

Report of the 1st meeting of Youth Policy Platform

December 28, 2018

The start of the project Activization of Youth and Responsible Citizenship took place from the first meeting within the framework of the Youth Policy Platform.

The project manager, Dmitry Furtuna, welcomed the participants and made a presentation about this project, spoke about the purpose of this meeting, presented plans for the project's activities and ideas that motivated to create this platform. After a brief introduction, Dmitry proceeded to the presentation of the AMOG project in more detail, spoke about the goals, objectives, expected results and planned activities within the project implementation period.

Participants learned what the main issues this platform will solve and what prospects this cooperation will bring. This platform is an ideological continuation of the Working Groups within the framework of the GaMCon project.

Dmitry shared an action plan for 2019:

- Trainings active youth – Gagauzian Youth Leadership Program 2.0
- Meetings with representatives of public organizations to find solutions and solve certain problems.
- FYLM – Forum of Young Leaders of Moldova

Dmitry also stressed that one of the goals of this platform is to improve relations between Gagauzia and Chisinau.

By the end of the presentation, the project manager addressed to the participants to present their ideas in which direction the Platform should be developed.

Topic discussion

After the presentation of the new platform, participants began to discuss and identify problems that this platform will solve. Each participant shared his ideas and in the course of these conversations came to a common topic of discussion – youth associations and centers, what is the main task of youth centers and how they can help in solving problems.

Determined that youth centers today are the most effective solution for youth development issues. We found out that these centers help young people to socialize and receive non-formal education, as well as develop leadership skills.

One of the participants expressed his opinion regarding the active cooperation of local government and young people. He expressed concern that young people are not taken seriously by local authorities in some localities. He also stressed that this trust is very difficult to achieve. Other participants agreed with this opinion and confirmed the existence of this problem. Also during the discussion, we realized that young people do not quite understand how to find a common language with the authorities.

Conclusions. During the discussion, the following problems were identified:

- a) Lack of special places for young people where they could develop informally
- b) The opinion of young people is not taken seriously
- c) Young people do not understand how to promote and protect their interests in local government.

Proposals of participants

- a) Creating and organizing special places where young people could spend their free time, receive non-formal education, as well as socialize.
- b) To engage in dialogue with public authorities in localities and youth. To convey to the authorities that young people should also be involved in decision-making processes.
- c) Teach young people to communicate with local authorities in more efficient way and explain each step of interaction with them. Show examples of high-quality interaction between the authorities and young people.

Planning ahead, our platform will be actively engaged in solving youth problems. Will focus our work on the previously developed strategy for the development of youth and sports in Gagauzia in the framework of the GaMCon project, and based on the research that has already been done and the recommendations developed, we will be involved in the

implementation of these recommendations. We will invite to the next meeting three experts who worked on the development of recommendations in the field of Youth and Sport, in the field of Non-Formal Education, as well as in the area of the rights of Young Family and Child. All these experts worked within the framework of the GaMCon project, which was implemented on the territory of the ATU Gagauzia by the Slovak Foreign Policy Association and the Public Association “Youth of Gagauzia”.