

# 2017-2024

## Gyumri Youth Policy

### Conception

#### I. Introduction

The youth in the Republic of Armenia has a strategic potential in the process of stable economic and spiritual development, ensuring a decent life for the people, protecting and empowering the gene pool and strengthening the national security. It plays a unique role, which is stipulated in the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Armenia.

The State Youth Policy of the Republic of Armenia is a fundamental and guiding document for the development of young people and solving their problems throughout the country. The policy has a general approach on problems and priorities, and is not meant to reflect the specific problems, needs and opportunities of youth in each community. Therefore the state policy doesn't restrict and even encourages the development and implementation of a local youth policy that is based on the state youth policy and reflects issues concerning youth locally.

The number of young people in Gyumri (aged 16-30, based on the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Armenia) is 29023 (47.1% male, 52.9% female), which is the 25.4% of the city's population according to the National Statistical Service of Republic of Armenia (according to 2011 RA census). This is the part of the population that develops very dynamic and has great mobility. The lack of systematic solution to the problems and low opportunities can cause high migration rates, resulting serious social, economic, political and cultural problems.

The local youth policy, which is one of the pillars of the long-term development of the city, is being developed and implemented to regulate the relations between the community and the youth and to give a long-term approach to the youth issues.

Gyumri Youth Policy Conception (hereinafter- the Conception) is meant to implement the possibility of localization of the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Armenia, that is authorized by the law for the benefit of not only the youth in Gyumri but also in other communities (as an exemplary model).

The Conception has been developed based on the 2015-2025 State Youth Policy Conception of the Republic of Armenia, the 2013-2017 Strategy for the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Armenia, 2015 Gyumri Youth Situation Report and a qualitative thematic study of public opinion in Gyumri.

Gyumri Youth Policy is a complex of actions, priorities and mechanisms responsive to local youth issues. It is aimed at developing democratic and civic responsibility, organizing leisure time and employment, full realization of creative potential and creating possibilities for social, economic, political, spiritual and cultural participation of the youth for the stable and continuous development of the community and the Republic of Armenia.

Gyumri Youth Policy is being developed and implemented by the community with the participation of state and regional government, subjects of Gyumri youth sector, as well as other interested parties and organizations.

The Conception is a fundamental document for the youth policy in the community which defines the subjects, goal, objectives, principles and directions of Gyumri Youth Policy.

The indicators for Gyumri Youth Policy are given in the Strategy of Gyumri Youth Policy, which is a mid-term planning tool.

## II. Subjects of Gyumri Youth Policy

1. **The youth** - people aged 14-30 (inclusive), that permanently or temporary live in Gyumri, and are citizens of RA, as well as people that have permission of residence, a refugee status or have no citizenship.
2. **Young families** – families that permanently or temporary live in Gyumri, where at least one of the spouses is 16-30 years of age (inclusive) and the other one is no older than 35 (inclusive) and the total age of the spouses does not exceed 65, or family with a single parent aged 16-30 (inclusive).
3. **Youth NGO** – non-governmental organizations registered in the Republic of Armenia, which according to their statute deal with youth issues or/and exercise youth work in Gyumri or for the youth of Gyumri.
4. **Youth Union** – unregistered non-profit organizations and informal groups, that deal with youth issues or/and exercise youth work in Gyumri or for the youth of Gyumri, including pupil and student councils, religious youth associations and organizations.
5. **Youth worker**- youth workers that are practicing youth work in Gyumri or for the youth of Gyumri (according to the RA Government N56 decision on December 24, 2015).

## III. Action timeframe of the Conception

The main directions aimed in the Conception apply to the period between 2017-2024 based on the periodicity of the community development programs, specifics of youth work and youth policy, the inertial nature of relations that are regulated, as well as the need to ensure the continuity of the programs.

## IV. Objectives and goals of Gyumri Youth Policy.

The goal of Gyumri Youth Policy is to create favorable socio-economic, political, cultural and spiritual conditions for realization and development of the potential of the youth and for promotion of youth participation along with the State Youth Policy.

**The objectives of Gyumri youth policy are:**

1. Ensuring recognition of the Conception at all levels and by all the actors and raising awareness on Gyumri Youth Policy among the youth of Gyumri.
2. Promoting the participation of the youth in the development, implementation and monitoring of Gyumri Youth Policy.
3. Ensuring complementarity and interconnectivity of Gyumri Youth Policy and the State Youth Policy prioritizing the specific issues and needs concerning youth locally.
4. Ensuring the legal framework and infrastructure contributing to the social, cultural, spiritual, physical and educational development of the youth in Gyumri, providing community support for the implementation of the actions and initiatives.
5. Promoting the continuous development of the youth sector in Gyumri by improving the quality of youth work and ensuring stability and continuity of the local youth policy.

## **V. Principles of Gyumri Youth Policy**

Gyumri Youth Policy is developed and implemented based on the following fundamental principles:

- Participatory approach
- Equality
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Local government- CSO Partnership
- Stability
- Localization / distribution (subsidiarity)
- Political neutrality.

## **VI. Main directions of Gyumri Youth Policy**

The Conception has been developed based on the 2015-2025 State Youth Policy Conception of the Republic of Armenia, the 2013-2017 Strategy for the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Armenia, 2015 Gyumri Youth Situation Report and a qualitative thematic study of public opinion in Gyumri.

The main directions of Gyumri Youth Policy are:

- Youth work and youth policy
- Youth Awareness and Participation
- Continuous and non-formal education
- Youth employment and business
- Healthy lifestyle
- Youth leisure

## **VII. Policy implementation mechanisms**

An effective, coordinated and supervised implementation of the Youth Policy can be guaranteed by an action plan that provides measurable and realistic solutions to specific problems.

Four-year strategies for the Gyumri Youth Policy with their four-year action plans will be developed based on this Conception.

The Action plan has deadlines and executives for each separate action. Moreover, periodical execution of some of the actions will help to ensure the sustainability of the strategy and the logical sequence of problem solving.

There may be changes in the Action Plan, which have to be submitted for public discussion before the approval, to achieve objectives stated in the strategy and to solve the issues that are raised over time.

The sources of financing the actions are the funds from the Community budget, State budget allocations, donor grants, donations and funds from sources not prohibited by law.

Special attention is paid to the voluntary service of the youth in the implementation of youth policy. Volunteerism should be encouraged, which will raise youth involvement in community and public life processes.

Co-governing body (in this document the Coordinating Board or the Board), that will have a balanced representation of stakeholders, will be created to ensure the coordinated implementation of the Youth Policy.

Considering the principle stated in this Conception, that the Youth Policy should be coordinated based on the principle of participatory democracy, it is necessary that the Board is formed by the decision of Council of the Elders of Gyumri and works under it.

The Board will include members of Council of the Elders, representatives of youth organizations and informal youth groups (including civil society representatives involved in disability issues).

The Board is elected for 4 years.

The members can be changed, but a balanced proportion of participants should not be violated.

The regulation, number of the members and members of the Board are approved by Council of the Elders.

The organizational, technical and operational assistance is provided by the municipality.

The Board meets at least 4 times a year.

The Board approves its work regulations and its activities are open to the public. Information about activities of the Board will regularly be updated in a special section of the official website of Gyumri municipality.

The Board monitors the implementation of this Conception, Strategy and Action Plan of Gyumri Youth Policy at least twice a year and represents an evaluation report. The reports are submitted to Council of the Elders, and it is mandatory that they are subject to public discussion.

The feedback is presented to Council of the Elders and the Coordinating Board.

Alternative control on the implementation of the Action Plan can be carried out by other organizations, and also the drafting and publication of alternative reports is encouraged.

## **VIII. Monitoring and evaluation of the Youth Policy implementation**

The implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Gyumri Youth Policy will be carried out based on the basic principles of this concept to evaluate the effectiveness of the Policy. The functions and the regulations of the body responsible for monitoring and evaluation are fixed in the Strategy of Gyumri Youth Policy.