁴ Parlamentul Republicii Moldova, 'Raportului Parlamentului de evaluare ex-post de impact asupra Legii nr.215/2016 cu privire la tineret', 2019, <http://parlament.md/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=zZT75zYwxPI%3d&tabid=104&language=ro-RO>.

⁵⁵ U-Report Moldova, 'Barometrul participării tinerilor', 24 January 2020, <https://moldova.ureport.in/opinion/1527/>.

At the same time, a barrier to ensuring sustainable partnerships for young people is the fact that young people and youth organizations are not members of the 'colleges' established under ministries.

A good platform for collaboration between the local central public administration and the youth sector is the Youth Capital initiative, which aims to promote co-operation between young people and youth organizations in Moldova. Youth Capital is hosted annually in various localities in the country. Due to Youth Capital, it has been possible to mobilize existing local resources for better economic and social development, based on the real needs and objectives of young people.

The national network of youth centres in the Republic of Moldova brings together young people, youth organizations and public administration. Youth centres exist in 22 district centres in the country, some of which have branches in villages.

In order to strengthen partnerships between state institutions and non-governmental youth organizations, a grant programme has been set up for the latter. At the same time, in some districts of the country, the local public administration has set up its own grant programmes to support young people and youth organizations.

Regarding funding of the youth sector at the district level, local budgets are much lower than state budget. The budget for 2019 was 418 million MDL, an increase of about 17 per cent on the budget for 2018; increases of over 4 per cent annually will be made in subsequent years. It is worth mentioning, however, that some districts did not allocate or spend anything in 2018 on youth activities at district level (under the programme TINERET (YOUTH)).⁵⁶

United Nations agencies in the Republic of Moldova and other development partners of the country that have programmes to develop the youth sector play an important role and create a platform for dialogue between interested parties.



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There is a need to strengthen the means of implementing and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. [...]

⁵⁶ Indoitu, Ana, and Igor Ciurea, 'Evaluarea cheltuielilor destinate sectorului de tineret a APL-urilor de nivelul II: Anul Bugetar 2018', Consiliul Național al Tineretului din Moldova, 2019, <http://cntm.md/ro/publication/evaluarea-cheltuielilor-destinate-sectorului-de-tineret-apl-urilor-de-nivelul-ii>.

ACTIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS IN THE NEXT DECADE

PEOPLE

- 1** Implementing school subjects dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as increasing young people's access to modern contraceptives.
- 2** Increasing the number of young people receiving health insurance, and ensuring that quality medical services are accessible to, and do not discriminate against, those in the socially vulnerable or rural population.
- 3** Developing mental health programmes for young people.
- 4** Promoting healthy lifestyles among young people and facilitating them (through free or discounted subscriptions to gyms, opening sports facilities where they do not already exist).
- 5** Reducing inequalities and strengthening efforts to include children with special educational needs in the education system.
- 6** Ensuring a harmonious and safe environment for students in educational institutions in order to prevent and combat discrimination and harassment, ensuring that no one is excluded or left behind.
- 7** Ensuring the accessibility of educational institutions to the needs of children and young people with disabilities, as well as equipping schools with buses adapted to the needs of children with disabilities.
- 8** Creating appropriate conditions for the comfort of students, in particular replacing toilets located in the school yard and constructing appropriate toilets.
- 9** Establishing mechanisms to recognize knowledge gained in non-formal contexts that ensure the practical lifelong learning process.
- 10** Including ecological education in the school curriculum in order to give young people the skills for managing environmental resources (water, soil, flora, and fauna).
- 11** Promoting entrepreneurship and financial and entrepreneurial education in the school curriculum, as well as attracting competent staff in the field.
- 12** Correlating the educational curriculum with the requirements of the labour market, and ensuring large-scale implementation of vocational education combined with work experience, thus giving young people relevant skills for employment.
- 13** Developing MOOC (massive open online course)-type educational programmes for technical vocational education, which is a promising way to offer a flexible and accessible educational process to a large number of young people, not limited to the student group.
- 14** Digitizing the education system in the country and ensuring that even those in the socially vulnerable category have access to it.
- 15** Developing and implementing funding mechanisms (scholarships and grants) for students interested in research and innovation.
- 16** Creating and implementing policies that encourage the participation of girls and women throughout life, as well as combating discrimination against them in all areas.
- 17** Running awareness campaigns on the importance of equality between girls/women and boys/men and combatting hate speech based on gender.



PROSPERITY

- 1** Developing national programmes that encourage the population to use renewable energy for domestic purposes.
- 2** Creating the national infrastructure for powering electric cars and providing facilities for electric car users.
- 3** Using renewable energy in national industry.
- 4** Reducing poverty by creating opportunities for equitable and non-discriminatory employment among young people in rural and urban areas.
- 5** Establishing a government programme of paid professional internships and internships in public institutions, following the model established at European Union institution level.
- 6** Reducing youth unemployment and combating the practice of informal work.
- 7** Reducing inequalities in employment and ensuring an inclusive workplace environment in which no one is subjected to discriminatory treatment.
- 8** Increasing salaries in order to retain young people and avoid staff fluctuations.
- 9** Increasing the number of young beneficiaries of state programmes to support small businesses.
- 10** Creating additional mechanisms for young people who have reduced opportunities to access entrepreneurship programmes.
- 11** Encouraging the development of social enterprises and increasing opportunities for socially vulnerable groups.
- 12** Supporting agricultural entrepreneurs to reduce the amount of abandoned land.
- 13** Ensuring the sustainability of young people's initiatives in entrepreneurship, by establishing exemptions from tax for 3 years.
- 14** Adjusting the timetable of inter-urban transport in rural areas to meet the needs of young people, while ensuring the accessibility of transport to young people with disabilities.
- 15** Investing in the digitization of youth activities and services.
- 16** Developing community leisure centres and services, recreation, and non-formal education in rural areas.
- 17** Facilitating intergenerational communication and involving young people in discussing and implementing local social inclusion mechanisms.
- 18** Developing and ensuring the sustainability of outreach services and ensuring viable tools for working with young people in hard-to-reach areas and with vulnerable groups or people with special needs.
- 19** Revising the First House programme to be more attractive and accessible to young people.
- 20** Making the infrastructure of cities and villages accessible to those with disabilities.
- 21** Implementing 'smart cities' in the Republic of Moldova.
- 22** Establishing ring roads for the city of Chişinău to avoid urban congestion.



PLANET

- 1 Providing young people with support and access to projects and grants provided by the Government for implementing the SDG related to the planet.
- 2 Regenerating green spaces and investing in programmes to protection soil against erosion.
- 3 Establishing commissions to verify the quality of water from wells, rivers and springs (especially in the rural sector) and to prevent their pollution.
- 4 Developing and implementing programmes to encourage the population to be environmentally friendly (e.g. rewarding rubbish collection with free tickets to the theatre or for public transport).
- 5 Giving grants to young people for the development of organic and safe agriculture at local level.
- 6 Promoting awareness-raising campaigns on the need to be eco-friendly and encouraging the use of organic food.

PEACE

- 1 Increasing measures to prevent and combat crime among young people.
- 2 Developing district services to protect victims of domestic violence and prevent human trafficking.
- 3 Increasing the salaries of workers in the legal system and making them responsible.
- 4 Fighting corruption in the legal system.
- 5 Running awareness-raising campaigns against domestic violence and corruption.

PARTNERSHIPS

- 1 Establishing and ensuring the functioning of the National Agency for the Development of Youth Programs and Activities, the Governmental Commission for Youth Policies and the district co-management commissions.
- 2 Reviewing the internal regulations of the ministries of the Republic of Moldova and ensuring that young people and youth organizations will be represented in the ministries.
- 3 Supporting the creation of local co-management commissions to coordinate sectoral interventions for young people.
- 4 Ensuring the sustainability of state policies that affect the SDGs and youth by allocating sufficient financial resources for their implementation at local, district and national level, and diversifying sources of finance.
- 5 Promoting and ensuring the participation of young people in decision-making processes at all levels, with young people guaranteeing the use of the potential and resources of both groups on an equal footing.
 - Developing training programmes for civil servants and dignitaries with leadership positions working with young people.
 - Supporting the development of local youth infrastructure, including youth centres and youth organizations.



