

**YCoP Links**  
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**YCoP: Youth Community of Practice**

The Youth Community of Practice (YCoP) global listserv links professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to effective youth development ideas, information and best practices to help:

- \*Design more effective, sustainable youth programs, and
- \*Better integrate youth participation in USAID development projects

**In this *Links*. Regional Focus Part 4: Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia Revealed**

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia have experienced enormous changes over the past decades as they have undergone fundamental shifts in government, wars, and a changing Europe. Youth in these countries are facing these challenges and more with the support of a number of programs and organizations. In this *Links*, read about how youth from Azerbaijan to Russia to Macedonia participate in vocational training programs, volunteer camps, and lessons in elections and civil society. The resources in this section range from a website devoted to youth and the MDGs to an advocacy manual for adolescent reproductive health issues.

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*Projects and Initiatives*

**Azerbaijan Tafakkur Youth Association**

<http://www.atya.org/index.htm>

Though Azerbaijan Tafakkur Youth Association (ATYA) was officially registered as recently as 2005, it has been active since 2003, conducting a number of activities to benefit Azerbaijani youth. The organization's broad purpose to "enlighten" youth allows it to work across a variety of sectors, including, for example, democracy and governance, human rights awareness, skills development, education, and the environment. ATYA has trained youth in the development of NGOs, the community, and civil society. It has implemented a youth resource center called "Intellect." It has also implemented the "Healthy Life Style Project," which teaches youth about HIV/AIDS. Currently, ATYA is implementing a project that involves organizing a number of training courses designed to improve the "Knowledge, Activity and Role of Young Electors on Election Campaign."

**Youth Information Centre, Russia**

<http://www.youthcentre.ru/?theme=index&lng=en>

<http://youthcentre.ru/?theme=index&lng=ru> (Russian website)

Founded in 2000, St. Petersburg's Youth Information Centre is an award-winning organization that focuses on youth training, employment, exchange, and service. Youth Information Centre's past projects have included intercultural trainings using theatre, international youth informational campaigns against violence, youth exchanges to other countries, and

professional development for youth. *Please note that the Russian version of the website contains more updated information than the English version of the site.*

### **Roma Community Center “Drom,” Macedonia**

<http://www.drom.org.mk/indexe.html>

In Romani language, Drom means road, and the Roma Community Center “Drom” (RCC “Drom”) is a “road” for the historically marginalized Roma population. The road leads to development and increased recognition in Macedonian society. While RCC “Drom” targets Roma populations of all ages, many of its development activities focus on youth. For example, the organization has opened an information technology center that offers computer trainings for youth to provide them with transferable skills and to help them improve their capacity to access educational opportunities. Other training activities have taught youth vocational skills such as hairdressing and baking. Through the project “Opposites Attract,” RCC “Drom” conducted peace building activities with youth from a variety of ethnic groups to work on issues surrounding ethnic prejudice and stereotypes. RCC “Drom” was founded in 1997.

### **South East European Youth Network, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

<http://www.seeyn.org/>

The South East European Youth Network (SEEYN) was developed with the purpose of bringing together youth organizations from the South Eastern European network in order to combat ethnic prejudice and intolerance by uniting youth in the common goals of peace, democracy, and development. Uniting groups via volunteerism is one of the primary actions of SEEYN. SEEYN facilitates volunteer exchanges, runs multiple work camps each year that bring together youth from neighboring countries for peace and skill-building activities, and researches topics such as legislation involving volunteerism. The site is a great resource, offering a trainer database and publications such as a work camp handbook.

### *Resources for Practitioners*

#### **UN Youth and Millennium Development Goals in Uzbekistan**

<http://www.un.uz/youth/>

The UN in Uzbekistan site chronicles the different initiatives of youth development in Uzbekistan and what Uzbekistan is doing to achieve the MDGs. The site also contains links to youth development initiatives around the world. Furthermore, Uzbek youth can download applications for youth-led mini-projects. While it focuses on Uzbekistan, this site is also an excellent place to go for general information about MDGs, news and events, and other resources.

#### ***Advocating for Adolescent Reproductive Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia***

[http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/PUBLICATIONS/advocate\\_eeca.pdf](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/PUBLICATIONS/advocate_eeca.pdf)

This manual, created by Advocates for Youth, accompanies a step-by-step process with useful case studies and examples to give youth the tools they need to advocate for adolescent reproductive health in their countries. Examples of chapters include: “Building Networks: Collaborating for Community Education and Advocacy,” “Youth Adult Partnerships,” “The Art of Persuasion: Getting the Support of Opinion Leaders and Policy Makers,” and “Monitoring and Evaluating Advocacy Efforts: Learning from Successes and Challenges.” Case studies come from Romania, Latvia, Moldova, Bosnia, and Bulgaria.

***The 2007 NGO Sustainability Index for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia***

[http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe\\_eurasia/dem\\_gov/ngoindex/2007/](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/dem_gov/ngoindex/2007/)

USAID's *The 2007 NGO Sustainability Index for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia* offers a broad overview of the state of NGOs in each country in the Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia region. The document discusses the legal environment, organizational capacity, advocacy, financial viability, service provision, infrastructure, and public image of civil society. It addresses issues such as volunteerism, youth employment, etc. For example, some countries may restrict volunteerism or youth employment more than others, which can greatly affect the ability of some NGOs to function. This particular volume contains an article related to Government Organized Non-Governmental Organizations (GONGS), which include a number of youth-led organizations and their relationships with state authorities. In general, the *Index* is a useful resource for practitioners to reference in order to receive a comprehensive view of the state of civil society in a particular country.

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**Looking for YOUR input:** We would like to hear from you! YCoP welcomes ideas, resources, and best practices on effective youth programs and youth participation. We would also like to encourage nominations of other youth practitioners or youth leaders to participate in the YCoP Links listserve. Hit "reply" to send information and feedback to YCoP Links.

To **unsubscribe** from the list, users should send an e-mail to [listserv@info.usaid.gov](mailto:listserv@info.usaid.gov) with only "**unsubscribe youthcop**" in the body of the e-mail. (**No signatures please**).

**Mission of YCoP:** The Youth Community of Practice provides a forum for professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to gather, consolidate, archive, disseminate and exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices, particularly related to the incorporation of youth participation in USAID development projects. The Youth Community of Practice is an informal body of volunteer members, reached through a global list serve and Washington-based chapter. Both the list serve and DC chapter forums include USAID staff, youth practitioners outside of the Agency, and youth themselves. It is jointly sponsored by the office of education in the bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) at USAID and the Education Quality Improvement Program3 (EQUIP3), and implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC).

**Disclaimer:** The information and opinions expressed in the materials provided through YCoP Links or posted by listserv participants is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Government or EQUIP3. For a copy of the guidelines and/or charter, put the request in the subject line of the email and send to: [youthcop@lists.info.usaid.gov](mailto:youthcop@lists.info.usaid.gov). Participants should be aware that the list is public and not private communication. When participants voluntarily disclose personal information on a list serve, that information can be collected and used by others and may result in unsolicited messages from other people.

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