



Foundation for Advancement  
of Moldova

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Յուրաքանչյուրը  
Everybody Counts



National Endowment  
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EASTERN PARTNERSHIP  
Civil Society Forum

# Everybody Counts International Youth Forum

27-30 September 2017 | Yerevan, Armenia

## Recommendations

### Context

The package of recommendations was developed by 50 young people, youth workers, community leaders and activists from Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine within the framework of an International Youth Forum taking place in Yerevan, Armenia.

The Forum was organized on the margins of “Everybody Counts: Rural Youth Empowerment in Eastern Partnership Countries” project which is being implemented by **Armenian Progressive Youth NGO** (Armenia) in collaboration with **Foundation for Advancement of Moldova** (Moldova) and **Society Initiatives Institute** (Ukraine).

As a part of the project’s efforts of mainstreaming youth participation issues, the forum brought together rural youth, the civil society actors and the government representatives to discuss and develop a package of recommendations promoting youth participation and inclusion. The recommendations were developed by the Forum participants based on the “Youth Participation” online survey findings and discussions with youth workers.

The participants of various backgrounds coming from different sectors and regions of Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine were divided into the following 4 working groups:

1. Fostering Participation of young people with fewer opportunities and youth from the rural and deprived urban communities through **Employment and Entrepreneurship**;
2. Fostering Participation of young people with fewer opportunities and youth from the rural and deprived urban communities through **Formal and Non-formal Education**;
3. Fostering Participation of young people with fewer opportunities and youth from the rural and deprived urban communities through **Political and Civic Participation**;
4. Fostering Participation of young people with fewer opportunities and youth from the rural and deprived urban communities through **International Cooperation and Mobility**.

**The drafted recommendations are as follows:**

*In order to foster participation of young people with fewer opportunities and youth from the rural and deprived urban communities through employment and entrepreneurship*

**Educational Institutions should:**

1. Strengthen the collaboration between universities and the business sector, in particular, through creating synergies between university faculties and relevant business fields to foster sales of student capstone projects, professional internship placements and job fairs.
2. Conduct a labour market needs assessment and based on the findings of the research update the university curricula in order to make the latter more relevant to the labour market needs.
3. Expand the framework and the reach of career orientation projects for high-school students through visits to future potential university they are about to enter and visits to companies where they can experience their future profession.

**Relevant Ministries should:**

4. Support the creation and expansion of career centres, which periodically organize job fairs, soft skills trainings as well as assist students in finding internships, etc.
5. Incorporate high-quality “economic literacy” subjects into high school and university curricula.

**National Governments should:**

6. Create scaffolding mechanisms, such as tax reduction, government subsidies, support in consultancy and advertisement for youth-led local businesses.

*In order to foster participation of young people with fewer opportunities and youth from the rural and deprived urban communities through formal and non-formal education*

**Relevant Ministries should:**

1. Encourage broader recognition of non-formal education, particularly on civic education, inclusion, democracy, environmental issues etc. Education should adopt both theoretical and practical methods with the option of combining studies with work experience, volunteering or internships.
2. Through cooperation with Higher Education Institutions and employers, non-formal education can be encouraged through career counselling and mentoring programmes in cooperation with businesses and local organisations.

**National Governments should:**

3. Invest greater resources in modernising education and adequately training teachers at all levels.
4. Strive for full and non-biased implementation of Bologna process reforms, including ensuring the academic freedom for students and faculty.

*In order to foster political and civic participation of young people with fewer opportunities and youth from the rural and deprived urban communities*

**Relevant Ministries should:**

5. Encourage educational institutions to create a supportive environment for the civil and political participation of youth.
6. Make the grant schemes more supportive of not only the established NGOs but also of the broader youth initiative groups.
7. Implement tax regulation reforms that enable an environment where business sector allocates financial resources within their corporate social responsibility budgets towards financing projects that promote civil and political activism in rural communities.
8. Encourage national NGOs to prioritize projects that aim to stimulate civic engagement.

9. Stimulate creation of online platforms, where youth needs assessment surveys and polls on youth projects and drafts to laws can take place.

**National Governments should:**

10. Encourage local authorities to create a system where youth councils assume their full role of a consulting body of the local and national political systems.

*In order to foster participation of young people with fewer opportunities and youth from the rural and deprived urban communities through international cooperation and mobility*

**The European Union should:**

1. Encourage intergovernmental dialogue to broaden mutual cooperation between EU and Eastern Partnership countries.
2. Encourage increased cooperation between embassies and governments to simplify visa acquisition process for students that participate in youth mobility projects.

**Relevant Ministries should:**

3. Establish consulting and coordination centres for informational assistance on youth mobility projects.

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