



Youth Policy



Youth Policy in Portugal

- Designed and implemented in an integrated manner, so that it is possible to face the several challenges that young people encounter, counting on their own participation for the solution of the problems as people with rights, through youth organisations and representative structures.
- The youth policy sector has established and strengthened itself over the years, with the first National Youth Plan launched in 2018, framed in the European priorities and in the needs of young Portuguese.

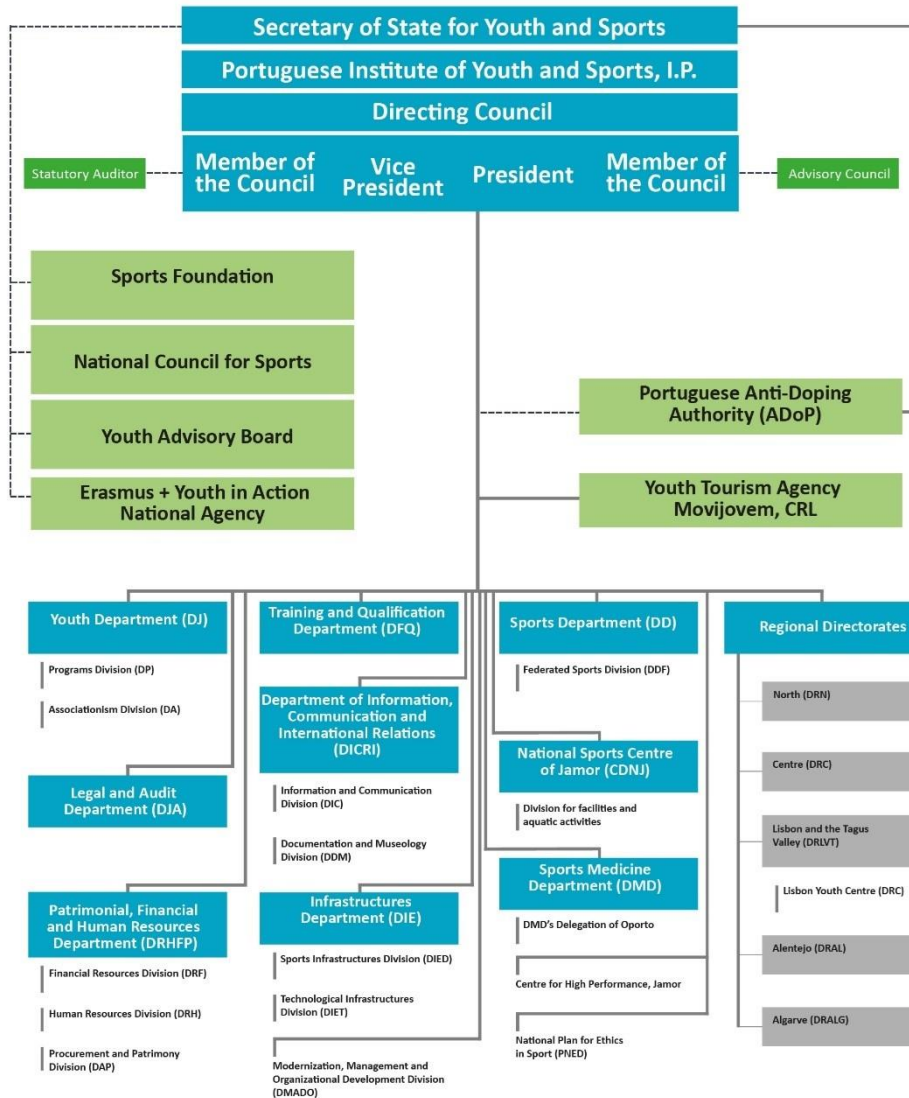


Youth Policy Governance

- The highest authority responsible for Youth Policy is the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports (SEJD), which is currently under the purview of the Ministry of Education. The executive and operational body of Youth Policies is the Portuguese Institute for Sports and Youth (IPDJ, IP).
- The policy development in a participatory manner is also reflected in the existence of advisory bodies such as the Youth Advisory Council, the Advisory Council of the IPDJ, the National Youth Council (CNJ) and, locally, the City Councils, among others.
- The National Youth Plan (PNJ) is a instrument of coordination of youth policies in Portugal and takes into account as well the international benchmarks from the United Nations (UN), the Council Of Europe, the European Union (EU), the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) and the International Youth Organisation for Ibero-America, namely: UN Agenda 2030, EU Youth Strategy, Ibero-American Youth Pact and CPLP's Youth Charter.



Organisational Structure - Organogram



Target Population of Youth Policy

- In Portugal, the age of youth policy's target population varies between 12 and 30 years, although there are some specific programmes that go beyond the 30 year demographic.
- There is no uniform legal definition as different laws, programmes and initiatives define lower and upper age limits differently, which vary according to the area of activity, the type of programme and the support rendered. However, the most commonly adopted age range is from 18 to 30 years.
- The Law on Youth Associations stipulates that youth associations are those with more than 80% of members aged 30 or under, in which the executive body is made up of 80% of young people aged 30 or under and led by a young person aged 30.



National Youth Strategy

- Reflected in the National Youth Plan (PNJ), approved in September 2018. It is the political instrument of youth policy's intersectoral coordination in Portugal with the mission of rendering its transversality concrete and in order to strengthen the special protection of young people's rights, as stated in article 70 of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic.
- PNJ assumes a balance between comprehensive youth policies and policies targeted to groups in vulnerable situation or with specific needs. Priorities were settled in certain groups, profiles or social issues, but flexible to all border situations.
- Key domains: Formal and Non-Formal Education, Employment, Health and Housing.
- Key themes: Governance and Participation, Equality and Social Inclusion, Environment and Sustainable Development.
- Action Plans: Priority and strategic goals were devised for each domain or theme, and those correspond to an action plan grounded on the contribution from the different areas of government, which are transcribed bellow.
- The National Youth Plan 2018-2021 is coordinated by the Portuguese Institute for Youth and Sport (IPDJ, IP).



National Youth Plan 2018-2021

The National Youth Plan guides the designing, execution and assessment of measures in strategic areas: Formal and Non-Formal Education; Employment; Health; Housing; Environment and Sustainable Development; Equality and Social Inclusion and Governance and Participation.

The definition of the strategic areas was the result of a wide listening process made to the young people and the main players of the sector (youth organisations, youth technicians, academies, and municipalities).

For the plan's execution were taken into account 4000 answers to an online survey, the results of a youth's National Forum, group interviews, the results of an survey made to municipalities and the contributions of the organisations that are part of the Consultive Council of Youth. The engagement of all governmental areas has enabled the registration of about 250 measures.

In relation to political fields specified by the European Union, the national public policy develops a series of programmes and projects converging with European objectives through the institute IPDJ or partners.

We can cite some examples, such as the following.



National Youth Plan 2018-2021

- Employment and entrepreneurship
 - The Empreende Já - RPGN Program was created to stimulate an entrepreneurial culture, centered on creativity and innovation and to support the creation and development of companies and entities of the social economy, as well as the creation of jobs to and from young people.
 - Action 1: Support for the development of projects to create companies and social economy entities, based on their own ideas or made available through the business promotion network;
 - Action 2: Support for the sustainability of entities and jobs created under the Program, resulting from projects developed in Action 1.
 - The Associative Development Stimulus Program (IDA Program - Incentive to Associative Development) is aimed at youth associations and federations with an approved application to the Internship and Employment Program of the Institute of Employment and Professional Training (IEFP).



National Youth Plan 2018-2021

- Education and Training

- The Formar+ Programme (Programa Formar+) consists of training and financial support to leaders of youth associations registered in RNAJ, also providing training directed at youth workers and at young people or members of associations.

- Participation and Citizenship

- The “Youth Parliament” Programme (Parlamento dos Jovens) aims to stimulate young people’s interest in civic and political participation.
- “EuroSchool” Contest (Euroscola) promotes the selection of schools that can participate in Strasbourg’s EuroSchool.tute for Sports and Youth (IPDJ, I.P.).

- Social Inclusion

- The main actor in this field is the High Commission for Migration with the “Choices Programme” (Programa Escolhas).



National Youth Plan 2018-2021

- Health and Well-Being

- The “Take Care of Yourself” Program (CUIDA-TE) aims the promotion of youth health and healthy lifestyles.

- Volunteering

- The Agora Nós programme aims to promote and stimulate the practice of volunteering, as a means of acquiring skills. Within this program there are the following programs: Long Term Action of Young Generation Z Volunteering; Long Term Action of Young 70 Já Volunteering; Long Term Action of Young Volunteering Dating with Fair Play.
- There is also the Youth Volunteering for Nature and Forests programme outside the Agora Nós programme

- Creativity and Culture

- The Young Artists Programme (Programa Jovens Criadores) intends to create promotion opportunities for the work of the country’s young creators, who usually don't have access to cultural circuits, by stimulating and supporting the initiative, creativity and innovation of young nationals. It is comprised of two initiatives: Young Creators Competition and National Showcase of Young Creators.



Youth Policy Funding

- The specific budget for public youth policies comes from three sources: the Portuguese State Budget, Community Funds and the income of the organism that has the executive power to run public youth policies – IPDJ.
- All projects and programmes developed in the following scopes of action are funded: associationism, employment and entrepreneurship, volunteering, creativity and culture, health, leisure, citizenship and participation, mobility, non-formal education.



Youth Policy Funding

- **Community Funds**

- Between 2016 and 2020, through the Regional Directorate of the North, the IPDJ applied for the ERDF, under the Interregional Operational Programme for Cross-border Cooperation Spain-Portugal (Programa Operacional INTERREG V A ESPANHA-PORTUGAL – POCTEP), which aims to actively promote the participation of Iberian young people, through their associative movements and in collaboration with public organisms with responsibilities in the youth sector, in the construction and implementation of regional, national and Iberian youth policies, in proposals for the improvement of youth policy in the European Union (thus, contributing to improve the European youth policy), as well as in the development of synergies and economies of scale, resorting to cross-border cooperation and seizing the opportunities created by this cooperation.

- The IPDJ, in the period between 2016 and 2020, will be involved in three projects: LIDERA; EUROCIDADE 2020 and JUVIBERIA, to stimulate the cooperation between the organisms responsible for youth policies, effectively implementing the cooperation work opportunities identified in the first Iberian youth summit and in the Juviberia agenda, taking into account the diverse intervention domains and the transversality of both countries' youth policies. These projects' budget is approximately 1.420.703.12 euros.



Cross-border Cooperation

- Portugal's international intervention in the Youth domain has focused, both bilaterally and multilaterally, on Europe (European Union and Council of Europe), on Africa, namely with the member countries of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) and on Iberian-America, especially the International Youth Organisation for Iberian-America (IYO).
- There are other situations in which international organisations are by definition non-governmental and non-profit and bring together governmental and non-governmental organisations, such as ERYICA - European Information and Counselling Agency, which participation is characterised as programmatic.
- Portugal, through IPDJ, has bilateral agreements in the area of youth with several countries, namely Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Morocco, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and East Timor. These protocols support and promote the development of joint activities and direct contact between young people and promote cooperation between youth organisations and political actors. There is also intensive cooperation between the cross-border regions of Portugal and Spain.



Cross-border Cooperation

- **Council of Europe**

Portugal is represented in the youth sector's statutory bodies, namely at the European Steering Committee on Youth (CDEJ) and the Programming Committee on Youth, by the Portuguese Institute for Sports and Youth (IPDJ). In 2015, the Council of Europe (CoE) awarded the Quality Label to IPDJ's Lisbon Youth Centre, a space for young people and youth associations where they can develop their ideas, in the spirit of CoE values.

- **OIJ – Youth International Organization for Ibero-America**

OIJ is an intergovernmental organization that brings together Youth Ministers from the Iberian-American Community (Latin America and countries of the Iberian Peninsula). Its aim is "to contribute to the processes of meeting the needs of young people in Iberian-America and to expand their potential as agents of change and transformation of the region towards inclusive, supportive and peaceful societies".

Portugal is a member of this international intergovernmental organisation that aims to promote the development of youth policies in the Ibero-American region.



Cross-border Cooperation

- **CPLP-CMJD –Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sport of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries**

The Conference is based on the Cooperation Agreement in the Field of Youth and Sports signed between the member states of the CPLP.

- **UN – United Nations**

Since the approval of the Youth International Day by the UN General Assembly in 1999, following the proposal made by the World Youth Forum to the 1st World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, organised by Portugal in co-operation with the United Nations (Lisbon, Portugal, 1998), together with Moldova and Senegal, Portugal promotes the issuing and approval by the UN-GA of the Resolution on Youth every two years, with the participation of young people's representatives.





Youth Policy in Portugal

Thank You!