Law No. 03/L-145

ON EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH

Assembly of Republic of Kosovo,

Based on Article 65 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo,

Adopts:

LAW ON EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1
Purpose

This law aims to promote and reaffirm continued participation of youth in the decision making process, without any difference and exclusion, in the development of a democratic society, in order to improve the quality of life of youth and their social status.

Article 2
Scope

This law defines:

1.1. basic responsibilities for strengthening the youth sector in Kosovo and for supporting the participation of youth in decision-making.

1.2. responsibilities of the institutions of central and local government to young people and youth organizations in relevant areas regulated by this law.

1.3. voluntary work and informal education of young people.

1.4. instruction for the licensing of youth centers.

Article 3
Definitions

1. Terms used in this law have the following meaning:

1.1. **Youth age** - the age group of young people between fifteen (15) and twenty four (24) years.

1.2. **Youth Organization** - a non-profit organization, established in accordance with the legislation in force, where most members are young.

1.3**. Ministry -** the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

1.4. **Youth Center** - the space functionalized for development of youth activities licensed by the municipal Directorate responsible for youth.

1.5. **Youth Sector -** includes all governmental organizations, NGOs, public and private as well as other natural persons and legal entities engaged in programs for the benefit and realization of the interests of young people.

1.6. **Youth Program** - the program that addresses the needs of youth for the period of more than six (6) months, approved and supervised directly by municipal directorate, responsible for youth-in cases where it includes only one municipality and under direct supervision of the Ministry, thus Youth Department in cases where more than one (1) municipality is included.

1.7. **Municipal Directorate for Youth** - the municipal directorate of culture, youth and sports.

1.8. **The youth action Council -** a youth representative body composed of representatives of youth non-profit organizations of Central and Local Level.

1.9. **Youth Voluntary Work** - youth activity organized by respective Institution ,where young people voluntarily provide their time, labor , knowledge , skills without any remuneration or reward , serving the community for the benefit of society . Voluntary youth work shall be acknowledged as work experience by the Municipality Directorate for Culture, Youth and Sports respectively by the Ministry. Evidence for this shall be issued by the respective Institution.

1.10. **Informal Education** - educational activity, carried out throughout life, in order to improve knowledge, skills and competence, as regards individual, citizen, social and labor perspective.

Article 4
The right of youth for self organize and volunteer work

1. Self organize freely and voluntarily to organizations and other groups formal and informal, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo.

2. Participate in all forms of social organization, including the right to vote and be elected to various youth bodies. In realization of this right there will be no interference by public bodies, unless this is foreseen by law.

Article 5
Responsibilities of Youth

1. Youth, respect the principles of peace, justice and understanding among people that aim the welfare and development of the Republic of Kosovo.

2. Youth, respect the equality and dignity of all people, guaranteed with Constitution of Republic of Kosovo.

Article 6
Responsibilities of central government bodies

1. The Central Government bodies, in compliance with the Kosovo Youth Action Council shall be responsible:

1.1. for the development, adoption and implementation of documents relevant to the youth sector;

1.2. development, adoption and implementation of other youth programs;

1.3. for the development of procedures and criteria for promotion and recognition of volunteer work and other forms of youth activities;

1.4. for collecting and providing data on the position of young people;

1.5. to support programs for development and capacity building in the youth sector;

1.6. to provide information and regular consultations with youth-related policies and programs for youth in the country and international youth exchange programs;

1.7. to support the integration and participation in society of marginalized groups through programs and campaigns;

1.8. for ensuring structures and procedures that guarantee the participation of youth and partnership among Government and youth organizations.

2. The Government by sub legal act will determine the key Ministries, responsible for enforcing the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 6 of this law.

Article 7
Responsibilities of municipal bodies

1. Municipal authorities shall have the following responsibilities.

1.1. to ensure the provision of financial and human resources for the implementation of youth programs;

1.2. to care for the provision of adequate public space in consultation with the council to resume the action of the municipality, where young people plan, manage and develop their youth activities and informal education;

1.3. support for informal education for youth organizations and other development activities initiated by young people;

1.4. for youth policy development in consultation with the local youth council to resume the action of the municipality, in accordance with local needs;

1.5. ensuring a transparent process during management engagement for public youth center licensed by the municipality concerned.

Article 8
Central Youth Action Council

1. Central Youth Action Council is a voluntary organization of youth organizations operating in Kosovo.

2. Central Youth Council's action is advisory structure for youth, which represents the interests of youth organizations at the central government institutions and mechanisms of international youth.

Article 9
Responsibilities of the Central Youth Action Council

Responsibilities of the Central Council of Youth Action are based on the principle of equality and equal participation for all and they are regulated by sub-legal acts.

Article 10
Local Youth Action Council

Local Youth Action Council is the local formation Advisory youth organizations, which operate at local level and represents the interests of youth and youth organizations to the institutions of local government.

Article 11
Responsibilities of the local Council on youth action

Responsibilities of the local Council on youth action based on the principle of equality and equal participation for all, and are regulated by sub-legal acts.

Article 12
Youth Centers

1. Youth centers provide space for programs and activities of young people based on their status, and are open to all youth.

2. Youth Center licensed by the municipal directorate responsible for youth, according to the type and nature of it, taking into account structure, programs and opportunities for fulfillment of tasks related to physical, mental, social and spiritual development of the youngsters, offering space, resources and opportunities for the development of informal educational activities, and other activities planned by young people.

3. MCYS, with special decision, in compliance with the Youth Action Council, shall determine the instruction for licensing of a youth center.

4. Municipal Directorate responsible for local youth, after consultation with the local Youth Action Council, shall license by decision the municipal youth centers, in accordance with the instruction of this article.

5. Local Youth Action Council will examine in detail all the possibilities and ways of securing public spaces, the financial means, respectively of the municipal resources, to support youth centers in each municipality and, especially in rural areas with large number of young people.

Article 13
Participation of young people in sectional policies

1. Kosovo's institutions, each in its scope, ensure the participation and influence of young people in the decision making process.

2. Participation of young people in sectional policies is done in the following areas:

2.1. education;

2.2. jobs;

2.3. public health;

2.4. social issues;

2.5. culture, sport and recreation;

2.6. civic education and democracy;

2.7. environment, spatial planning and rural development.

CHAPTER II
THE VOLUNTARY WORK OF YOUTH AND INFORMAL EDUCATION

Article 14
The voluntary work of youth

1. Voluntary work of young people shall be considered important and beneficiary for society.

2. Volunteer work may be organized by natural and legal person, engaged for the good of society.

3. Voluntary Work is prohibited in cases where young people are used for personal or family benefit.

4. Voluntary work of young people is not remunerated.

5. Voluntary work of youth is matched with the qualification of new volunteers.

6. Volunteer work should not harm the health of young volunteers.

7. Voluntary work of young people should not restrict the duties and obligations with regard to education, research or professional education and voluntary of the youth.

8. Voluntary work of young volunteers will enable young people to reach prospects, respectively improve professional skills, experiences and voluntary practices.

9. The work of voluntary youth is regulated by contract between the volunteer and organizer of new volunteer and should be recognized as work experience, which will be considered as a priority in case of competition for employment.

10. Ministry by sub legal act shall regulate implementation of paragraphs 1-9 of this Article.

Article 15
Informal education

1. Informal education is realized in all areas, as demand from young people in accordance with existing laws of the Republic of Kosovo.

2. Informal Education shall encourage promotion of development, responsibility of conscientious citizenship, in accordance with principles in the interest of democracy, tolerance, humanity, environmental protection, historic identity, cultural development, to intercultural differences, social and political dialogue, health care and physical education, for employment and promotion of young people.

3. Informal Education is encouraged with awarding of certificates by the MCYS for participants in training.

4. Informal education is implemented according to the principles mentioned above in accordance with preparation of Administrative Instruction of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and in collaboration with all relevant ministries.

Article 16
Normative acts of youth organizations

Internal normative acts of youth organizations should be in full accordance with the provisions of this law and applicable legislation.

Article 17
Evidence

Central Youth Action Council, the local youth action council and youth organizations make evidence of their members.

Article 18
Cooperation

1. Youth Organizations realize genuine and comprehensive cooperation in central and local level, but also with other non-profit organizations, including international youth organizations, in accordance with this Law and applicable legislation.

2. Youth Organizations cooperate under first paragraph of this article with economic entities, with aim of integration and assistance of youth activities, as with local and international institutions, dealing with youth issues, including written and electronic media.

3. Youth organizations and all other forms of organization of youth, develop their activities under this law.

Article 19
Transitional Provisions

For implementation of this law, sub-legal acts shall be adopted not later than six (6) months after entry into force of this law.

Article 20
Entry into force

This law enters into force fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo.

Law No. 03/L-145
30 September 2009.

Promulgated by the Decree No. DL-029-2009, dated 19.10.2009, of the President of Republic of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu.