

1.3 National youth strategy

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Existence of a National Youth Strategy

Every year, the national Government sets up youth policies priorities, upon close consultation with the Regions, and other relevant local Authorities.

The annual strategy is based on multi-year lines of action. For example, in the last five years, the strategy has supported actions in favour of young talents as well as the fight against youth distress.

The strategy is agreed upon in the framework of the “Unified Conference” (Conferenza Unificata) that meets every year. The Unified Conference includes the National Government, the Regions, the autonomous Provinces, the Nation Association of the Italian Municipalities ([Associazione Nazionale dei Comuni italiani - ANCI](#)) and the Union of the Italian Provinces ([Unione delle Province d’Italia - UPI](#)).

The [Department for Youth Policies and the Universal Civic Service](#) avails of a yearly Fund for Youth Policies aimed at promoting youth rights and implementing the annual strategy. The amount of the Fund is set annually with the budget law. The official act produced by the Unified Conference establishes the division of the fund between the national Government, Regions, and Local Authorities.

The [Department](#) directly manages the part of the Fund earmarked for national interventions through calls for projects open to youth organizations and the civil society. The part of the Fund allocated to the Regions and local Authorities is managed through separate agreements between the Department and the different Regions, and between the Department, [ANCI](#) and [UPI](#). The [Department](#) may also sign agreements with the [National Youth Council](#), the [National Agency for Youth](#) and other entities that carry out activities in favour of young people.

Scope and contents

Since 2006, the national Fund for Youth Policies has been financing measures oriented to promote the following:

- Non-formal and informal education;
- access of young people to the job market, including the development of start-ups and youth entrepreneurship;
- social inclusion, and specific measures to reach out to marginalized and vulnerable groups;
- participation and youth rights;
- cultural activities, development of talents;
- prevention and measures against addictions;
- volunteering and access to international and European programmes and projects.

In 2019, the Minister set the national policy priorities as follows:

- social inclusion;
- participation;
- support to youth autonomy;
- prevention and measures against new addictions.

Responsible authority for the implementation of the Youth Strategy

The Prime Minister is the authority in charge of youth policies and strategy. He/she may delegate the responsibility to a third political authority. Since September 2019, the delegated authority for youth policies has the rank of Minister.

The [Department for Youth Policies and the Universal Civic Service](#) is responsible for the implementation and coordination of the strategy.

Revisions/updates

The first National Youth Plan was adopted in February 2007 by the then Ministry for Youth Policies and Sports Activities (POGAS).