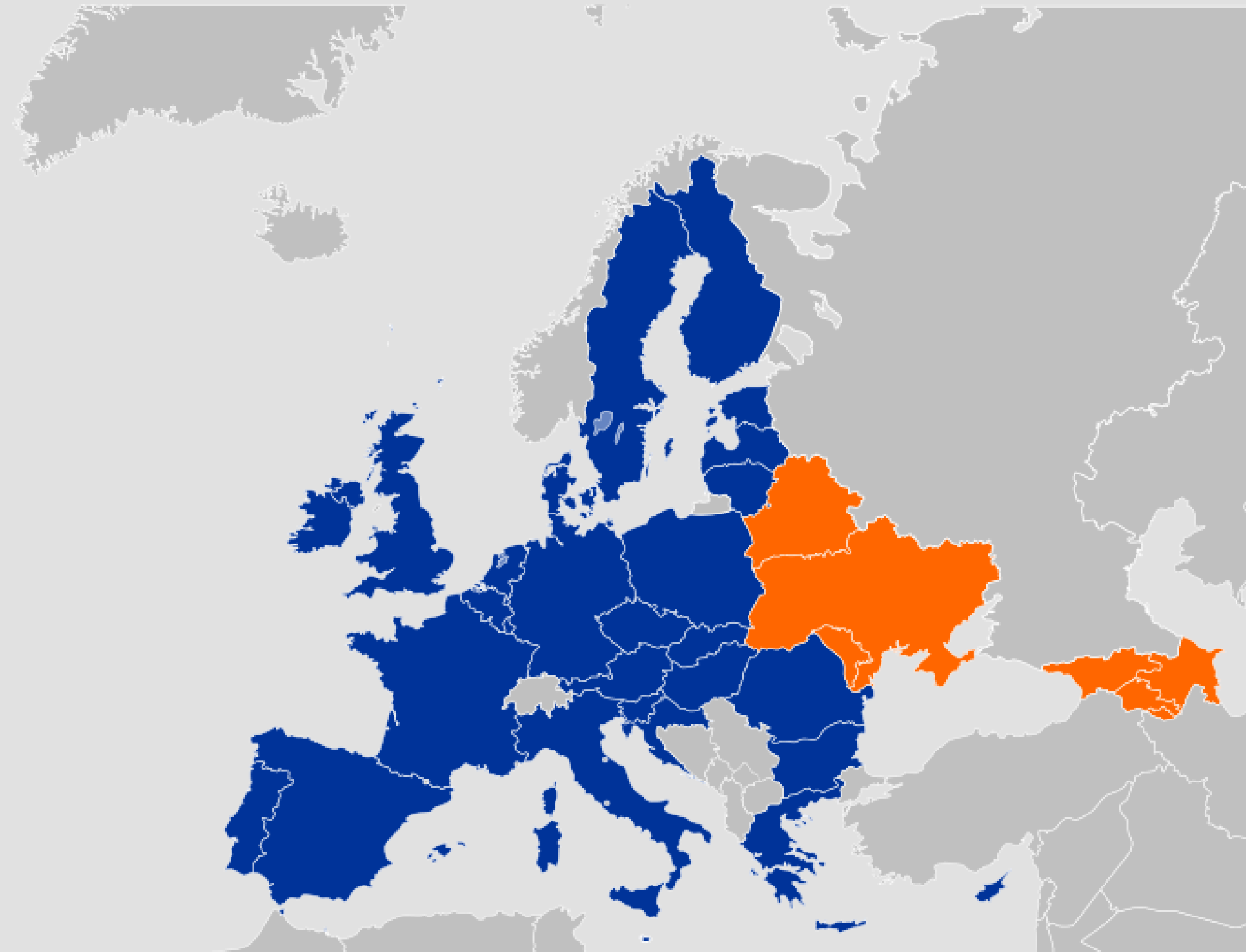
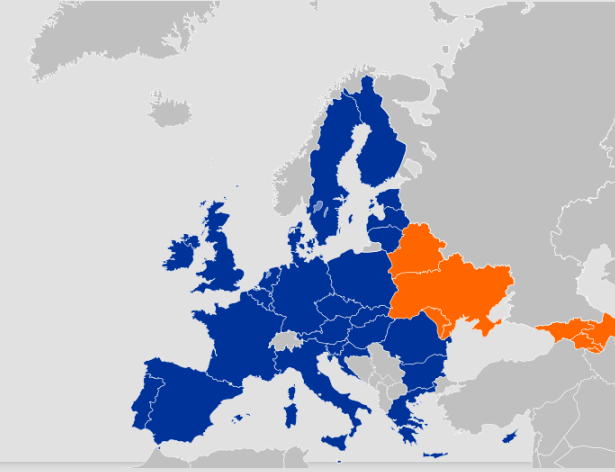


# Youth Policy in the Eastern Partnership region



# Session structure



## Youth Policy

- Definition
- Typology
- Key elements

## Young people in EaP

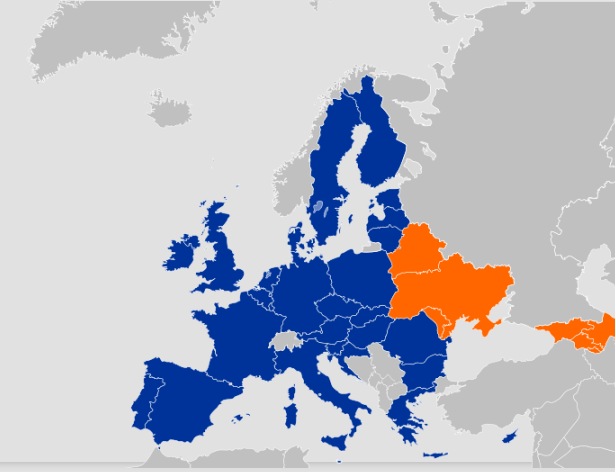
- Age range
- Population
- Employment

## Youth policy in all six EaP countries

- Actors
- Implementation
- Cross-sectoral co-operation
- Legal background
- Evidence base

## Summary

- Progress
- Gaps
- Trends
- Recommendations



## Definition

- **Umbrella term** – public policies focuses on needs and expectations of young people
- No universally accepted definition
- No international youth policy (CoE/EU/UN)

## Scope

- **Broad view** of youth policy: all policies concerning or affecting young people
- **Narrow view** of youth policy: only measures not covered by other policy areas (e.g. education, housing, social welfare, employment, etc.)

## Positive vs negative youth policy

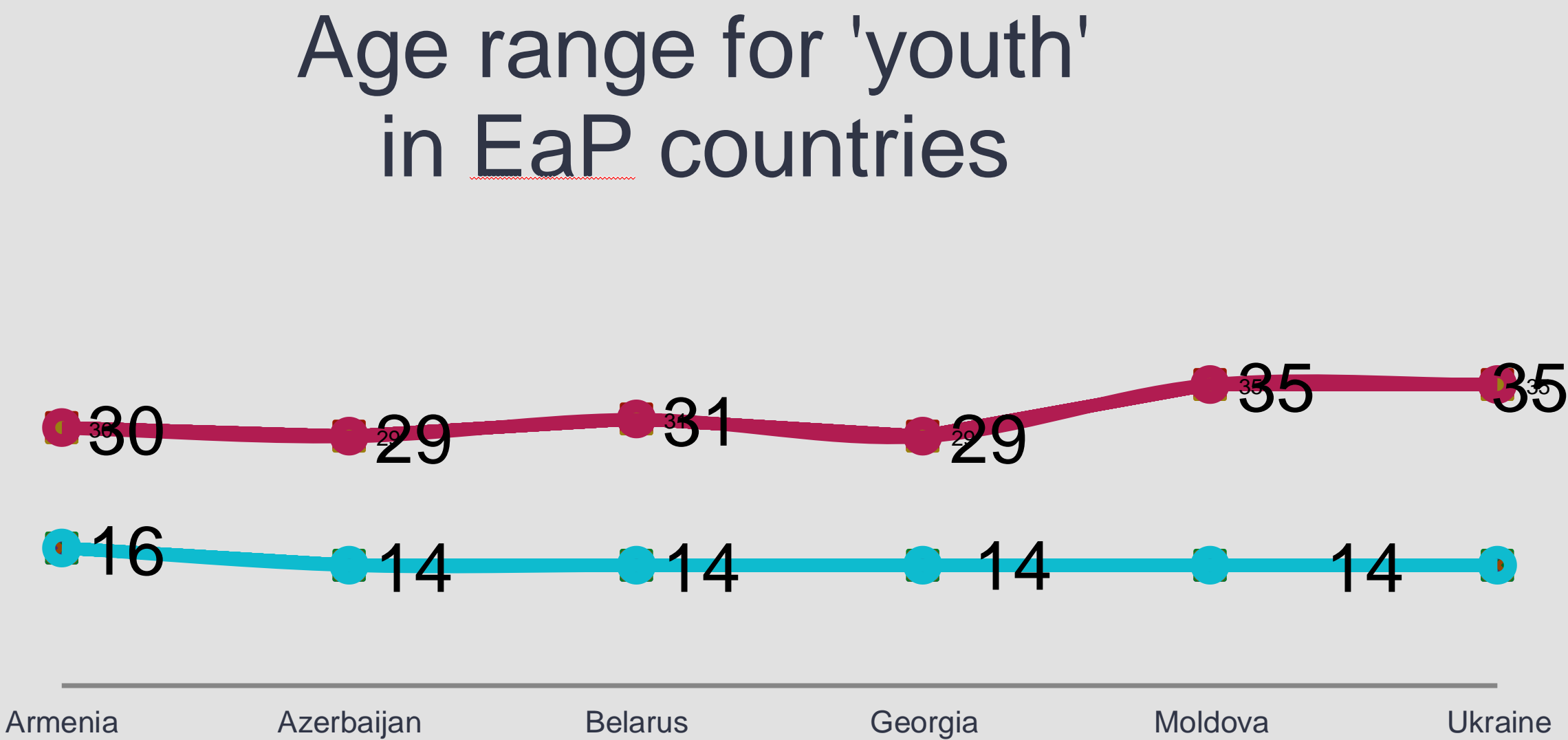
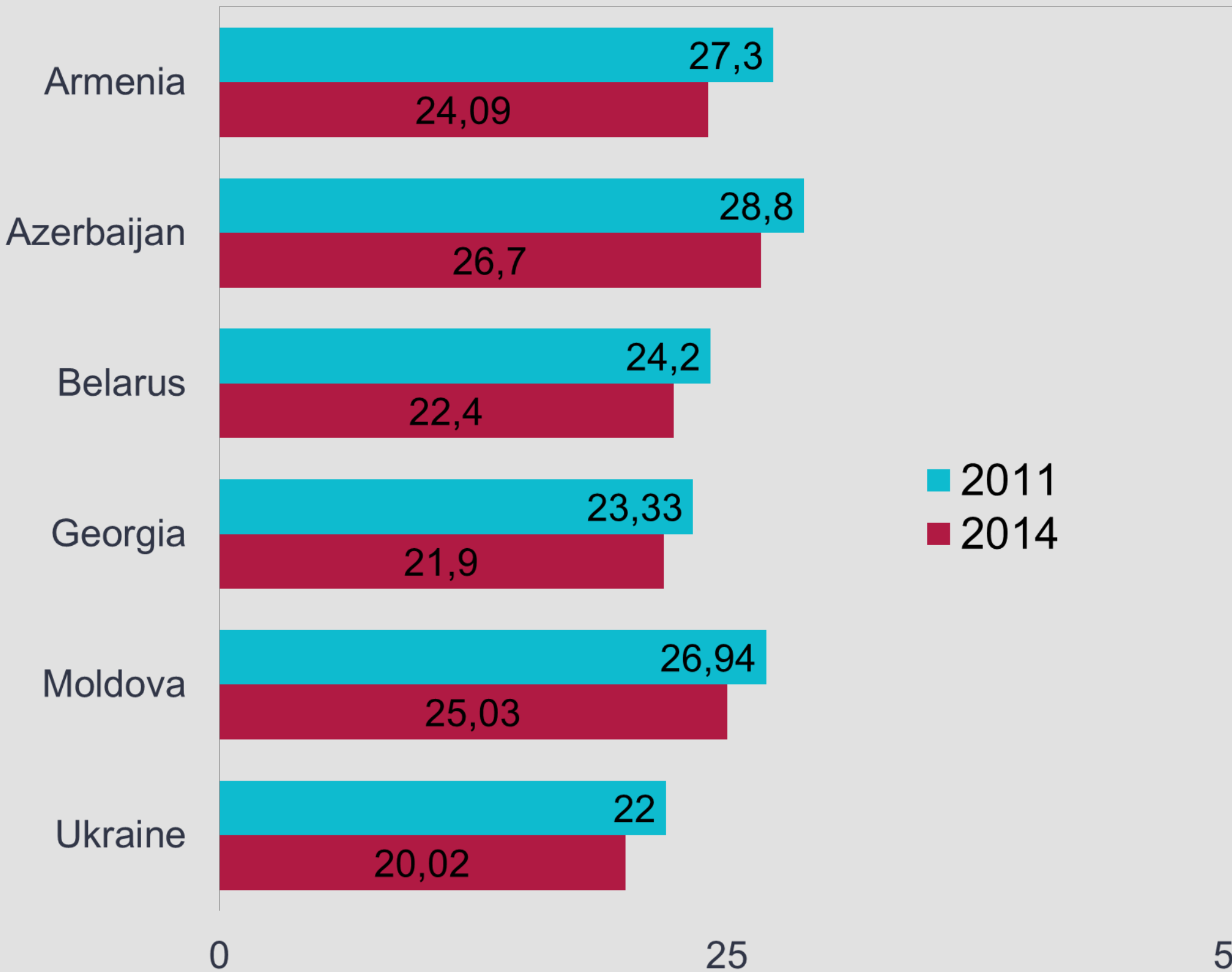
- **Positive:** all measures taken by government and public actors
- **Negative:** lack of action, absence of measures

## Main elements

Central/government youth policy; Local youth policy; Parliamentary supervision; Legal environment (constitutional and other); Youth services; Implementing institutions; Youth organisations; International co-operation in the field of youth; Youth participation in policy-making and decision-making; Youth policy evidence base

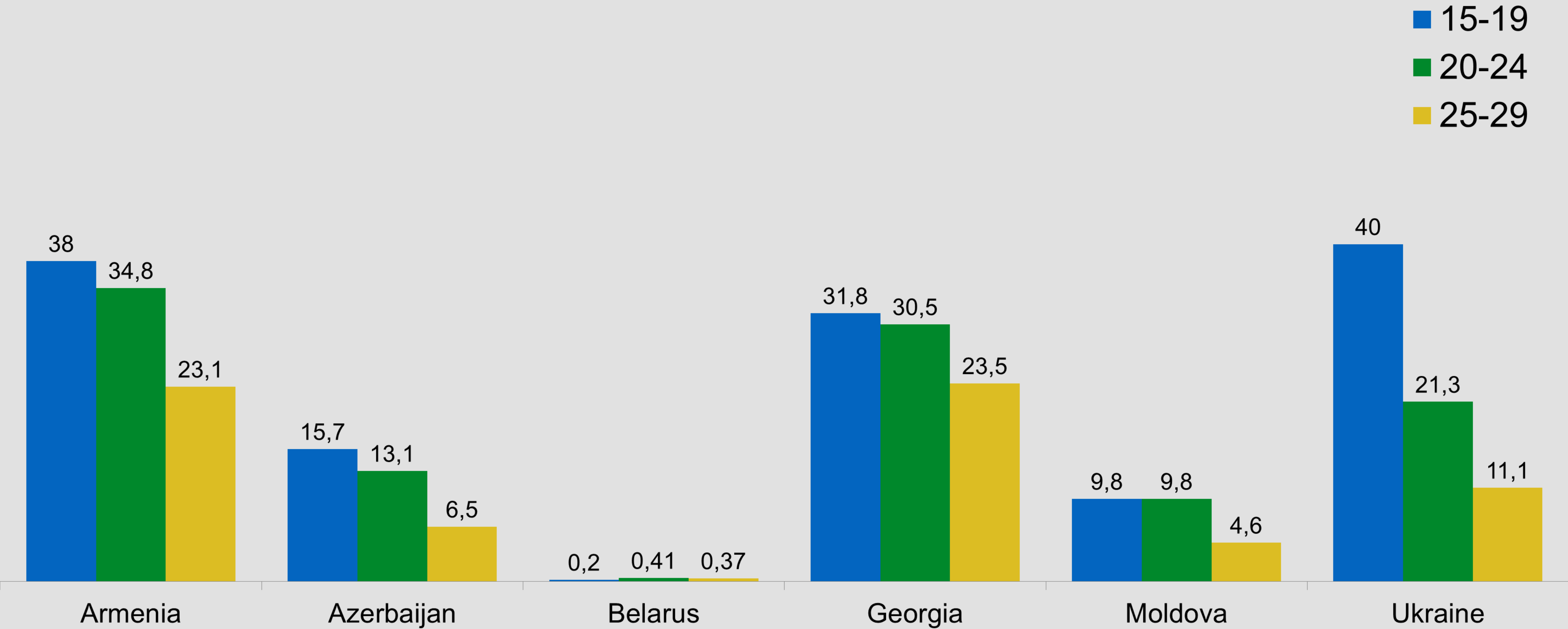
# Share of Young people in EaP Countries

According to the official age range



# Unemployment rate in EaP countries (2015)

By age group



# Youth Policy in Armenia

## Implementation

- National Youth Strategy 2013-2017 (expired)
- Nine directions (priorities), five actually implemented due to funding restrictions (ca. 44 projects): lifelong learning, culture and patriotic education, health, employment and participation
- Main priority: active participation at all levels
- Online granting system (suspended), youth capital, travel grants
- No continuity – annual budgetary decision
- 2018 = AMD 976 000 000 (ca. 1,7 mln EUR)
- 2019 = AMD 976 000 000 (ca. 1,7 mln EUR)
- No official new strategy

## Cross-sectoral cooperation

- Council on National Youth Policy by the Prime Minister (inactive since 2012)
- Inter-sectoral or inter-ministerial cooperation (One-off or ad-hoc actions) on annual basis
- Lack of motivation, experience and political will in cross-sectoral policy cooperation (budgetary deficiency)
- International Organisations (UN) agencies promoting cooperation across sectors



- Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs – abolished in December 2018
- Plans for a new unit under the PMO
- Youth Events Holding Centre (YEHC) – abolished in December 2018
- National Youth Council of Armenia
- Youth NGOs
- Councils on youth affairs at regional government centres
- Ministries and other state institutions acting within their own competence and expertise
- Youth Fund (cragrer.am – suspended in 2018)

## Actors



## Legal background

- National Youth Policy Concept 2015-2025
- Youth Strategy 2013-2017 (based on YPC 1998) - expired
- Approved annual budget – internal working plans

## Evidence-based policy

- Youth Study Institute within YEHC (with UNDP)
- Thematic studies (YSI): Unemployment, NGOs, Youth Work
- National Youth Reports: 2007, 2011
- Armenian Youth Aspiration Report 2012 (UNDP)
- CoE reviews 2009, 2011 – Social inclusion 2014
- CoE-EU partnership – Youth Wiki
- Lacking mechanisms for regular M&E at all levels (only projects)
- No systemic use of data
- Lack of youth indicators





## Implementation

- Identifying the line ministry/unit responsible for youth policy
- Renewing or replacing the youth strategy
- Widening recognition of the youth field actors as policy partners
- Improving cooperation with local youth NGOs
- Increasing the focus on young people with fewer opportunities - especially in rural areas (social exclusion, risk of poverty, participation)

## Cross-sectoral cooperation

- Re-activating 'Council on National Youth Policy by the Prime Minister' or an equivalent body to ensure principle of co-management
- Developing a long-term strategy ensuring cross-sectoral cooperation
- Balancing annual budgetary decisions with long-term implementation

## Evidence

- Developing independent mechanisms to ensure long-term impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation of the policy and action plan based on relevant youth indicators
- Enhancing capacities in research, analysis, M&E across all sectors

## Participation

- Ensuring participation of youth and youth organisations in the preparation of policy strategies and related actions (structured dialogue)
- Supporting the development of participation skills of young people
- Supporting capacity development of NGOs in democratic governance including their role as watchdogs



## Actors

- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Coordination Council on the implementation of State programme (Shura) - 56 members from 32 state institutions
- Department of Youth and Sport at 85 local administrative units + Ministry of Nakhchivan
- Youth houses and Centres
- Azerbaijani Youth Fund
- NAYORA (NGO assembly)
- ASYOU (Student union)

## Legal background

- Law on Youth Policy (2002)
- Azerbaijani Youth Forum
- State Youth Programme 2016-2020 based on President's Order 'On Approval of the Azerbaijan's Youth Development Strategy 2015-2025'

## Evidence-based policy

- The State Statistical Committee (regular "Youth of Azerbaijan" reports)
- Center of Scientific Researches on Youth Issues
- Online surveys
- State programmes: gap of evaluation and monitoring mechanisms (no youth indicators)
- General lack of research and understanding of youth issues across all sectors

## Implementation

- State programme "Azerbaijani Youth" 2017-2021
- 8 areas, 67 fields of action:
- Value education
- Civic and patriotic education
- Intellectual and creative potential
- Employment and participation
- Health
- Student
- International co-operation
- Granting mechanisms (Youth Fund + MYS)
- 2018 = 44 million AZN (ca. 22 million EUR)

## Cross-sectoral cooperation

- "Shura" forum facilitates cooperation between all stakeholders, but not always implemented vertically







## Implementation

- Department of Youth Affairs (Ministry of Education)
- 159 local Youth Departments
- Ministries and other state institutions acting within their own competence and expertise
- Belarusian Republican Youth Union – 120000 members, 98% of state youth funding
- Long-term Strategy/Programme 2015-2020 currently under development
- Decisions on annual basis - no guarantees of continuation

## Cross-sectoral cooperation

- Ministries and other institutions acting within their own competence and expertise
- Mostly inter-sectoral cooperation (actions/projects)

### State Law on Youth Policy (2009)

Supporting **comprehensive education**;  
Supporting **spiritual , moral and physical development**; Creation of conditions for **free and effective participation**; Providing social, legal, material and other **support** and extending **opportunities** for choosing one's life-path.

## Legal background

- Constitution
- "Law on the principles of state youth policy" 2009
- A range of uncoordinated laws, orders, codes and decrees systematically targeting youth issues across various thematic areas.

## Evidence-based policy

- Analytical Center (Presidential Administration) and other state institutions
- No cooperation with independent institutions

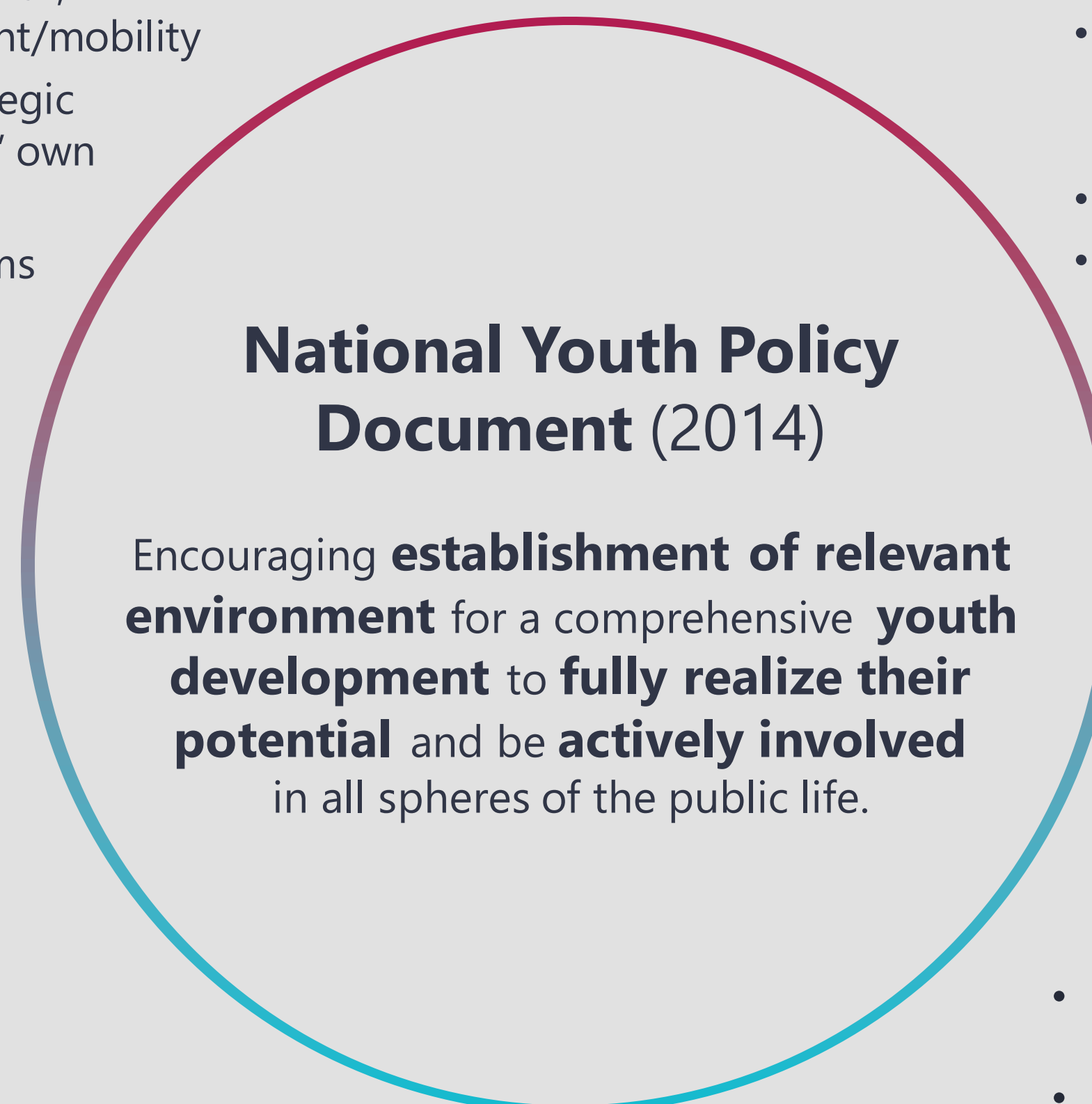


## Implementation

- Action Plan 2015-2020
  - **Interagency Coordination Council (ICC)**
  - Four key strategic directions: participation, health, support and protection, education/employment/mobility
  - Series of events and activities under each strategic direction (mostly in the frame of ICC members' own activities/programmes)
  - Decision-Making and Coordination Mechanisms
- 2014 = GEL 3.2 million (ca. 1,67 mln EUR)

## Cross-sectoral cooperation

- Interagency Coordination Council
- Inter-sectoral or inter-ministerial cooperation (One-off or ad-hoc actions)
- ICC lacks mechanisms for assessing its own impact and outcomes and a long-term strategy
- General lack of motivation, experience and political will in cross-sectoral policy cooperation (budgetary deficiency)



## Actors

- Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs – disbanded in 2017, now Youth Department at the Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministries and other state institutions acting within their own competence and expertise (ICC members)
- Local self-governments
- Youth organisations

## Legal background

- National Youth Policy Document
- Youth Policy Action Plan 2015-2020
- Law On Protection of Minors from Harmful Effects
- Law State Support of Children's and Youth Unions
- Law on Youth (under preparation)

## Evidence-based policy

- Consulting and research activities (MSY) prior to development of Youth Policy Document (with UNICEF)
- UNICEF – GeoStat: Survey "Youth of Georgia", 2014
- Planned: Permanent mechanism to ensure regular M&E of youth policy (in cooperation with UNFPA)



## Implementation

- Identifying and empowering the line ministry or unit
- Widening recognition of the youth field as partners in policy-making
- Widening multi-stakeholder participation system
- Improving capacities of local authorities / municipalities (youth not just sports and culture)
- Increasing the focus on young people with fewer opportunities

## Cross-sectorial Cooperation

- Ensuring accountability and transparency at all levels (impact assessment mechanisms)
- Improving integration of respective stakeholders at all levels (incl. NGOs, business sector etc.)
- Developing a long-term strategy ensuring cross-sectorial cooperation

## Evidence

- Developing mechanisms to ensure long-term impact assessment and evaluation of the policy and action plan based on relevant youth indicators
- Consolidating youth research
- Developing continued analysis of youth issues and trends

## Participation

- Ensuring participation of youth and youth organisations in the preparation of policy strategies and related actions (structured dialogue)
- Supporting the development of participation skills of young people and democratic governance (NGOs)
- Implementing the “European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life”





## Actors

- Ministry of Youth and Sports, abolished  
In September 2017, merged with Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
- Parliamentary Committee for [...], Youth, [...]
- Governmental committee for youth policies
- Departments at local public administration / youth workers at district administration
- National Youth Council / Youth NGOs
- Ministries and other state institutions acting within their own competence and expertise

## Legal background

- Youth Law (1999)
- Youth Strategy 2014-2020
- Law on volunteering (2010)
- Government decision on improvement of some youth activities support measures (2010)

## Evidence-based policy

- Evidence-based youth policy does not officially exist
- Evidence mostly gathered through official instruments (lack specific data on youth; evidence often outdated)
- Sporadic use of evidence sources - International Organisations
- Cooperation with UNFPA planned (monitoring & data collection)
- No comprehensive mechanisms for regular M&E at all levels

## Implementation

- National Youth Strategy 2014-2020
- 4 objectives (128 actions – permanent, periodic, one-off): participation, employment, youth work, youth services
- Granting at national level
- Co-management on implementation within limits of annual budget allocation

## Cross-sectoral cooperation

- **Governmental Committee on Youth Policies**
- Limited cooperation at inter-sectoral level
- Political situation unfavourable for cooperation (lack of political will and interest at intra-coalitional level)
- Lack of a common cross-sectoral budget for the implementation of the youth strategy and action plan
- MYS capacity issues: understaffing and high staff turnover (civil service and political)





## Implementation

- Improving capacities of the line ministry
- Improving capacities of local administration on youth affairs/Improve cooperation with local youth NGOs
- Limiting donor dependency (following donor priorities instead of policy priorities)
- Increasing the focus on young people with fewer opportunities - especially in rural areas

## Cross-sectorial Cooperation

- Increasing the independence of 'Governmental Committee on Youth Policies'
- Developing long-term strategies ensuring cross-sectoral cooperation
- Balancing annual budgetary decisions long-term allocation of smaller budget

## Evidence

- Developing independent mechanisms to ensure long-term impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation of the policy and action plan based on relevant youth indicators
- Enhancing capacities in research, analysis, M&E across all sectors (incl. NGOs)
- Improving national system for data collection (relevant to youth)

## Participation

- Improving participation of youth and youth organisations in the preparation of policy strategies and related actions (structured dialogue)
- Supporting the development of participation skills of young people
- Supporting capacity development of NGOs in democratic governance including their role as watchdogs





## Implementation

- Action plan “Youth of Ukraine” 2016-2020
- Six priorities: patriotism, health, employment, non-formal education, employment, housing, young people in occupied territories and IDPs
- 2018 = ca. 4 million EUR
- Linking youth policy development to the EU Association Agreement

## Cross-sectoral cooperation

- Priorities: employment and education
- Four inter-agency groups: housing, employment, legal issues, youth programmes
- Existing Inter-agency working groups lack financial capacity for successful implementation of common projects
- Cooperation with UNDP: employment, migration



## Actors

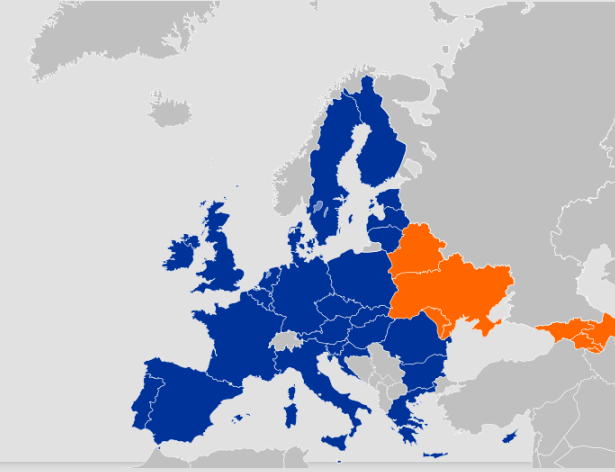
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Governmental Unit (central and central executive bodies, local authorities, social services)
- Public Council (NGOs; consultative body)

## Legal background

- Law “On Fostering Youth Socialization and Development in Ukraine” (1993)
- 700 Laws of Ukraine / 800 subordinate legislations
- Concept of a new Youth Law (September 2015) – unifying the previous laws (in youth relevant sections)
- Committed to EU youth policy framework (Youth Chapter)

## Evidence-based policy

- Sporadic use of sources – including reports, analysis, research
- Lack of a qualitative youth reports
- Statistical analysis not strategic
- MYS lacks specialist staff and mechanisms for M&E
- No clear and effective measures foreseen for monitoring the impact of youth policy (mostly generic quantitative indicators)
- Cooperation with ILO – school-to-work transition



1

All countries have developed good quality youth policy documents

Significant increase in activity in the last ten years (2009-2019)

- Georgia - new youth law planed and new Youth Action Plan; then merger of MYS with Ministry of Education
- Azerbaijan - more funds and new state programme
- Armenia - new National Youth Policy Concept; abolishing of MYS
- Moldova – new Youth Strategy; abolishing of MYS
- Ukraine – new Youth Law

2

3

Substantial amount of statistical data, especially general statistics on youth

4

Cross-sectoral co-operation structures largely in place

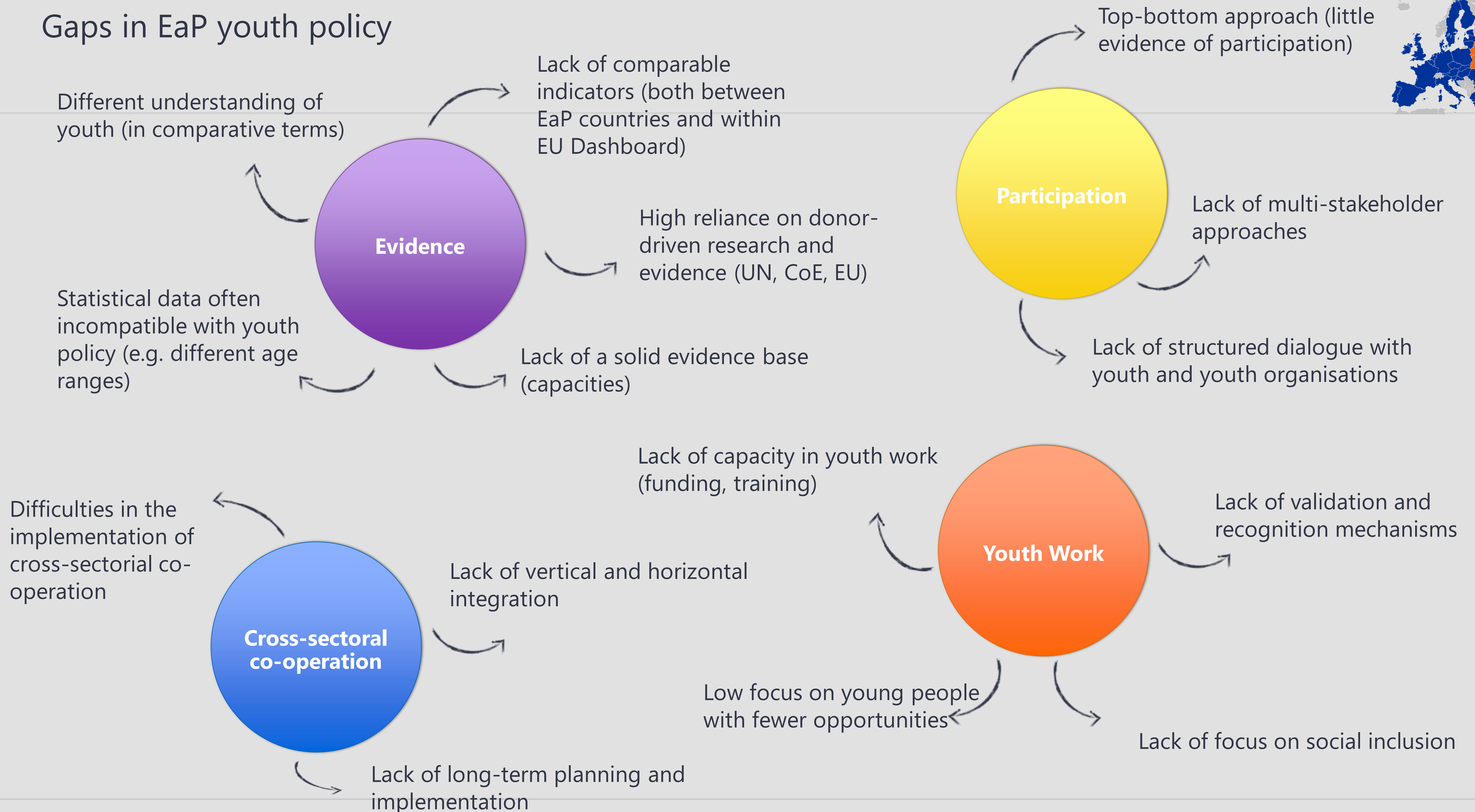
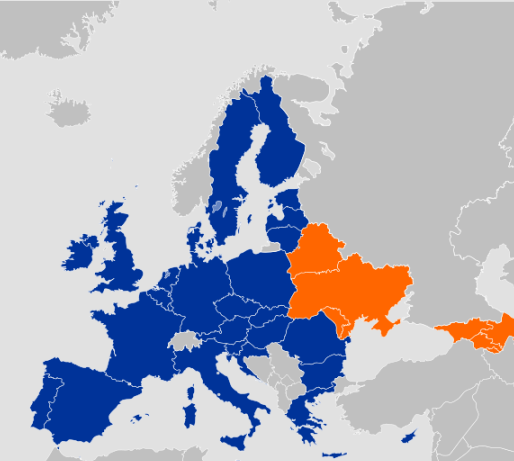
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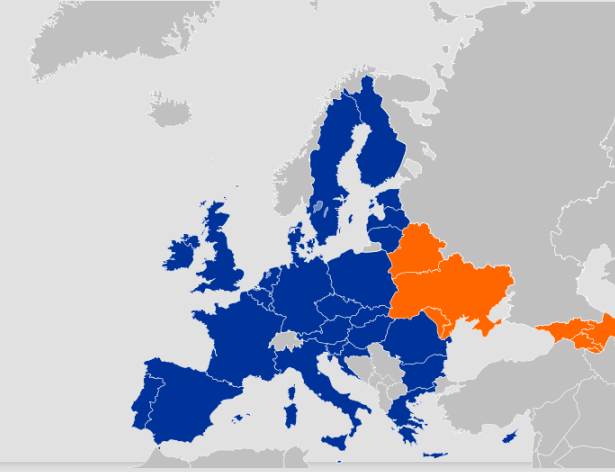
Strong focus on education (and in line with EU priorities)

6

Strong focus on employment (and in line with EU priorities)

# Gaps in EaP youth policy





## Change and instability

- Independent line ministries abolished/consolidated with other ministries in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova
- Lack of continuity – frequent strategy changes
- Government reshuffles/reorganisation
- Institutional changes

## Youth and politics

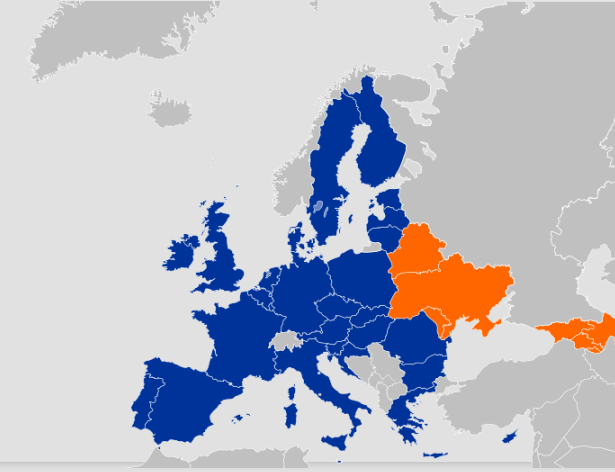
- Issue-based not necessarily party- or ideology-driven
- Raveolution in Georgia
- Velvet Revolution in Armenia
- Euromaidan in Ukraine

## Normative optimism

- Youth laws
- Youth strategies
- Youth action plans
- Youth budgets?

## Long-term vision?





## Implementation

- Increasing the focus on young people with fewer opportunities - especially in rural and deprived urban areas and minorities (social exclusion, risk of poverty, participation)
- Improving capacities of regional authorities in youth policy implementation
- Widening recognition of the youth field/youth work among key stakeholders, notably at government level, as youth policy partners

## Cross-sectoral cooperation

- Developing long-term strategies ensuring cross-sectoral cooperation
- Improving multi-stakeholder approach (incl. NGOs, business sector, education etc.)
- Ensuring accountability and transparency at all levels

## Evidence

- Ensuring long-term impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation of the policy and action plan based on relevant youth indicators
- Enhancing capacities in research, analysis, M&E across all sectors (incl. NGOs as partners)
- Consolidating youth research

## Participation

- Improving systematic participation of youth and youth organisations in the preparation of policy strategies and related actions (structured dialogue)
- Capacity development of youth in participation methods
- Capacity development of youth organisations in democratic governance including their role as watchdogs