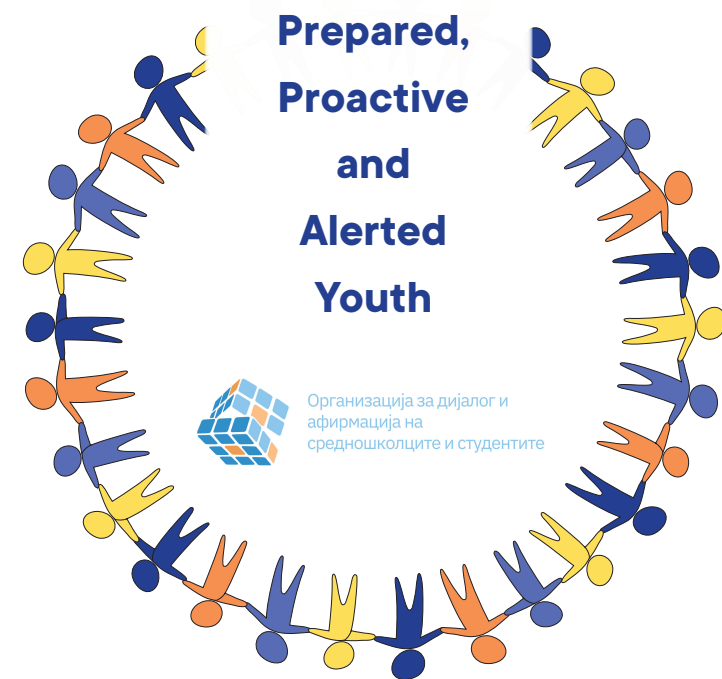


Analysis of the Youth-Related Legal Framework



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ANALYSIS OF THE YOUTH-RELATED LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:

RNM	REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
RM	REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
LYPYP	LAW ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH POLICIES
EL	ELECTION LAWS
CC	CRIMINAL CODE
AYS	AGENCY FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS
MES	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
NA	NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
NYS	NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY
LYS	LOCAL YOUTH STRATEGY
LAF	LAW ON ASSOCIATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS
LSE	LAW ON SECONDARY EDUCATION
LHE	LAW ON HIGHER EDUCATION
EA	EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
PRO	PUBLIC REVENUE OFFICE
LF	LAW ON FAMILY
CSW	CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WORK
LFLA	LAW ON FREE LEGAL AID
LJ	MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
LPDP	LAW ON PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION
LAAMS	LAW ON AUDIO AND AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA SERVICES
LRL	LABOR RELATIONS LAW
LOHS	LAW ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
LCP	LAW ON CHILD PROTECTION
LPPAD	LAW ON PREVENTION AND PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

INTRODUCTION

Laws and by-laws that directly and indirectly relate to young people are essential for shaping the status and experience of young people in every country. In a broader point of view, “youth” are persons who are in a period of transition from childhood to adulthood and according to the legal regulation includes persons between 15 and 29 years of age. This age period can be reliably stated to be decisive for the formation of the individual and social identity of young people, as well as crucial for their participation in various spheres of life, including education, work, health care, as well as community activities.

Young people represent a significant part of any society and are a critical resource for its future development and progress. In terms of rights, obligations, needs and challenges, young people are particularly important and deserve special attention within the legal, social and economic policy of each country. Therefore, the analysis of laws and by-laws that relate to young people is of great importance for future social and economic well-being.

How familiar are the young people with the legislation of the RNM that applies exactly to them? Their awareness of the legal regulations is of crucial importance so that young people can truly use the rights established by law, as well as to familiarize themselves with the obligations provided for in the laws and legal acts. The awareness of young people with the legal regulation is also of crucial importance so that they can take a more active part in public life and in the procedures for creating policies that concern them. Young people can contribute new ideas, innovations and enthusiasm, which can stimulate the development of society in various areas such as education, technology, culture and economy.

Youth involvement is important for the diversity and inclusiveness of society. Young people have different perspectives, experiences and needs than older generations, and their voices should be heard and considered when deciding various issues. This not only enriches decisions, but also contributes to improving the quality of life for all citizens.

At the same time, the involvement of young people is important for achieving wider democratic legitimacy. When young people have the opportunity to participate in the political process and express their views and

issues, it contributes to increasing their trust in institutions and democratic processes. This can prevent political apathy and alienation among young people and motivate them to become active citizens.

However, in order to achieve greater involvement of young people, responsible efforts are needed on the part of the authorities and the young people themselves. First, young people should be educated and informed about the meaning of public life and how they can get involved. Education for citizenship and activism should be part of the formal and informal education system. With training and information, young people can become aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Finally, it is important for young people to be self-organized and active. They can engage in various types of activism, protests, initiatives for social and cultural change and other activities that will mark them as part of public life. Also, the use of modern communication technologies and social media can enable them to share their ideas and views with a larger number of people and influence the public dialogue.

In this context, youth law analysis explores the way legislation affects the lives, rights and obligations, and needs of young people in every aspect of their lives. This analysis includes the following aspects:

Participation in public life: How laws facilitate or limit young people's opportunities to participate in public and political processes and their influence in state decision-making.

Education: How laws affect young people's access to education, the quality of education, the status of pupils/students, how they regulate universities and other educational institutions and other relevant issues related to education.

Work: How laws regulate working conditions for young people, including the minimum age for entry into the work process, working conditions for young people, employment, work rights and responsibilities, safety and health standards and the protection of young people as workers.

Social protection: How laws provide social protection and support for young people in areas such as health, social services and bursaries, including the state's obligations in relation to social services.

Protection from violence and abuse: How laws protect young people from violence, abuse and discrimination.

METHODOLOGY

When preparing the analysis, methodological and empirical researches were used. For the collection of data for the purposes of the analysis, basic methods of cognition were applied, in particular: analysis, synthesis, classification, specialization and generalization.

The following methods were used for this analysis:

- Analysis of domestic legislation from the perspective of youth participation in public life, education, work, social and health care, protection of personal data, protection from violence and abuse, analysis of legislation from the perspective of justice for children, as well as analysis of by-laws related to young people.
- Online questionnaires related to the topic of this analysis were delivered to a larger group of young people,
- Also, during the preparation of this analysis, the contents published on the websites of relevant state bodies, the Agency for Youth and Sports (AMS), the Ministry of Education and Culture (MES), the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), as well as relevant associations of citizens, Coalition of youth organizations NOW.

The purpose of this analysis is to identify the legal and by-laws relating to young people, with the aim that in the future young people will be more informed about their legal rights and obligations, as well as have greater involvement in the processes of decision-making, policy-making and satisfying their interests.

Analysis of data from an anonymous questionnaire conducted among young participants

The research in the first phase was carried out by filling out a Questionnaire electronically which was distributed to a focus group consisting of 30 holders, selected at random.

The analysis regarding the structure of the participants on various grounds (gender and age) gave the following data:

- Out of a total of 30 participants, 17 (56.7%) are women and 13 (43.3%) are men.
- In terms of age, 12 (40%) are young people aged 15-18, then 13 (43.3%) are aged 19-21, 3 (10%) are aged 22-25, and 2 (6.7%) are aged 26-29.

When asked if they are familiar with any specific laws or regulations that refer to young people in RNM, 56.7% of the participants answered yes, while the remaining 43.3% answered that they were not familiar.

A high 80% of respondents also answered affirmatively to the question "Have you ever received formal education or information about youth-related laws in school or through other programs?", while 20% answered that they are not familiar with such content.

When asked to indicate their awareness of the laws related to young people, 27.6% of the participants answered that they are slightly aware, in second place with 37.9% followed the answers that they are moderately aware, with 20.7% stating that they are very aware and only 13.8% pointed out that they are extremely aware.

From the answers received regarding the question "Do you think that the laws related to youth in RNM are well known among the youth?", the data obtained was overwhelming, as 23.3% answered that they were not sure, while 73.3% answered No, but only 3.3% of the participants answered Yes.

Asked whether they believe that the laws related to young people adequately protect the rights and interests of young people in RNM, the participants presented data for a total of 53.3% that they do not believe, 36.7% are not sure and only 10% believe that the laws related to young people adequately protect the rights and interests of young people in RNM.

As a final question, the question is to indicate which laws and by-laws related to young people they know, and only 13 participants answered this question, and they mentioned the Law on Secondary Education, the Law on Secondary School Participation and Democracy, the Law on Volunteering, the Law on Student Meals, the Law on Volunteering, the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, etc.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE

Until some time ago, there was no systematized law in the RNM that would refer directly to young people and in which their rights, obligations, association, organization and their participation in public life would be elaborated, but, with the adoption of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, this drawback was overcome.

This law was preceded by the initiative of the Club for Youth Issues and Policies to enact the Youth Law, where in 2018 the process of creating a law for youth began in the RNM Assembly.

This process for creating the law followed for the second time since in 2011, the then draft law on youth was withdrawn at the request of the youth sector.

Finally, on January 14, 2020, the RNM Assembly passed the law, which was named the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies. This law rounded off a whole that gave special focus to the inclusion of young people in public life.

LAW ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH POLICIES¹

The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies is systematized in eleven Chapters that regulate all issues related to youth participation and youth policies.

LYPYP is a law in RNM that regulates the participation of young people in public life and various aspects of youth policy. The Law enables, through the legal framework and mechanisms for the support of young people, to be involved in the democratic process and to be involved in various areas of social and economic development.

All terms are defined in the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, and here we will list some of the expressions that have the following meaning:

1 Official Gazette of the RNM, no. 10/20 from 16.01.2020

Youth are people aged 15 to 29 years.

The youth policy represents a set of measures and activities aimed at meeting the needs of young people, striving to realize their potential in all areas.

Youth participation is a process that enables young people to participate and share decisions about policies and programs that affect their lives.

Youth work represents an organized and systematic process of education and support of young people with the aim of realizing their overall personal, social and societal potential for their active inclusion in society.

Youth workers are persons with appropriate qualifications who work with young people and through activities that help them in their personal and social development through informal and formal learning methods.

A youth organization is any organization that is legally registered in accordance with the laws on associations and foundations and whose highest decision-making body is composed of at least two-thirds of young people between the ages of 15 and 29.

A youth organization can be any organization that is legally registered under the laws on associations and foundations and is not led by young people or is not part of a political party or trade union section. Although it is not primarily focused on youth activities, it has some of its goals and activities aimed at improving the interests of young people.

Youth umbrella organizations are organizations that unite different forms of youth organizing to achieve common goals in specific areas of interest to young people. These organizations have the right and opportunity to participate in the formation of laws, political documents and other strategic documents from the areas in which they operate, to monitor and evaluate the implementation of youth policies, to give proposals and recommendations to institutions and decision makers, to conduct research and analyzes of the development and status of young people in society and to implement activities that are enabled by the Law, by-laws and their statute.

Youth centers are places where programs and activities are created and implemented in order to improve the conditions and well-being of young people. These centers provide information of interest to young people and

support them in various aspects of their personal, social and professional development. They are formed through cooperation between municipalities and cities in the country.

According to the LYPYP, persons **aged 15 to 29** are defined as **youth**. This Law also refers to the development and implementation of strategic documents at the national and local level in order to improve the conditions and opportunities for young people in society. The aim of these activities is to improve the status and conditions of young people in society, i.e. through unification of rights and their participation in society and provides instruments for improving their position and provides an opportunity for their inclusion and influence on the decisions and policies that concern them.

The purpose of LYPYP stems from the primary need, the interests and aspirations of young people to be actively involved in the formation of policies for young people, and in order to enable and support the affirmation of young people as active participants in these processes, to inform, promote and protect their interests, as well as increase awareness in society about the meaning and role of young people. This is achieved by promoting intergenerational partnership, which means cooperation and support between different age groups in order to facilitate the participation of young people in decision-making and policy-making processes.

The Law focuses on the support and promotion of youth organizations, stimulating structural dialogues at the national and local level, as well as encouraging volunteerism, youth activism and youth work. Ultimately, the Law supports the personal, professional and social development of young people, making it essential for their integration and advancement in society.

In order to ensure the participation and representation of young people in the democratic process and in the governing bodies, a special body - **the National Assembly** - is established. The National Youth Assembly is elected by the youth representatives in the advisory body, which is of great importance in the context of representing the interests of the youth and creates the priorities and policies for the representation of these youth representatives and coordinates and monitors their work. The operating costs for organizing the assemblies are financed from funds from the RNM Budget. The register of youth organizations is maintained and managed by AYS. **It is important to note** that even after three years since the passing of the Law, the National Youth Assembly has not yet been established.

Municipalities, including municipalities in the city of Skopje and the city of Skopje, may establish **local youth councils** in accordance with their statute. Local youth councils have an advisory and representative role in the municipalities and the city of Skopje in the field of youth issues and policies.

The National Youth Strategy is an important strategic document that sets medium-term goals and priorities for the development of youth policies and improving the interests of young people. NYS is a strategic document that establishes medium-term goals and priorities for the development of youth policies and the promotion of the interests of young people, and establishes organizational, financial and administrative measures for their realization. The national youth strategy is valid for a period of five years and is implemented with financial resources from the RNM Budget.

In accordance with the National Youth Strategy, **the Local Youth Strategy** is drawn up, which serves to set medium-term goals and priorities for the development of youth policies at the local level. LYS is approved by the Council of Municipalities, municipalities in the city of Skopje and the city of Skopje and is valid for a five-year period. It is implemented with budget funds from the respective municipalities and the city of Skopje.

LAW ON SPORTS²

Sport is **an activity** that includes all forms of sports activities of athletes of all ages, as well as sports and recreational activities of citizens.

Sports activities are performed by **sports associations** and other legal entities in the field of sports.

Young people **have the right** to participate in sports events and training, provided they respect the rules and safety standards of the sport in question.

The public interest for young people in the RNM in the field of sports refers to **encouraging** the sports activities of children and youth within the framework of national sports federations, organizing and conducting sports training and competitions to enable athletes to achieve top sports results,

2 Official Gazette of the RM, no. 29/02, 66/04, 81/08, 18/11, 51/11, 64/12, 148/13, 187/13, 42/14, 138/14, 177/14, 72/15, 153/15, 6/16, 55/16, 61/16, 106/16, 190/16 and Official Gazette of the RM no. 98/19 and 244/19 from 26.11.2019.

encouraging the realization of the programs of the sports federations of the state, as well as encouraging and helping the organization of sports events and manifestations.

Young athletes have the right to participate in **the decision-making process and formulation of the rules** of the sport that affect them, to be given opportunities to learn and to be supported in the development of their sports skills. It is important to emphasize that respecting the rights of young athletes is essential for their physical and emotional well-being and development in sport.

Young athletes have **the right to education** and must be provided with the opportunity to balance their sporting and educational activities. They must be protected from violence, abuse and unhealthy practices in sports, be treated equally and fairly, without discrimination.

Athletes from the younger age categories can acquire a **sports category** (athlete from the world category, international and state category), if they achieve results that are provided for seniors in accordance with the regulations for the categorization of athletes and the criteria and criteria for determining the status and rank of athletes in our country. If a team or an individual fulfills the conditions stipulated in the categorization for participation and achieves a placement at a world or European championship in the highest age category for youth, the **athlete category of the international category** is acquired.

Youth athletes, up to 20 years old, citizens of RNM, on the basis of results achieved in a certain period of time, acquire a sports category - **athlete sports hope**.

LAW ON CULTURE³

Culture, in the sense of this Law, includes creation, the publication of artistic creation and the protection and use of creation.

Young people **have the right** to free creativity, non-professional or professional, as well as the right to cultural education, regardless of age, education, religious, ethnic or other affiliation.

³ Official Gazette of RM, no. 31/98, 49/03, 82/05, 24/07, 116/10, 47/11, 51/11, 136/12, 23/13, 187/13, 44/14, 61/15, 154/15, 39/16, 11/18 and 11/18

The Law on Culture provides a framework and guidelines for the support and participation of young people in the cultural and artistic activities of a given country. It is important for young people and their communities to be informed and actively involved in cultural processes and to use the opportunities offered by the laws of culture for their development and expression. Associations and organizations that promote art and culture can be important for young talents and personalities, giving them the opportunity to express themselves and participate in cultural events.

The Law on culture provides for **programs and subsidies to support young artists and creatives**. These programs can provide financial and institutional support to young people to develop their artistic and cultural abilities, to direct attention to the involvement of young people in cultural events and projects. This includes support for young creatives to create, participate in exhibitions, concerts, film projects and other cultural activities, and also regulates activities related to the maintenance and promotion of the country's cultural heritage. Young people can be involved in projects for the protection and maintenance of traditions and heritage.

LAW ON GAMES OF CHANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT GAMES⁴

In the following, a brief review will be given of the terms used to regulate the types, conditions and manner of organizing games of chance and entertainment games.

Games of chance are games in which the participants have equal opportunities to gain profit by directly or indirectly paying a certain amount (stake), and the result of the game depends exclusively or mostly on chance or on some future uncertain event in the game.

Entertainment games are the games on computers, simulators, video machines, pinball machines and other similar devices that are put into operation with the help of money, tokens, as well as other similar games in which participation is paid, and in which the participant cannot make a profit in money, objects or rights, but acquires the right to one or more free games of the same type, as well as other games of an entertainment nature.

4 Official Gazette of RM, no.24/2011 dated 19.06.2018 dated 25.02.2011

The main purpose of this Law is to include measures **to protect young people from potential abuse and exploitation** in the field of games of chance, that is, restrictions regarding the entry and participation of young people in games and entertainment activities.

This Law expressly **prohibits persons under the age of 18 from participating in games of chance.**

The organizer of the game of chance is obliged to **prevent the participation of persons under the age of 18** in the games of chance.

Persons under the age of 18 **should not be allowed to enter** casinos, indoor raffle rooms, betting shops and slot machines. The organizer of the game of chance has the right to inspect the documentation that proves the age of the persons.

Also, the organizer of the games of chance is obliged to post a sign on the entrance door of the business premises in which the games of chance are organized, with the following content: **“Entrance of persons under the age of 18 is prohibited.”**

LAW ON ELECTIONS⁵

According to the LE of the RNM, every citizen of the RNM who has reached the age of 18 and has business capacity and permanent residence in the electoral unit, municipality, i.e. the city of Skopje, where the election is held, **has the right to vote.**

Minors (persons under 18 years of age) **do not have the right** to vote in local, state or other types of elections. This is done because of the idea that people under the age of 18 may not have the maturity and understanding to participate in political processes and understand the consequences of their votes.

All citizens over the age of 18 as of the voting day, who have a residence in the territory of the RNM, and who have a valid ID card or travel document, i.e. whose term of validity of the ID card or travel document expires in the period

5 Official Gazette of RM, no. 40/06, 136/08, 148/08, 155/08, 163/08, 44/11, 51/11, 142/12, 31/13, 34/13, 14/14, 30/14, 196/15, 35/16, 97/16, 99/16, 136/16, 142/16, 67/17, 125/17, 35/18, 99/18, 140/18, 208/18, 27/19 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 98/19, 42/20, 74/21 and 215/21)

from the announcement of the elections until the day of their holding, are entered in the Voter's List.

After reaching the age of 18, young people **meet the conditions** to run for MP, council member and mayor.

LAW ON ASSOCIATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS⁶

The LAF regulates the manner, conditions and procedure for establishment, registration and termination of associations, foundations, alliances, organizational forms of foreign organizations in RNM, the property at their disposal, supervision, status changes and the status of organizations of public interest. Activities of public interest include, among others, the protection of children and young people.

Association can be established by natural and legal persons. An association can be established by at least five founders, of whom three of the founders must have a domicile or abode, i.e. headquarters in the territory of the RNM. A citizen's association can be established by minors who have reached the age of 15 through a statement of consent for the establishment of an association by their legal representative, for the purposes for which the association was established in accordance with the Law.

Membership in the association is voluntary. A natural person can be a member of the association regardless of his/her age in accordance with the statute. **A minor who has reached the age of 14 joins** the association by giving a signed statement of consent to his/her legal representative for joining the organization in accordance with the Law. Persons with limited business capacity or persons deprived of business capacity may also be members of the association by providing a signed statement of consent to his/her legal representative for membership in the organization in accordance with the Law.

LAW ON FILM INDUSTRY⁷

The Law on Film Industry regulates the performance of the film activity, establishment, work, management, financing, supervision over the work and other issues related to the work of the RNM Film Agency.

6 Official Gazette of RM, no. 52/10, 135/11 and 55/16 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 239/22

7 Official Gazette of RM no. 82/13, 18/14, 44/14, 129/15, 152/15, 39/16 and 11/18 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 275/19

In order to protect minors in RNM from films that can harm their moral, physical or psychological development, films that are distributed in RNM for cinema screening, i.e. for another form of public screening, must be categorized, according to the content of the film, in accordance with this Law.

The distributor, i.e. the cinema screener of the film, is obliged before the start of the distribution, i.e. the cinema screening of the film in RNM, to categorize the film and the promotional materials and to highlight the category of the film in another clear and visible way.

The way of categorizing the film, i.e. the forms of acoustic and visual presentation of the category, as well as the time periods in which the content that can have a harmful effect on the physical, mental and moral development of children and young people can be shown, is prescribed by the Minister of Culture with a general act.

EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

LAW ON SECONDARY EDUCATION⁸

LSE is systematized in fourteen Chapters in which all issues related to secondary education are regulated.

This Law regulates the organization, functioning and management of secondary education, as part of the system of upbringing and education.

Teaching in secondary education is carried out through plans and programs for high school and vocational education.

Secondary education takes place in secondary schools which are organized as public secondary schools (municipal secondary school, i.e. secondary school of the City of Skopje and state secondary school) and private

8 Official Gazette of RM, no. 37/96, 80/99, 4/02, 43/03, 19/04, 81/05, 60/06, 73/06, 7/08, 139/08, 114/09, 51/11, 135/11, 185/11, 142/12, 166/12, 55/13, 82/13, 14/14, 27/14, 28/14, 41/14, 115/14, 132/14, 160/14, 199/14, 196/15, 226/15, 97/17 and 248/18 and Official Gazette of RNM, no.36/23 and 188/23

secondary school. The activity carried out in the secondary school is of public interest and is performed as a public service.

Secondary education is mandatory for every citizen, under equal conditions established by this Law, and is free in public secondary schools.

The Law itself explicitly states that **discrimination** based on gender, race, skin color, national and social origin, political and religious belief, property and social position **is not allowed**.

The educational activity in the secondary school is carried out in the **Macedonian language and Cyrillic script**. For the members of the communities that follow instruction in a language other than the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic script, educational activities in public secondary schools are carried out in **the language and script of the respective community** in the manner and under the conditions established by this Law.

The development of education in public schools is determined by a program adopted by the Government of RNM, in accordance with the development documents of RNM.

The educational activity in secondary education is realized with lesson plans and programs in which the objectives, teaching areas, topics and contents and the profile of the teacher who implements the teaching are regulated.

Educational work in secondary schools is carried out during **school years**. As a rule, the academic year in secondary schools begins on September 1 and ends on August 31 of the following year.

This Law foresees **four types of secondary education**, namely:

- high school education;
- professional education;
- secondary art education and
- secondary education for students with special educational needs.

According to this Law, **the status of a student** in secondary education is acquired by enrolling in secondary school. Full-time student status can only be acquired in one secondary school. Part-time students are persons who acquire education through self-education, by taking exams for a specific plan and program in high school. A person who meets one of the following conditions

can be enrolled as a part-time student: he is older than 17 years; to be on sick leave for a long period of time; that he was sentenced to a pedagogical measure of removal from school; to be in employment and in other cases determined by the statute of the secondary school.

Free transportation to the school is organized for the student who has the status of a full-time student in a public high school, if the student is not accommodated in a dormitory. The student has the right to free transportation if the place of residence is at least 2.5 kilometers away from the secondary school in which the student is enrolled and attends classes and if the chosen profession and profile is not represented in the municipality where the student lives. **The student with special educational needs and the person accompanying him/her have the right to free transportation regardless of the distance from their place of residence** to the state secondary school in which the student is enrolled and attends classes.

The general success of the student is determined on the basis of the annual grades of all mandatory subjects at the end of the year, and for students referred to a remedial exam after the completion of the remedial exams.

If the student **is not satisfied with some of the annual grades** that have been communicated to him/her, **within three days** of the announcement of the grades, **he/she has the right to submit an objection** to the teacher's council of the public school. The teacher's council can decide to confirm the grade, modify it or organize a recheck of the student's knowledge.

Students who, after the end of the school year, have three or more negative grades do not complete the year. Students who received a negative grade on the remedial exam in the second exam period or did not appear for the remedial exam without justification do not complete the year either. These students have the right to re-enroll in the same year.

Additional teaching is organized for students who show continuous poor results in learning, and especially if: they have at least two poor grades, they have poor results in a certain subject, they are absent from classes in a certain subject and at the request of the student or his/her parent, i.e. guardian.

Additional teaching is organized for students who achieve significant results in individual subjects (talented students).

A student who excels in abilities, knowledge and work habits during his/her education in public schools and has excellent success can advance faster, i.e. complete two years during one school year.

In the public school, **the student's behavior is also evaluated. Behavior is evaluated as: exemplary, good, unsatisfactory.**

The Law explicitly provides that **corporal punishment and mental abuse of the student is prohibited.**

For students' success, the public school awards **diplomas**, namely:

- diploma for completed secondary education and demonstrated exceptional results and expanded and deepened knowledge in the field of science, art and other types of activity of talented students (awarded to students who participate in student competitions, Olympiads and similar events of a national and international nature) , and
- diploma for completed secondary education with continuous excellent success (awarded to students who show interest and results in the acquisition of knowledge in all teaching subjects and in activities in other types of educational activity in the school or outside it).

Due to violation of duties and non-fulfillment of obligations, **pedagogical measures** can be applied to the student: written reprimand, reprimand before expulsion and expulsion from the public school.

The written reprimand for the student is pronounced by the head teacher, the teacher's council of the class or the director.

The reprimand before expulsion and the expulsion is pronounced by the teacher's council. The pedagogic measure of removal can only be imposed for a more serious breach of duty established by the school's statute.

The record is made in the main book of the students, the main book of the final exam, the main book of the matriculation exam, the main book of the international matriculation, the main book of secondary specialist education are documents of permanent value.

A citizen of RNM who completed secondary education abroad or completed a separate year of secondary education, has the right to request **nostrification or recognition of equivalence** in accordance with this Law, if international agreements do not stipulate otherwise.

The governing body in the public high school is the school board. The school board in the public secondary school is composed of 12 members, namely: four representatives from the teachers, three representatives from the parents, i.e. the guardians of the students, three representatives from the founder and one representative each from the Ministry and from the business community. The school board elects a president from among its members.

Funds for financing public secondary education are provided by the RNM Budget, in the manner and according to the procedure determined by the Law on the budgets of the RNM, the Law on the Execution of the RNM Budget and the Law on the Financing of Local Self-Government Units.

Supervision over the legality of the work of secondary schools is carried out by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Finally, the Law provides for **misdemeanor sanctions** for disobeying the Law, from which we will single out the fine that can be imposed **on the parent, that is, the guardian** of the minor student if the student **is not enrolled in secondary education or attends school irregularly**, and the same is in the amount of 600 to 800 euros in denar equivalent.

LAW ON HIGHER EDUCATION⁹

The Law on Higher Education is systematized in seventeen Chapters that regulate all issues related to students in higher education institutions.

LHE in RNM regulates all aspects of higher education in the country. This Law enshrines university autonomy and academic freedom.

Higher education is achieved through study programs at universities and independent higher professional schools.

The higher education qualification is a formal result resulting from the process of assessment and confirmation that learning results have been achieved in accordance with established standards after a completed study program from the first, second or third cycle of higher education, acquired at a higher education institution in RNM or in another country, which is accredited and has approval for higher education activities

⁹ Official Gazette of RM, no. 82/18 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 178/21

The status of a student, and therefore a member of the academic community, is acquired by enrolling in the first, second and third cycle of studies at a university, that is, at the independent higher professional school. The status of a student is proven by a student ID card or an index.

During his/her academic education, the student **has the right** to quality studies and the educational process as provided by the study programs, the free expression of opinions and views during the teaching and other activities of the higher education institution, the right to declare the quality (evaluation) of the teaching and teachers, regular study and the status of a full-time student and the right to part-time study and the status of a part-time student, to progress regularly, to be educated and to complete the studies under conditions that were valid at the time of enrollment and protection of the student's personality from abuse and of his/her dignity.

The student **has the obligation** to fulfill the tasks prescribed in the study programs, to respect the provisions of the statute of the higher education institution and other legal acts of the internal regulation, to comply with the decisions and decisions of the bodies of the independent higher education institution and its unit, to respect the author's rights of the authors of the textbooks, monographs and study aids and to act in accordance with the student code of ethics prepared and approved by the higher education institution in accordance with the student representation.

Students of all levels of higher education who are without parents, blind, deaf, first and second group disabled, mothers with children up to six years of age and hospitalized have the right to special facilities determined by the statute of the higher education institution. The RNM government can make a decision on special amenities for students, such as a student card for discounts, free city transport and others, with funds provided by the RNM Budget.

For violation of duties and non-fulfillment of obligations, a disciplinary measure of **reprimand, public reprimand and expulsion** may be imposed on a student. The disciplinary measure of expulsion is applied for the academic year in which it was imposed.

In order to protect the rights of students, **a student ombudsman** is elected at each university from among the regular students of the university. The mandate of the student ombudsman and the deputy student ombudsmen is 2 years, without the possibility of re-election.

Student assemblies are bodies of higher education institutions in which student representatives are members. The work of the student assembly is financed from the funds of the higher education institution, as well as from: legacies, gifts, bequests, contributions and other sources. Exist:

1. **The university student assembly**, which is a body of **the university** and in which student representatives are members.
2. **The faculty student assembly** is a body of **the faculty** in which student representatives are members. The representatives in the faculty student assembly are elected in direct, fair and democratic elections by secret ballot.
3. **The student assembly of a higher vocational school** is a body of the **higher vocational school** in which student representatives are members.

A public university, at the proposal of a university unit, may introduce participation in study costs for students whose education is financed by the **RNM Budget**.

A private university, a private-public university or a private independent higher professional school, within the number of students determined by the competition, determines the tuition fee for study.

A public university or a public independent higher professional school, within the number of students determined by the competition, may introduce **tuition fees** for students whose education is not financed by the RNM Budget.

The tuition fees determine the costs of studying for one academic year, that is, for the acquisition of 60 ECTS credits.

The public higher education institution **will not charge a participation fee for**: persons without parents under the age of 26, if they are unemployed; with a disability, according to the decree adopted by the Government on the proposal of the National Council; military invalids, persons raised in homes for abandoned children if they are unemployed and other persons determined by the Government's decree adopted on the proposal of the National Council.

The funds for the participation of these persons will be covered by the RNM Budget.

Finally, this Law provides for misdemeanor provisions and fines for those persons (legal and physical) who will violate the provisions of the Law.

LAW ON PUPILS' STANDARD¹⁰

The Law on Pupil's Standard is systematized in thirteen Chapters that regulate all issues related to student standard.

This Law regulation governs the establishment, organization, functioning and management of institutions for student standards as part of the system of upbringing and education.

Student standard is achieved in public institutions for student standard that are organized as a **public student dormitory** (municipal, i.e. student dormitory of the city of Skopje and state dormitory) and **private dormitory**, as well as through **student scholarships**. These institutions are established for the realization of interests and needs for residence of students who study outside their place of residence and their activity is of public interest.

This Law regulates that every regular student, **under equal conditions**, has the right to stay in a student dormitory. The educational activity in the student dormitory is carried out in the Macedonian language and Cyrillic script, while for the members of the communities who follow educational work in a language other than the Macedonian language and its Cyrillic script, it is carried out in the language and script of the respective community in a way and under conditions established by this Law.

In the student dormitories, the educational work is carried out according to **the plan and program for the realization of the activity**, which determine the goals and tasks of the educational work, the pedagogical conditions, the basic areas of the educational work in the student dormitories, the educational standards and the profile of the staff which realizes the program.

Pursuant to this Law, educational activities in student dormitories are organized and carried out in educational groups and individually.

Enrollment and admission in the municipal student dormitories, i.e. in the city of Skopje, is carried out through a competition announced by the Ministry in the media for public information no later than March 31, following previously submitted proposals from the municipalities and the city of Skopje, and enrollment and admission in the state student dormitories is carried out through

10 Official Gazette of RM, no. 52/05, 117/08, 17/11, 135/11, 15/13, 41/14, 146/15, 30/16, 64/18 and 20/19 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 248/20 and 302/20

a competition announced by the ministry in the means of public information no later than March 31. A student is admitted to a public student dormitory if he/she is: **a citizen of RNM and a full-time student in secondary education**. Preference for admission to a public student dormitory is given to students for whom the total income of the family members in the immediate family does not exceed the minimum wage established in the RNM in the previous year. The Law stipulates the conditions under which the student's stay in the student dormitory ends, if: he/she has finished his/her education; does not register within the deadlines determined by the competition; drops out; does not respect the house rules and in other cases determined by the education laws.

The Law refers to the acts of the student dormitories, in which **the obligations and duties of the students** who use the services in the student dormitories are determined in more detail, and also provides pedagogical measures that can be applied in case of violation of duties and non-fulfillment of obligations of the student. Three pedagogical measures are foreseen: **written reprimand, reprimand before expulsion and expulsion from the student dormitory** (ban on using the services in the student dormitory).

The Law also refers to educators and associates in educational work and it is regulated that the plan and program of educational work in student dormitories is implemented by educators and professional associates in educational work (pedagogue, psychologist and librarian). **Educators** in the student dormitories carry out the educational work with the students and achieve the goals and tasks of the program, and **the professional collaborators** in the student dormitories work on pedagogical-psychological, librarian and other professional tasks that contribute to the educational work.

Pedagogical documentation, in the sense of this Law, is the main book of the students, which is a document of permanent value and is kept and published in the Macedonian language using the Cyrillic script. For the members of the communities that follow the educational work in a language other than the Macedonian language, the pedagogical documentation is kept and issued in the Macedonian language using the Cyrillic script and the language and script in which the educational work is carried out. Pedagogical records are kept in the student dormitories, which include: work diary, educational group diary, as well as other planning in educational work.

The price for staying in student dormitories, i.e. families, is determined based on real costs in accordance with norms and standards of this type

of service. The founder of the dormitory for students who study in public secondary schools and are placed in a public dormitory, that is, a family, participates at least 50% of the determined price, and the difference to the total price is paid by the parent, that is, the guardian.

The governing body in the public student dormitory is the **Management Board**, which in public student dormitories is composed of seven members, namely: two representatives from the educators and professional associates, one representative from the parents, i.e. the guardians of the students, three representatives from the founder and one representative from the ministry. The management board elects a president from among its members.

The director is the person who manages the student dormitory and is responsible for legality in the work and for the material and financial operation of the dormitory.

In public student dormitories, a **Council of Educators** is established as an expert body for the implementation of educational work. The council of educators in public student dormitories consists of educators, professional associates and the director.

Funds for the financing of public student dormitories are provided from the RNM Budget, in a manner and with a procedure determined by the Law on Budgets, the Law on the Implementation of the RNM Budget, the Law on Financing of Local Self-Government Units, as well as from service users.

Supervision over the legality of the work of the student dormitory is carried out by the Ministry of Education, and **professional supervision** in the student dormitory is carried out by the Bureau for the Development of Education in a manner established by law.

Finally, this Law provides for **misdemeanor provisions and fines** for those persons (legal and physical) who will violate the provisions of the Law.

LAW ON STUDENTS' STANDARD¹¹

The **Law on the Students' Standard** is systematized in twelve chapters that regulate all issues related to the student standard.

This Law regulates the activity of the students' standard, the establishment, organization, functioning and management in the institutions for the students' standard as part of the system of education and student scholarships.

Students' standard, in the sense of this Law, means the provision of accommodation, food, tuition, scholarships, as well as the satisfaction of the working, cultural, informational, sports-recreational and other common needs of students, and also in the sense of this Law students' standard also means providing funds for awarding the best students from the first three best-ranked higher education institutions in RNM, ranked according to LHE.

The students' standard is realized in institutions for students' standard that are organized as **state student dormitories** and **private student dormitories** (hereinafter: student dormitories). These institutions are established to fulfill the interests and needs of students studying outside their place of residence and their activity is of public interest.

According to this Law, every full-time student, **under equal conditions**, has the right to stay in a student dormitory.

Religious education is prohibited in the student dormitory, as well as political and religious organization and action, and the display of party and religious signs is prohibited in the student dormitory.

A student dormitory is an institution that provides students with accommodation, nutrition, health care, cultural-entertainment, sports-recreational and other activities. Accommodation can be arranged for students in a private dormitory. Their work during the academic year is determined by an annual program.

Students studying outside their place of residence have the right to accommodation and food in the state dormitories and it is done through a

11 Official Gazette of the RM, no. 15/13, 30/13, 120/13, 41/14, 146/15, 30/16, 178/16, 64/18, 20/19 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 124/19 and 248/20 and 302/207

competition published by the Ministry on Education and Science in the public media no later than July 15. Enrollment and admission of students in private student dormitories is done through a competition, which is announced by the founder.

With this Law, **priority** is provided for the admission of students to the student dormitories for **the vulnerable categories**, and this includes children without parents and parental care, children with special needs, children of beneficiaries of social financial assistance and permanent financial assistance, children of a single parent, children of unemployed parents, children of benefit beneficiaries based on termination of employment for business reasons, for whom the total income in the family is up to the minimum wage determined in the RNM, receive up to 100 points, depending on the success in learning and/or the length of time of receiving social cash assistance and permanent cash assistance, except for children without parents and parental care and children with special needs for whom the total income in the family may be above the minimum wage determined in the RNM.

This Law stipulates obligations and duties that students must comply with when using the services in the student dormitories, that is, the student is obliged to comply with **the house rules** adopted by the management board. Students who do not comply with the established house rules can be imposed **an educational measure**: a written reprimand, a reprimand before expulsion and a ban on using the services in the student dormitory.

Educational measures, written reprimand and reprimand before expulsion, are imposed for **minor violations of the house rules** of the student dormitory. According to the Law, the following are considered minor violations of the house rules of the dormitory: improper and irresponsible behavior towards other students and employees of the dormitory, irresponsible behavior towards the property and inventory of the dormitory causing minor material damage, non-observance of the smoking ban in the dormitory, - indecent behavior in the restaurant of the dormitory, not maintaining hygiene in the room and common areas in the dormitory and playing loud music. **The ban on the use of services in the student dormitory can only be imposed for more serious violations of the house rules** of the student dormitory: failure to timely report malfunctions of devices that would cause material damage, introduction and use of alcohol or narcotics, failure to adhere to safety regulations from illness, fire, explosion, harmful effects of poisons and other dangerous substances and violation of environmental protection regulations, offensive or violent behavior, irresponsible behavior towards the property and inventory of the

student dormitory causing greater material damage, outstanding costs for accommodation in the student dormitory for more than three months, causing national or racial intolerance, not taking or partially taking the prescribed measures to ensure the safety of the entrusted inventory, preventing control of the room by an authorized person from the student dormitory, giving up the use of the room of another person with the acquisition of material benefit and repetition of minor violations of house rules. The ban on using services in the student dormitory can be imposed for up to one year.

The Law stipulates that the student's residence in the dormitory ends if the student: completes the education, does not register within the deadlines determined by the competition, drops out, does not respect the house rules and in other cases established by law and the statute of the student dormitory home.

The Law explicitly provides that **corporal punishment and mental abuse of the student is prohibited.**

In the dormitories, **documentation and records** for admitted students are kept in the main book where records are kept for admitted students. For each admitted student there is a file in which records are made.

The price for accommodation and food in the state dormitories is determined based on the actual costs in accordance with norms and standards for this type of services. For students who are housed in a state dormitory, the Ministry participates in the cost of accommodation and food up to 50% of the determined price, and the difference to the total price is paid by the student. Ministry for students who are placed in a state student dormitory and are children without parents and parental care, children with special needs, children of unemployed parents, children of single parents, children of beneficiaries of social financial assistance and permanent financial assistance and children of beneficiaries of compensation on the basis of termination of employment for business reasons, fully pays the price for accommodation and food, except for children of single parents, children of unemployed parents and children of beneficiaries of compensation on the basis of termination of employment for business reasons for whom the total income in the family is above the minimum wage established in the RNM.

The director is the person who manages the student dormitory and is responsible for legality in the work and for the material and financial operations of the student dormitory.

Funds for financing the state student dormitories are provided by the **RNM Budget** in accordance with the Law on Budgets, the Law on Execution of the RNM Budget, as well as by service users.

In this Law, with the aim of discovering, stimulating and nurturing gifted students from various fields of science, technology, culture, art and sports, the criteria and conditions under which the Ministry of Education awards **scholarships** to students are provided. The basic criteria for awarding scholarships are: the achieved success in education, the study program in which the student is enrolled, the material possibilities of the students and their families and participation in the Program for providing tutoring to students from primary education, i.e. the Program for providing tutoring to students from secondary education.

Granting of student scholarships to students studying at RNM is done on the basis of a competition published by the Ministry. Of the total number of scholarships provided, 49% are for students from social categories, 30% are for students who have achieved particular success in learning, 20% are for students who are enrolled in study programs from the scientific fields of natural-mathematical, technical-technological, biotechnical and/or medical sciences and 1% are for students who are enrolled in study programs of higher education institutions for the education of teaching staff in pre-school education, primary and secondary education.

Beneficiaries of student scholarships can be full-time students, citizens of RNM, if they meet the conditions and criteria according to this Law.

Supervision over the implementation of this Law and the regulations adopted on the basis of this Law is carried out by the MOS, and inspection supervision over the implementation of this Law and the regulations adopted on the basis of this Law is carried out by the State Educational Inspectorate, in accordance with the Law.

Finally, this Law provides for **misdemeanor provisions and fines** for those who violate the provisions of the Law.

SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE

LAW ON YOUTH ALLOWANCE¹²

The Law on Youth Allowance in RNM aims to provide financial support to young people in order to improve their economic position.

The purpose of this Law is to encourage young people to join the labor market in production activities and through financial support to ensure their employment for a longer period of time and improve their economic situation.

A young person is a natural person under the age of 23 with at least completed secondary education, who is employed or self-employed in a production activity and has mandatory social insurance in accordance with the Law on Mandatory Social Insurance Contributions.

A young person is also a physical person under the age of 23 with at least a completed secondary education who is exclusively engaged in agricultural activity and has income from agriculture and has mandatory social insurance in accordance with the Law on contributions from mandatory social insurance.

The youth allowance is a monthly allowance, which is paid from the budget of the EARNM of the RNM to the bank account of the young person.

The youth allowance can be used by a young person who meets the following conditions:

1. It should be covered by mandatory social insurance on the basis of employment with an employer or self-employment with a predominant production activity
2. It should be employed in a private employment agency and assigned to work at an employer with a predominantly manufacturing activity or
3. It should be covered by mandatory social insurance as an individual farmer.

The youth allowance is **paid** if the young person receives a salary and contributions from mandatory social insurance from his/her employer, or a self-

12 Official Gazette of RNM, no.65/23 from 23.03.2023

employed person, within the terms established by law. For the individual farmer, the allowance is paid after payment of mandatory social security contributions in accordance with the Law based on the data provided by the PRO.

The youth allowance **amounts to MKD 3,000** for full-time work and is subject to personal income tax. Also, the allowance is paid once a month to the transaction account of the young person, no later than the 25th of the month for the previous month.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy supervises the application of this Law.

The youth allowance is paid until the cessation of compulsory social insurance due to employment or self-employment, or the cessation of compulsory social insurance as an individual farmer, but not longer than the young person's 23th birthday.

LAW ON SOCIAL PROTECTION¹³

The Law on Social Protection regulates the system and organization of social protection, beneficiaries of social protection, rights to financial assistance and social services, procedures for exercising rights and using services, performing the activity of social protection, personnel, financing and supervision of the performance of social protection and other issues of importance for the performance of the activity of social protection.

In this Law, what we would highlight as being of special interest to young people is the provision in which it is regulated that a person who until the age of 18 had the status of a child without parents and without parental care, i.e. after termination of guardianship, and at most until the age of 26- years of age, has the right to a one-time intervention financial aid in the amount of up to 180,000 denars, for the purpose of inclusion in the social environment.

This right is exercised after leaving the institution or foster family. The center for social work, together with the person, makes a plan for the integration of the person in the social environment, which refers to the provision of housing, employment, regular education and other needs, based on which the funds are paid. The plan is drawn up three months before leaving the out-of-home care facility, assisted living unit or foster family.

13 Official Gazette of RNM, no. 104/19, 146/19, 275/19, 302/20, 311/20, 163/21, 294/21, 99/22, 236/22 and 65/23

LAW ON HEALTH CARE¹⁴

This Law regulates the issues related to the system and organization of health care and the performance of health care activities, the guaranteed rights and the determined needs and interests of the state in the provision of health care.

Health activity that refers to young people at the primary level includes health activity for **the needs of children and school youth**, implementation of preventive programs and measures for children, youth, those young people who are employed and other particularly endangered groups, i.e. groups that are particularly exposed to certain health risks, health treatment and medical rehabilitation of children and young people with special needs.

The public health institution Zdravstven dom Skopje, in addition to the activities of a health center for the area for which it was established, can also perform activities, exclusively for the functional assessment of children and young people with an affected health condition up to 26 years of age, in its headquarters and in the internal organizational units, as well as on the territory of RNM in the expert teams for functional assessment of children and youth with an affected health condition up to 26 years of age in Strumica, Shtip, Veles, Bitola, Gostivar, Ohrid, Kumanovo and Delchevo.

The health center can organize the performance of separate activities in organizational units outside its headquarters so that it can, as much as possible, bring the population closer to the population, especially the activities of preventive health activity for children and young people.

LAW ON FAMILY¹⁵

The Law on Family regulates: marriage and family, relations in marriage and family, certain forms of special protection of the family, domestic violence, adoption, guardianship, maintenance, as well as the procedure before the court in marital and family disputes and the procedure for imposing a temporary measure for protection from domestic violence.

14 Official Gazette of RM, no. 43/12, 145/12, 87/13, 164/13, 39/14, 43/14, 132/14, 188/14, 10/15, 61/15, 154/15, 192/15, 17/16, 37/16, 20/19 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 101/19, 153/19, 180/19, 275/19, 77/21, 122/21, 178/21, 150/22, 236/22 and 199/23

15 Official Gazette of RM, no. 80/92, 9/96, 38/04, 33/06, 84/08, 67/10, 156/10, 39/12, 44/12, 38/14, 115/14, 104/15 and 150/15 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 53/21 and 199/23

This Law focuses on the family and the relationships between its members. Considering that the family by definition is a living community of parents and children and other relatives, if they live in a joint household, part of this Law refers to children (youth), their rights and obligations within the family community, and this occurs with the birth of children and by adoption.

The basic principles on which this Law is based are equality in family relations, mutual respect, mutual assistance and maintenance and protection of the interests of minor children.

The LF provides for positive obligations that must be fulfilled by the state in order to ensure special protection of the family, motherhood, children, minors, orphans and children without parental care, as well as to ensure protection from domestic violence. The state is obliged to create and provide scientific, economic and social conditions for family planning and for free and responsible parenting, and in exercising the right to free and responsible parenting, parents are obliged to provide optimal conditions for the healthy growth and development of their child in the family and society.

Parents have equal rights and duties towards their children (parental right) and the relationship between parents and children is based on the rights and duties of parents to take care of the raising, keeping, upbringing and education of their children and to develop their work skills and habits. Parental rights are exercised by the parents together in accordance with the needs and interests of the children and the interests of the social community.

LF does not make a distinction regarding the enjoyment of rights for children born in marriage or out of wedlock. The rights and duties of parents and other relatives towards children, as well as the rights and duties of children towards parents and other relatives, are equal, regardless of whether the children were born in marriage or out of wedlock.

Parental right ends with the child's coming of age or in another way provided by this Law, coming of age is acquired upon reaching 18 years of age, when the adult acquires business capacity.

Child support is the right and duty of parents, children and other relatives determined by this Law, as well as persons living in a marital or extramarital union.

The state has the obligation to ensure the protection of children without parents, minors without parental care and adults under conditions and in a manner determined by this Law through guardianship.

The age limit for entering into marriage with this Law is determined by turning 18 years of age. However, one exception is provided when a competent court can, in a non-litigation procedure, allow the marriage of a person who has reached the age of 16 if it determines that he has reached the physical and mental maturity required to exercise the rights and duties that arise in marriage, and after a previously obtained opinion from a health institution and expert assistance provided at the center for social work.

Parents have the right and duty to support their minor children, to take care of their life and health, to prepare them for independent life and work, to take care of their upbringing, schooling and professional training.

The child has the right to be supported by his/her parents, to be taken care of, to have his/her life and health protected, to be trained for an independent life and work, to be provided with optimal conditions for his/her upbringing, schooling and professional training, depending on the conditions of the family. Minor children have the right to live with their parents. It is provided in the Civil Code that in the event that it is of immediate interest for the children or of common interest for the children and the parents, they can live separately, but in any case the child has the right to maintain personal relations and direct contacts with the parent with whom he does not live.

The CSW is a body that supervises the exercise of parental rights and is responsible for taking care of the interests of the child when there are certain disagreements between the parents.

Parental rights end with the child's coming of age, with the child's marriage before reaching the age of majority, and with adoption.

Parents are obliged to support their minor children. If the schooling and professional education of the children continues even after reaching the age of majority, the parents are obliged to continue to support the children until the regular completion of the schooling, but at the latest until they reach the age of 26. Likewise, if an adult person is unable to work due to illness, physical or mental deficiency, and does not have enough means of living and cannot get them from his/her property, the parents are obliged to support him/her while that incapacity lasts.

The obligation to support is mutual, that is, it also exists for children who are obliged to support their parents who are unable to work and do not have enough means of support or cannot obtain the means of support from their property.

In LF, a review is also given of the property of minor children and the way in which parents should manage it. Minor children can have their own property, which they will acquire on the basis determined by law. That property, except for the one that the minor acquired through work, is managed and disposed of by the minor's parents until he reaches adulthood, in a manner determined by this Law. Parents can use the income from their child's property primarily for his/her maintenance, upbringing and education, as well as for the necessary needs of the family community, if they do not have enough of their own funds. The Law provided that in order for parents to alienate or encumber their child's property, the approval of the social center is mandatory, but this alienation or encumbrance should be necessary for the sake of his/her support, upbringing and education, or if it is required by some other interests, such as and when the necessary needs of the family community require it.

LAW ON CHILD PROTECTION¹⁶

The Law on Child Protection regulates the child protection system and organization.

Child protection is an organized activity based on the rights of children, as well as the rights and obligations of parents for family planning and of the state and local self-government units for implementing a humane population policy. Child protection is achieved by providing conditions and a level of standard of living that corresponds to the physical, mental, emotional, moral and social development of children. The state, as well as the local self-government units, are responsible for providing adequate material assistance to parents for support, raising, care and protection of children and organizing and ensuring the development of institutions and services for child protection.

In terms of this Law, any person up to the age of 18 is considered a child, as well as persons with disabilities up to the age of 26.

Rights for child protection, in terms of this Law, are: **child allowance; special allowance; one-time cash allowance for a newborn; parental**

16 Official Gazette of RM, no. 23/13, 12/14, 44/14, 144/14, 10/15, 25/15, 150/15, 192/15, 27/16, 163/17, 21/18, 198/18 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 104/19, 146/19, 275/19, 311/20, 294/21, 150/22 and 236/22

allowance for a child; education and participation allowance. These rights are personal rights and cannot be transferred, and children's rights consisting of monetary income cannot be subject to enforcement.

This Law explicitly prohibits any type of direct or indirect **discrimination and harassment** in exercising the rights and forms of child protection established by this Law.

The activity of child protection is of public interest, and the ensuring of child protection and his/her rights established by law involves the following: the parents, the family, the child's guardians and the foster family, as well as the institutions for children, educational, social, healthcare and cultural institutions and individuals, state institutions and institutions of local self-government units, organizations and other natural and legal persons whose activities are related to providing support and assistance to children.

Child allowance is a right of the child and is provided as a monetary compensation to cover part of the costs of raising and developing the child. The right to child allowance is provided to a child citizen of RNM who lives in a household with a permanent place of residence in RNM and if the household does not own property and property rights from which it can support itself.

For a child with a disability up to 26 years of life, a **special allowance** is provided as a monetary compensation. A child with a disability, in the sense of this Law, is a child with: disabilities in physical development (severe, more severe or most severe disabilities in physical development), intellectual disabilities (moderate, severe and profound), the most severe forms of chronic diseases with present impairments and limited activities, impaired vision (blind and practically blind people), impaired hearing (practically deaf and totally deaf), complete absence of speech, severely impaired speech, a person with lost or impaired previously acquired speech, autism and several types of disabilities (combined developmental disabilities).

A one-time cash allowance for a newborn is provided to a family for the first and second newborn child.

Parental allowance for a child is received by a mother for her third live-born child.

Education allowance is provided to cover part of the household costs associated with children's education. A household with a child who is in

regular primary or secondary education in schools in RNM verified by the MES and registered in the CRRNM (Central Register of the Republic of North Macedonia) and in the register of the MES has the right to an education allowance, if its total average monthly income in the last three months before submitting the request and during the use of the right, on all grounds for all members of the household are up to the threshold for accessing the right to education allowance, which is set at 6,800 denars, and which is increased for each member of the household by a coefficient from the equivalent scale, for a total of eight members in the household at most.

Education allowance of a person who until the age of 18 had the status of a child without parents and parental care. A person, who until the age of 18 had the status of a child without parents and parental care, and is a regular student in high school, has the right to an education allowance. A person who had the status of a child without parents and parental care until the age of 18, and who is enrolled as a full-time student at one of the public higher education universities in RNM, is also entitled to an education allowance, for each regular year of study, up to the age of 26 at the latest.

The procedure for exercising the right to protection of children is initiated upon the request of the parent, that is, the child's guardian, with the center for social work being the competent authority.

LAW ON SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN PURCHASING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS¹⁷

This Law regulates the procedure and conditions for providing support to young people when purchasing musical instruments for their educational needs. **MES** provides support to young people in the purchase of musical instruments by refunding part of the funds paid for the purchased musical instrument.

Young people are regular students enrolled in state high schools where plans and programs for musical art are realized and regular students enrolled in state higher education institutions where **study programs in the field of music** are realized.

17 Official Gazette of RM, no.113/2018 dated 19.06.2018

The Ministry refunds part of the funds paid for a purchased musical instrument in the amount of 75% of the funds paid, but not more than 100,000 denars per instrument for the purchase of 25 musical instruments by regular students enrolled in state secondary schools in which plans and programs for musical art and for full-time students enrolled in state higher education institutions where study programs in the field of music are realized.

The Ministry announces a **Competition for refunding purchased musical instruments** at the beginning of each academic year, and the student submits a request for a refund to the MES.

The pupil/student **may not dispose of** the purchased musical instrument for which he/she received a refund, before the expiry of the period of five years from the day of the refund. If the pupil/student misuses the right to a refund for a purchased musical instrument and disposes of it before the expiration of the five-year period from the day of the refund, he/she is obliged within 30 days from the day of determining the misuse, i.e. disposal, to return the funds to the Ministry in double the amount of the amount he/she received as a refund.

If the student loses the status of a full-time student or does not complete his/her undergraduate studies within the term provided by the statute of the higher education institution, he/she will have to return the funds received as financial aid from the MES.

LAW ON FREE LEGAL AID¹⁸

The LFLA regulates the general rules for providing free legal aid, the types, the scope of free legal aid, the providers and users of free legal aid, their obligations and responsibilities, the procedure in which the right to free legal aid is exercised, the financing, the reward and the compensation on the costs of the provided free legal aid, free legal aid in cross-border disputes, transparency and accountability in providing free legal aid, special procedures for legal aid, supervision over the application of this Law and other issues related to free legal aid.

The purpose of the LFLA is to enable and promote the right of natural persons to access justice and fair judicial protection. Free legal aid is legal aid approved and financed by the state. Primary legal aid is free legal aid provided

18 Official Gazette of RM, no. 101/19

by the Ministry of Justice, the authorized association and the legal clinic. Secondary legal aid is a form of free legal aid provided by a lawyer registered in the Register of lawyers for secondary legal aid.

LAW ON PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION¹⁹

The Law on Personal Data Protection regulates the personal data protection and the right to privacy in connection with the personal data processing, and in particular the principles related to the personal data processing, the rights of the subject of personal data, the position of the controller and the processing entity, the transfer of personal data in other countries, the establishment, status and competences of the Agency for Personal Data Protection, special operations of personal data processing, legal remedies and responsibility during the processing of personal data, supervision over the protection of personal data, as well as misdemeanor and misdemeanor proceedings in this area.

In the section for young people the LPDP is of essential importance for the protection of the rights and privacy of young people. These measures aim to protect against misuse of their data and ensure control over them.

Every natural person is guaranteed the protection of personal data without discrimination based on his/her nationality, race, skin color, religious beliefs, ethnic affiliation, sex, language, political or other beliefs, material position, origin by birth, education, social origin, nationality, place or type of residence or any other personal characteristics.

This Law stipulates that any personal data processing must be in accordance with the basic principles: legality, fairness and transparency, limitation of purposes, minimum volume of data, accuracy, limitation of storage period and integrity and confidentiality.

The personal data processing is legal, only if and to the extent that at least one of the following conditions is met:

- the subject of personal data has consented to the processing of his/her personal data for one or more specific purposes,
- the processing is necessary for the fulfillment of a contract where the subject of personal data is a contracting party, or to undertake activ-

¹⁹ Official Gazette of RNM, no. 42/20 and 294/21

- ities at the request of the subject of personal data prior to his/her accession to the contract,
- the processing is necessary to fulfill a legal obligation of the controller,
 - the processing is necessary to protect the essential interests of the subject of personal data or of another natural person,
 - the processing is necessary for the performance of works of public interest or in the exercise of the controller's public authority established by law,
 - the processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests of the controller or a third party, except when such interests do not prevail over the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the subject of personal data that require personal data protection, especially when the subject of personal data is a child.

With the LPDP adopted in 2020, which harmonized with the European regulation in the field of personal data protection, namely: Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 27, 2016 on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data, for the free movement of such data and for the repealing of Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) CELEX number 32016R0679, the consent of a child was introduced as a novelty, in relation to the information society services.

Where the processing of children's personal data is required, the processing will only be lawful if such consent is given or authorized by the child's legal representative. However, in the case of information society services, the personal data processing of a child is legal if the child is at least 14 years old. The new LPDP provides conditions that apply to the consent of a child in relation to information society services. In the event that the subject of personal data has given consent to the processing of his/her personal data for one or more specific purposes, in connection with the direct offering of information society services to children, the processing of personal data of a child is lawful if the child is at least 14 years old. If the child is under the age of 14, such processing is lawful only if and to the extent that such consent is given or permitted by the child's legal guardian. In these cases, the controller is obliged to make a reasonable effort to verify that consent has been given by the child's legal representative, taking into account available technology.

The LPDP provides for a fine in the amount of up to 2% of the total annual income of the controller or processor-legal entity (expressed in absolute amount) achieved in the business year preceding the year when the

misdemeanor was committed or of the total income achieved for a shorter period than the year preceding the misdemeanor, if in that year the legal entity began working, a fine will be imposed for a misdemeanor against a legal entity, if: it does not provide conditions for verification that the consent was given by the child's legal representative in relation to the information society services.

The Agency for Personal Data Protection, as an autonomous and independent state authority, will carry out supervision over the legality of the activities undertaken during personal data processing in the territory of RNM, as well as protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons in relation to their personal processing data.

LAW ON AUDIO AND AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA SERVICES²⁰

The Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services regulates the rights, obligations and responsibilities in the area of audio and audiovisual media services, including broadcasters and providers of audiovisual media services; video sharing platform service providers and operators of public electronic communications networks that broadcast or rebroadcast the broadcasters' programming services.

The purpose of this Law is, among other things, to ensure the protection of the interests of users, especially minors, in RNM, the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services being the authority that takes care of ensuring the protection of minors.

In this Law, a special area has been set aside for the protection of minors, and thus broadcasters may not broadcast or transmit programs that can seriously harm the physical, mental or moral development of minors, especially programs containing pornography or excessive violence. Service providers, upon request, must take the strictest technical measures to ensure that minors are protected from the most harmful content such as excessive violence and pornography.

Excessive violence is the dissemination of textual, verbal and visual messages that, in programming terms accessible to minors, glorify physical, verbal or psychological forms of sadism or similar types of violence, which is an

20 Official Gazette of RM, no. 184/13, 13/14, 44/14, 101/14, 132/14, 142/16, 132/17, 168/18, 248/18 and 27/19 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 42/20, 77/21 and 154/23

end in itself, and in no way can be justified either through the context of the genre or through the motives of the dramatic action of the program presented.

LAAMS provides for the protection of personal data of minors. Personal data of minors collected or otherwise generated or acquired by media service providers may not be processed for commercial purposes, such as direct marketing, profiling and analysis or behavioral advertising.

Prohibitions are foreseen in audiovisual commercial communications for alcohol and at the same time they must not be specifically intended for minors, and in particular they must not depict minors consuming them. Audiovisual commercial communications must not cause physical, mental or moral harm to minors.

Audiovisual commercial communications directed at or in which minors participate must not: directly induce minors to buy or rent a product or service by exploiting their inexperience or credulity, directly encourage minors to ask their parents, or other persons to buy the advertised products or services, to take advantage of the special trust that minors have in their parents, teachers or other persons and to depict minors in dangerous situations.

It is further stipulated that service providers of video sharing platforms under the jurisdiction of RNM are obliged to take appropriate measures to protect: minors from programs, videos created by users and from audiovisual commercial communications that may harm their physical, mental or moral development, the public of programs, user-generated videos and audiovisual commercial communications that propagate, justify, incite and/or create a clear and imminent danger of inciting hatred, violence or discrimination against individuals or groups based on race, colour, origin, national or ethnic origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, belonging to a marginalized group, language, citizenship, social origin, religion or religious belief, political belief, other type of belief, disability, age, family or marital status, property status, health, personal property and social status or any other basis and the availability of programs, videos created by users and audiovisual commercial communications, the dissemination of which constitutes an activity that is criminal in accordance with the Criminal Code, including public incitement to commit terrorist acts, acts in relation to child pornography and crimes related to racism and xenophobia, in accordance with Article 48 of this Law.

The LAAMS provides for misdemeanor sanctions and fines for all those who will not comply with the provisions of this Law.

WORK

LAW ON LABOUR RELATIONS²¹

Pursuant to Article 42 of the Constitution of RNM, the Republic specifically protects children and minors in relation to the establishment of an employment relationship. A person younger than 15 years of age cannot be employed. Minors have the right to special protection at work. Minors may not be employed in jobs that are harmful to their health and morals.

LLR aims to regulate **labor relations** between workers and employers, which are established by agreeing on an **employment contract**.

The main **goal** of this Law is to include the workers in the work process and guarantee its harmonious development. In doing so, the Law respects the workers' right to freedom of labor, supports their dignity, and ensures the protection of their interests in the employment relationship.

An employment contract can be concluded by a young person under 18 years of age who has general health capacity.

The employment of young people under 15 years of age or young people who have not completed compulsory education **is prohibited**, except in cases where the Law allows their participation in certain activities. Young people may participate in such activities, but **not more than two hours a day**, or **not more than 12 hours a week**, except during school holidays, when the work **may last no more than six hours a day**, or **not more than 30 hours a week**. At the same time, they must be provided with a two-week vacation.

The employer has a legal obligation to **protect young people from economic exploitation** and from work that may have a negative impact on their safety, health, physical, mental, moral, or social development, as well as their education.

21 Official Gazette of RM, no. 62/05, 106/08, 161/08, 114/09, 130/09, 50/10, 52/10, 124/10, 47/11, 11/12, 39/12, 13/13, 25/13, 170/13, 187/13, 113/14, 20/15, 33/15, 72/15, 129/15, 27/16, 120/18 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 110/19, 267/20, 151/21, 288/21 and 111/23

Any person who is **at least 15 years of age, and is under 18 years of age** and is not included in compulsory education, who can enter into an employment contract to perform work that is not harmful to his/her health and safety, is considered a **young person**.

The maximum number of working hours of a young person **under the age of 16 is 30 hours per week** even in the case when the young person works for several employers at the same time.

The maximum number of working hours of a young person **over the age of 16 is 37 hours and 45 minutes per week** even in the case when the young person works for several employers.

A young person's working hours MUST NOT exceed eight hours in a 24-hour period.

The time that the young person spends in **professional preparation** within the theoretical and practical teaching will be considered work. Work performed by the young person at the employer, for which he/she receives compensation, will be considered participation in training.

The employer **MUST NOT** use the **reward method** in order to increase the workload which would endanger the safety and health of the young person.

For young adults aged 18 to 29, the provisions of the LLR are applied, which regulate the distribution of working hours, rest during working hours, weekly rest, paid rest, absence from work due to holiday, absence from work due to inability to work resulting from illness, absence from work due to performing a function or obligations according to special laws and responsibility for compensation for damage.

The **salary** is composed of a basic salary, a part of the salary for work performance and salary supplements, and it cannot be lower than the minimum established salary. The employer is obliged to pay a minimum wage for work performed on a full-time basis. The salary must be paid for a period that must not be longer than one month, no later than 15 days after the payment period has passed.

It is **IMPORTANT** to emphasize that paying part of the salary as "cash in hand" and returning part of the salary is against the law.

The right to annual holiday allowance in the amount of at least 40% of the basic salary is paid on the condition that the young people have worked for at least 6 months in the calendar year with the same employer. The holiday allowance is paid once a year. The legal obligation to pay is from July 1st to December 31st.

Working hours is the time during which work is carried out and work tasks are performed. Full-time working hours may not be longer than 40 hours per week, nor shorter than 36 hours per week. The employer is obliged to keep separate records for overtime work and hours for overtime work and specify them separately in the monthly calculation of the employee's salary.

Rest is the interruption of physical and intellectual work, i.e. work activities of the employee during working hours.

- **a daily rest** is a rest of at least 12 uninterrupted hours between two consecutive working days in the course of 24 hours
- **weekly rest** is a rest of 24 uninterrupted hours, supplemented by 12 hours of daily rest, i.e. a total of 36 hours
- **annual leave** is a leave of at least 20 working days, but annual leave can be extended to 26 working days by collective agreement or employment contract.
- **paid leave** is given due to personal and family circumstances (example: marriage, birth of a child (only for the father), death of a family member/ close relative, taking a professional exam and other cases determined in the collective agreements). The days of the paid leave are established by a collective agreement and on all grounds the paid leave cannot amount to more than seven working days.

LAW ON VOLUNTEERING²²

The Law on Volunteering regulates volunteering, the conditions and method of performing volunteering, the rights and obligations of volunteers and the organizer of volunteering, the contract for volunteering and the record of volunteer work.

Volunteering is an activity of interest to RNM that contributes to the improvement of the quality of life by actively involving people in social life, as well

22 Official Gazette of RM, no. 85/07, 161/08, 147/15 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 124/19 and 103/21

as to the development of a humane and equal democratic society and is understood as the voluntary provision of personal services, knowledge and skills and/or performing other activities for the benefit of other persons, authorities, organizations and other institutions, without compensation.

A volunteer is a natural person who provides services, skills and knowledge for the benefit of other persons, bodies, organizations and other institutions, on a voluntary basis and without financial or other personal gain.

A volunteer can also be a minor with the written consent of his/her parents or guardians. A contract for volunteering with minors can only be concluded with the written consent of his/her parents or guardians. The provisions of the Law on Labor Relations, which refer to the protection of persons aged 15 to 18, are accordingly applied to minors who volunteer.

Reimbursement for food expenses and transportation expenses to and from the place of volunteering is paid up to 15% at most of the average monthly salary in RNM paid for the previous year, and the expenses for business trips and training expenses are paid in the same amount as for the employees of the volunteer work organizer.

LAW ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY²³

The LOHS establishes the measures for health and safety at work, the obligations of the employer and the rights and obligations of employees in the field of occupational health and safety, as well as preventive measures against occupational risks, the removal of risk factors for accidents, information, consultation, training of workers and their representatives and their participation in planning and taking measures for occupational health and safety.

The purpose of this Law is to introduce measures that will encourage the improvement of occupational health and safety.

Bearing in mind that according to the LLR, under certain conditions, a person over 15 years of age can participate in the work process, analogously, this Law also applies to those persons.

23 Official Gazette of RM, no. 85/07, 161/08, 147/15 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 124/19 and 103/21

The provisions of this Law are applied in all activities of the public and private sector, for all persons insured against injury at the workplace or occupational diseases according to the regulations for pension, disability and health insurance and for all other persons involved in the work processes.

According to the LOHS, the employer is obliged to inform the employees and the president of the trade union organization, i.e. the trade union representative, or the employees representative if there is no trade union and the employees representative for occupational health and safety for each type of risk for all workplaces, for the safety measures needed to control risks and eliminate harmful consequences, as well as inform the employees with special responsibilities for first aid, fire protection and evacuation. The employer must also inform employees with a fixed-term employment contract, **young employees**, older employees in accordance with LLR and those with reduced work ability about the results of the risk assessment and about the measures taken by the employer, in order to ensure their occupational health and safety.

PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

LAW ON CHILDREN'S JUSTICE²⁴

This Law regulates the treatment of children at risk and children who are perpetrators of acts that are defined by law as crimes and misdemeanors. The Law regulates the conditions and procedures for the application of measures for assistance, care and protection of these children, as well as for the application of educational and alternative measures. Also, the Law refers to the way of punishing children and young adults when it comes to criminal or misdemeanor acts.

The key principles at the core of children's justice are:

Best interest: In all actions where children are directly or indirectly involved

24 Official Gazette of RM, no. 148/13 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 152/19 and 275/19

or affected by the justice system, the best interests of the child should be given paramount importance. When taking any action, consideration must be given to how that action will affect the child or groups of children, to ensure that their best interests are taken into account.

Non-discrimination: The principle of non-discrimination means that no child should be discriminated against, restricted, excluded or favored on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

Right to be heard: The right to be heard guarantees that every child who is capable of forming an opinion can express himself/herself freely and fully on any matter that may affect him/her.

Protection: The principle of protection is directly related to his/her best interest. It emphasizes the need for additional measures and protection due to the vulnerability of the child and the duty to ensure this protection. Protecting the child's well-being means providing professional and educational training, as well as establishing protective measures to limit anything that can hinder such development.

The purpose of the LCJ and its application are aimed at achieving priority interests and protecting children. This includes protection from criminal activities, violence and any kind of threat to their freedoms and rights, as well as their optimal development. The purpose of the Law is to protect and support children who are perpetrators of acts that are considered criminal or misdemeanors, the goal is also their socialization, education and re-education.

Below is a brief review of the expressions from this Law which have the following meaning:

A child is any person under the age of 18,

A child at risk between the ages of 14 and 18 is any child who, at the time of committing an act defined by law as a criminal offense for which a fine or imprisonment of up to three years or an action defined by law as a misdemeanor, has reached the age of 14 and has not reached the age of 18,

A child in conflict with the law between the ages of 14 and 16 is any child who, at the time of committing the act defined by law as a criminal offense for

which an imprisonment of over three years has been established, has turned 14 and has not turned 16,

A child in conflict with the law over the age of 16 is any child who, at the time of committing the act defined by law as a criminal offense for which an imprisonment of over three years has been established, has reached the age of 16 and has not reached the age of 18,

Young adult is a person who, at the time of sentencing for an action defined by law as a criminal offense, has turned 18 and has not yet turned 21.

In case of a committed crime, the sanctions against children are determined according to their age and the nature of the actions they are accused of.

1. For children between the ages of 14 and 16, if they commit acts that are considered criminal under the law, exceptional educational measures can be imposed as a sanction. This means that they will not be sentenced, but measures will be applied to improve their education and upbringing.
2. For children between the ages of 16 and 18, if they are accused of criminal acts, they can be imposed educational measures as a sanction. Also, under certain conditions and in exceptional cases, they can be sentenced to a fine or an alternative measure.
3. For children between the ages of 16 and 18, there is also a general conditionality, which means that they can be released from punishment under certain conditions determined by the Criminal Code.

These measures and sanctions are intended to take into account the age and abilities of the children, as well as to ensure an appropriate and educational influence on them, prior to the application of more severe punishments.

Four types of punishments can be imposed on a child over 16 years of age:

1. Imprisonment for children

Imprisonment for children can only be imposed as the main sentence. It is imposed on a criminally responsible child over the age of 16 who has committed an act which is defined by law as a crime for which a prison sentence of five years or a heavier sentence has been established, if the crime was committed under particularly aggravating circumstances and with a high degree of criminal responsibility of the perpetrator and it would not be justified to impose an educational measure. Imprisonment for children cannot be shorter than one or longer than ten years, and it is imposed for full years or half a year.

2. Fine

The fine can be imposed as the main sentence. The fine is imposed in daily fines. The number of daily fines cannot be less than one or more than 120 daily fines. The court can replace the unpaid fine with community service.

3. Prohibition for driving a motor vehicle of a certain type or category and

4. Expulsion of a foreigner from the country.

Regarding the alternative measures, which are given as a substitute for sentencing, **3 alternative measures** can be imposed on a criminally responsible child **over the age of 16** for the committed act that is defined by law as a crime:

- conditional sentence with protective supervision,
- conditional termination of proceedings against the child and
- community service.

To an offender who, as a young adult, has committed an act that is defined by law as a criminal offense, and at the time of sentencing has not reached the age of 21, the court may impose an appropriate measure of intensified supervision or institutional measure, if, considering his/her personality and the circumstances under which the crime was committed, it can be expected that the educational measure will achieve the goal that would be achieved by the sentencing. The court, under the conditions stipulated by this Law, may also impose a security measure on a young adult who has been sentenced to an educational measure. The imposed educational measure can last at most until the offender reaches 23 years of age.

CRIMINAL CODE²⁵

The Criminal Code does not apply to a child who was under fourteen years of age at the time of committing the crime. The provisions of the CC are applied to minors and young adults for crimes defined by law or international agreements ratified in accordance with the Constitution of the RNM, unless otherwise provided by law.

25 Official Gazette of RM, no. 37/96, 80/99, 4/02, 43/03, 19/04, 81/05, 60/06, 73/06, 7/08, 139/08, 114/09, 51/11, 135/11, 185/11, 142/12, 166/12, 55/13, 82/13, 14/14, 27/14, 28/14, 41/14, 115/14, 132/14, 160/14, 199/14, 196/15, 226/15, 97/17 and 248/18 and Official Gazette of RNM, no.36/23 and 188/23

Within the meaning of the terms of this Code, “victim of a crime” means any person who has suffered damage, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, material loss or other injury or threat to his/her basic freedoms and rights as a result of a committed, “**child as a victim of a crime**” means a minor under the age of 18, “**violence against a child**” means, among other things, psychological violence, **violence on the Internet**, peer violence, as well as stalking and following the child.

The Criminal Code provides for a special crime: “Violence against a child”, which covers any person who commits physical, mental or other types of violence against a child and is punishable by a fine or imprisonment from six months to three years.

The CC provides for a criminal offense: “Racial and other discrimination”: “Whoever, on the basis of differences in sex, race, skin color, gender, belonging to a marginalized group, ethnic origin, language, citizenship, social origin, religion or religious belief, other types of beliefs, education, political affiliation, personal or social status, mental or physical disability, age, family or marital status, property status, health status or any other basis provided by law or a ratified international agreement, violates the fundamental human rights and freedoms recognized by the international community, will be punished with imprisonment from six months to five years”.

LAW ON PREVENTION OF AND PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION²⁶

The Law on Prevention of and Protection against Discrimination regulates the prevention and prohibition of discrimination, the forms and types of discrimination, the procedures for protection against discrimination, as well as the composition and work of the Commission for Prevention of and Protection against Discrimination.

This Law was initially adopted in 2019 and was later repealed by a decision of the Constitutional Court of RNM, to be adopted again in October 2020, which brought compliance with the directives of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, as well as with the principles of the Council of Europe conventions and the European Court of Human Rights judgments. This Law

26 Official Gazette of RNM, no. 258/20

offers the most comprehensive protection of citizens against discrimination, in accordance with international standards for protection against discrimination.

The LPPD prohibits any discrimination based on race, color, origin, national or ethnic origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, belonging to a marginalized group, language, citizenship, social origin, education, religion or religious belief, political belief, other belief, disability, age, family or marital status, property status, health status, personal characteristic and social status or any other basis (hereinafter: discriminatory basis).

In addition, discrimination is defined as “any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on a discriminatory basis, with an act or omission, which has as its purpose or result the prevention, limitation, recognition, enjoyment or realization of the rights and freedoms of a certain person or group, on an equal footing with others. This covers all forms of discrimination, including the denial of adequate accommodation and the denial of accessibility and availability of infrastructure, goods and services.”

The main novelties and provisions in this Law, which were not foreseen in the previous version, are the explicit inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity, as bases for discrimination.

With this Law, the types of discrimination are better defined, that is, apart from the fact that several types of discrimination are covered, such as: harassment, victimization, segregation, there are also more severe forms of discrimination, such as multiple and intersectional discrimination.

The Law also contains provisions relating to the structure and functioning of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, explains the procedure for protection against discrimination, and determines penal provisions in case of violation of the Law. The Commission for Prevention of and Protection against Discrimination is an autonomous and independent body, which performs its work in accordance with European standards for independence and expertise and represents one of the basic mechanisms available to citizens for prevention and protection against discrimination. The burden of proof falls on the perpetrator of the discrimination. Citizens who initiate court proceedings for a case of discrimination are exempt from administrative court costs. In the case of this Law it is commendable that, for the first time, there is a possibility of a public interest lawsuit, *actio popularis*, which represents a joint lawsuit by various organizations and associations, which consider, i.e can prove

that discrimination has been committed against (a group of) citizens and that it is in the public interest to protect the rights of this group of people.

LAW ON PREVENTION AND PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND FAMILY VIOLENCE²⁷

The Law on Prevention and Protection against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence regulates the actions of the institutions with due care when taking measures for the prevention of gender-based violence against women and domestic violence, the actions of the institutions for the protection of women from gender-based violence and domestic violence, the mutual coordination of institutions and organizations, services for the protection of victims and the collection of data on gender-based violence against women and domestic violence.

This Law also provides measures for protection and the way institutions act when children/youth are direct or indirect victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence against women. Although reading the Law may give the impression that it primarily applies to women, when talking about domestic violence this Law means violence against a spouse (wife or husband), parents or children or other persons living in a marital or extramarital union or a joint household, as well as against a current or former spouse or common-law partner or persons who have a common child or are in a close personal relationship, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim or not. Also, although the word women prevails in the Law, girls under the age of 18 are also included in this term. In summary, this Law is enacted for young people, given that according to the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, the term “youth” means any person between the ages of 15 and 29.

The priority of the Law is to ensure a quick and efficient procedure for the protection of victims, their reintegration into society, as well as to ensure prevention in the direction of suppression and reduction of violence. The Law regulates the actions of the institutions, with due care in the protection of women from all forms of gender-based violence and victims of domestic violence, the mutual coordination of the institutions because this issue should be treated multi-sectorally by several competent institutions at the national

27 Official Gazette of RM, no. 24/21

level and at the local level. The Law also regulates services for the protection of victims, that is, shelter centers and other forms of assistance and care for victims. Prevention measures are also provided for in the Law. This Law also regulates the establishment of a unified model for data collection, quick and efficient action by courts and social work centers, as well as the right to sue before civil courts by victims of gender-based violence, to determine responsibility for failure to act with due attention by the competent institutes.

BY-LAWS:

1. DECISION ON THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL ADVISORY BODY FOR YOUTH POLICIES²⁸, adopted by the Government of RNM at the session held on July 6, 2021.

With this decision, the National Advisory Body for Youth Policies is established as a body for cooperation between youth representatives and representatives of state administration bodies, which has an advisory and supervisory role in the implementation of youth policies and youth activities.

The National Advisory Body is composed of:

1. One representative from the state administration bodies, as follows:
 - Agency for Youth and Sports;
 - Ministry of Labor and Social Policy;
 - Ministry of Education and Science;
 - Ministry of Justice;
 - Ministry of culture;
 - Ministry of Finance;
 - Ministry of Health and
 - Ministry of Local Self-Government.

2. Nine youth representatives, one of whom is the president.

28 Official Gazette of RNM, no. 158/2021

2. PROGRAM FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF YOUTH PROJECTS OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS YOUTH UMBRELLA ORGANIZATIONS FOR 2023²⁹ adopted by the Government of RNM at the session held on February 1, 2023.

This program determines the purpose of the funds provided in the Budget of RNM of AYS for 2023, Section 161.01, Program 3, Subprogram 30-youth, item 463 – transfer to non-governmental organizations, 463110 – transfer to associations and foundations, intended for financial support of projects in the field of youth of youth organizations, organizations of young people and youth umbrella organizations, in a total amount of 5,600,000.00 denars.

The funds from point 1 of this program will be used for financial support of projects in the field of young people, youth organizations, organizations of young people and youth umbrella organizations, grants in an amount not exceeding 300,000.00 denars for programs (projects) in the following priority goals:

- increased engagement of young people at the local level,
- increased participation of young people from rural areas,
- recognition of youth work, as a key tool for helping the positive personal and social development of young people,
- availability and transparency of information of interest to young people to fulfill their needs,
- reduction of peer and gender violence, promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination,
- creation of innovative solutions to reduce youth unemployment and promotion of measures for self-employment and entrepreneurship,
- creating partnerships for the promotion and advancement of informal education among young people,
- promotion and recognition of youth rights (youth as active bearers of human rights) and
- increased access to information and opportunities for young people.

The AYS – Youth Sector takes care of the implementation of this program.

²⁹ Official Gazette of RNM, no. 27/2023

3. SPORTS AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR 2023³⁰ adopted by the Government of RNM at the session held on February 1, 2023.

With the funds planned in this program, priority activities will be implemented that realize the public interest of the state determined by the Law on Sports, whereby the determination is to maintain the national system of competitions and the participation of national teams and individual athletes within the framework of international competitions, maintaining international sports competitions and events in RNM, scientific support of sports and implementation of projects in the field of sports.

4. RULEBOOK ON THE MINIMUM OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS OF YOUNG WORKERS³¹, adopted by the Minister of Labor and Social Policy on September 28, 2012

This Rulebook prescribes the minimum requirements for occupational health and safety for workers under the age of eighteen.

5. DECISION ESTABLISHING A DAY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA³² adopted by the Government of RNM at the session held on July 24, 2001

The environmental action “Youth for a Healthy Environment” is organized by the youth in RMM, in cooperation with the competent authorities of the state administration, professional institutions, public enterprises, local self-government units, environmental organizations and citizens’ associations. The action is traditional and will be permanently organized in RNM.

The day of the Action is March 21 – the day of spring. The action begins with suitable celebration and program activities on March 21 and is realized continuously throughout the year.

30 Official Gazette of RNM, no. 27/2023

31 Official Gazette of RM, no.127/2012

32 Official Gazette of RM, no. 58/2001

6. RULEBOOK ON THE METHOD OF CATEGORIZATION OF FILMS, FOR THE FORMS OF ACOUSTIC AND VISUAL PRESENTATION OF THE CATEGORY OF FILMS AND FOR THE TIME PERIODS IN WHICH FILMS MAY BE SHOWN WHICH MAY HAVE A HARMFUL EFFECT ON THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND THE MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE³³, adopted by the Ministry of Culture on February 6, 2014.

This Rulebook prescribes the way of categorizing films, the forms of acoustic and visual presentation of the category of films and the time periods during which films can be shown that can have a harmful effect on the physical, psychological and moral development of children and young people.

7. RULEBOOK ON THE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING A TOP COACH FOR WORK IN THE SPORTS ACADEMY FOR YOUNG TALENTS AND A TOP ACTIVE ATHLETE³⁴ adopted by the Agency for Youth and Sports on December 1, 2016.

With this Rulebook, the criteria for determining a top coach for work in the sports academy for young talents and a top active athlete for preparation and participation in international competitions, who can use funds obtained from sports fees in accordance with the Law on Games of Chance and Entertainment Games, are more closely prescribed.

8. DECISION ON THE EARLY APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE RNM ON THE PARTICIPATION OF RNM IN ERASMUS+, THE UNION PROGRAM FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, YOUTH AND SPORTS³⁵ adopted by the Government of RNM at the session held on December 14, 2021.

33 Official Gazette of RM, no.38/2014

34 Official Gazette of RM, no. 215/2016

35 Official Gazette of RNM, no. 296/2021

The early application of the Agreement between the European Union and RNM for the participation of RNM in Erasmus+, the Union Program for Education, Training, Youth and Sport is hereby approved. The agreement was signed on December 12, 2021, and early application will begin on January 1, 2021.

9. PROGRAM FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM GAMES OF CHANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT GAMES FOR THE YEAR 2023 FOR THE FINANCING OF NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS AND PROJECTS OF THE AGENCY FOR YOUTH AND SPORT FOR THE PROMOTION OF SPORTS IN RNM³⁶ adopted by the Government of RNM at the session held on February 1, 2023.

With this Program, AYS will participate in the implementation of the priorities arising from the 2023 Work Program of the Government of RNM. The funds will be directed towards implementation of priority programs that realize the public interest of the state established in the Law on Sports, whereby the determination is the maintenance and modernization of the national system of competitions, support of national sports federations and implementation of AYS projects.

10. PROGRAM FOR COMPENSATION OF A CHILD WHO IS A VICTIM OR HAS BEEN HARMED BY AN ACT THAT IS DEFINED BY LAW AS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF VIOLENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP VIOLENCE FOR THE YEAR 2023 (OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF RNM, NO. 122/2023)³⁷ adopted by the Ministry of Justice on June 8, 2023.

This Program provides funds for the compensation of a child who is a victim or has been harmed by an action that is defined by law as a crime of violence and other acts of individual or group violence, for the year 2023.

³⁶ Official Gazette of RNM, no.28/2023

³⁷ Official Gazette of RNM, no.122/2023

The funds from part I of this Program are used to compensate a child who is a victim or has been harmed by an action that is defined by law as a crime of violence and other acts of individual or group violence, in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Childrens' Justice.

For the implementation of this program 3,000,000.00 denars have been allocated from the RNM Budget.

11. RULEBOOK ON THE DETAILED CONDITIONS, CRITERIA AND METHODS OF EXERCISING THE RIGHTS FOR CHILD PROTECTION³⁸ adopted by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy on April 19, 2013.

This Rulebook prescribes the detailed conditions, criteria and methods of exercising the rights for child protection, namely for: child allowance, special allowance, one-time financial aid for a newborn and parental allowance for a child.

12. PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPING ACTIVITY FOR CHILD PROTECTION FOR 2023 adopted by the Government of RNM³⁹ at the session held on December 28, 2022.

This Program regulates the use of funds for child protection as a system of organized measures and activities of the state for the care and child protection in accordance with the Law on Child Protection and the by-laws.

The development of the activity for child protection is determined by this Program, which has the function of implementing and improving the system of child protection.

The implementation of this Program is in accordance with the programs established by the Law on the Execution of the Budget of RNM for 2023, as well as on the basis of the provisions of the Law on the Execution of the Budget of the RNM for 2023 in the section referring to child protection allowances.

38 Official Gazette of RM, no.62/2013

39 Official Gazette of RNM, no. 287/2022

13. RULEBOOK ON THE MANNER OF EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO THE HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR A PERSON WHO UNTIL THE AGE OF 18 HAD THE STATUS OF A CHILD WITHOUT PARENTS AND PARENTAL CARE, I.E., EVEN AFTER THE TERMINATION OF GUARDIANSHIP, UP TO THE MAXIMUM AGE OF 26, THE APPLICATION FORM AND THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION⁴⁰ adopted by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy on May 28, 2019.

This Rulebook prescribes the method of exercising the right to housing allowance for a person who until the age of 18 had the status of a child without parents and parental care, i.e. even after the termination of guardianship, up to the maximum age of 26, the application form and the necessary documentation.

14. RULES OF THE AGENCY FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS FOR ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE AND DETERMINING THE CRITERIA FOR THE ALLOCATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT YOUTH PROJECTS⁴¹ adopted by the Agency for Youth and Sports no. 01-2683/1 from November 6, 2018.

This Rulebook determines the entities to which funds can be allocated to support projects in the field of youth, as well as the procedure and criteria for the allocation of funds to support projects in the field of youth, related to the implementation of the National Youth Strategy, and the youth program of AYS, as strategic determinations and vision of the institution..

14a. RULEBOOK FOR AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE RULEBOOK OF THE AGENCY FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS FOR ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE AND DETERMINING THE CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT PROJECTS OF THE YOUTH 42 no. 01-2683/1 dated November 6, 2018, adopted on November 5, 2019.

14b. RULEBOOK FOR AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE

40 Official Gazette of RM, no.109/2019

41 <https://api.ams.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/pravilnik-za-poddrska-na-proekti-od-oblasta-namladite.pdf>

RULEBOOK OF THE AGENCY FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS FOR ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE AND DETERMINING THE CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT PROJECTS FROM YOUTH 43 no. 01-2683/1 dated November 6, 2018, adopted on January 29, 2019.

- 14v. RULEBOOK FOR AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE RULEBOOK OF THE AGENCY FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS FOR ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE AND DETERMINING THE CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT PROJECTS OF THE YOUTH 44 no. 01-2683/1 from November 6, 2018, adopted on February 5, 2020.**
- 14d. RULEBOOK FOR AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE RULEBOOK OF THE AGENCY FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS FOR ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE AND DETERMINING THE CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT PROJECTS FROM YOUTH 45 no. 01-2683/1 of 06.11.2018 adopted in 2021.**

15. RULEBOOK FOR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR YOUTH CENTERS⁴² adopted by AYS on 07.04.2021.

16. RULEBOOK FOR ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE AND DETERMINING THE CRITERIA FOR AWARDS TO YOUNG TALENTED PERSONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA⁴³ adopted by AYS no. 01-1612/1 dated August 3, 2018

- 16a. RULEBOOK FOR AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE RULEBOOK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURE AND DETERMINATION OF CRITERIA FOR AWARDS TO YOUNG TALENTED PERSONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA 48 no. 01-1612/1 from 03.08.2018 adopted on 15.08.2019.**
- 16b. RULEBOOK FOR AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE REGULATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURE AND DETERMINATION OF CRITERIA FOR AWARDS TO YOUNG**

42 <https://api.ams.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/pravilnik-za-standardi-za-mladinski-centri-so-pro-pratni-dokumento-compressed-1-compressed.pdf>

43 <https://api.ams.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/pravilnik-za-mladi-talentirani-licza-29.05.2018.pdf>

TALENTED PERSONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA 49 no. 01-1612/1 from 03.08.2018, adopted on 25.02.2021.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY FOR 2023-2027 adopted by the Government of RNM⁴⁴ at the session held on September 26, 2023.

NYM 2023-2027 is a strategic document that established medium-term goals and priorities for the development of youth policies and the promotion of the interests of young people in RNM. The main imperative of the strategy is to improve the position of young people in society by setting basic principles of action and goals and measures that offer a reform framework primarily for institutions, but also for other stakeholders in enabling young people to realize their rights, needs and interests.

AYS is the main implementer of the process of making the NYM 2023-2027. The strategy reflects the attitudes and priorities of young people for the present and the future of the country and is based on the strategic determination of the Government to work with and for young people, striving to provide conditions in which young people will reach their full potential. The NYM is a strategic document that derives from the obligations defined by the LYP-YP and is a key mechanism for advancing youth policies and recognizing the needs of young people in the country.

NYM 2023-2027 together with the action plan which is an integral part of the strategy, is adopted by the Government of RNM and refers to a time period of five years (2023-2027). The defined measures and goals are created by the youth and the institutions cultivating a partnership relationship, in a way that strives to ensure their feasibility in the given time period, recognizing that the needs of the youth are dynamic and changeable.

NYM 2023-2027 covers eight priority areas: youth participation, youth information, youth work, education, culture, health, entrepreneurship and support before employment and safety (violence).

44 Official Gazette of RNM, no. 204/2023

The Law on Youth Allowance was adopted at the Government session held on January 22, 2020. The purpose of the youth allowance is to stimulate young people to enroll in secondary vocational schools and encourage employment in production or support for young people who are employed in production areas. The youth allowance is designed not only to increase youth employment, but also to provide better paying jobs for young people. The youth allowance measure can be used by young people up to the age of 23 who have completed at least secondary education. The youth allowance, as additional financial assistance in the amount of 3,000.00 denars per month, can be used by a young person who is insured and employed in a job position with a predominant production activity or self-employed with a predominant production activity.

CONCLUSION

During this analysis, we took into account those laws and by-laws that we felt directly and indirectly affect young people the most. In that sense, we want to point out that there are other laws that in some way find application for young people, especially considering that the term young people covers all persons from 15 to 29 years of age, which is a broad category.

Having prepared the analysis, we can state with certainty that in the RNM there is a sufficient number of regulations governing this issue, but the problem arises with their consistent application. First of all, we would underline the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, which was adopted on January 14, 2020. But even after three years of adoption, it is not fully and promptly applied. So even though the Law provides for the establishment of a National Youth Assembly, it remained just a dead letter or just a blanket norm. The non-establishment of this body has repercussions on the establishment of other bodies, such as the National Advisory Body, whose members should be nominated by the National Youth Assembly. The number of established local youth councils as a form of organizing young people in the municipalities is small. The number of municipalities that have adopted local strategies for youth is also small.

Many laws are designed to protect the welfare and rights of young people, recognizing their vulnerability and need for adult supervision and mentoring.

Despite legal protection, young people face challenges and gaps in the legal system. These include access to quality education, healthcare and housing. Discriminatory laws and practices can exacerbate these issues. Laws affecting young people often ignore their voices and perspectives. Encouraging youth engagement in policy and law-making processes can lead to more equitable and effective legal frameworks.

New challenges for young people have also been introduced with the rise of the digital age. Issues of privacy, cyberbullying and online safety require updated legal provisions to address these evolving challenges. Laws must adapt to evolving social norms and cultural changes. Issues such as gender identity, sexual orientation and mental health awareness have prompted changes in laws related to discrimination and access to health care for young people.

Young people need education and awareness of their legal rights and obligations. Legal literacy programs can empower them to navigate the legal system and advocate for their rights.

RECOMENDATIONS

- Full, consistent and timely implementation of laws and by-laws, with special reference to the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, through the formation of the bodies provided for in the Law, as well as the adoption of Local Youth Strategies by all municipalities in RNM.
- Programs for greater awareness of young people about their legal rights and obligations.
- The legal framework should take into account the intersectionality of young people, recognizing that they may face multiple forms of discrimination. It is recommended to develop and promote legal literacy programs targeting young people to empower them with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities.
- Furthermore, policies and initiatives should be implemented that ensure equal access to quality education, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or geographic location. Young people are to be involved in the development and review of youth-related laws and policies. Youth advisory bodies or forums need to be established to strengthen their

voice.

- Promoting digital literacy and online safety programs are needed to educate young people about responsible internet use, internet privacy and digital citizenship.
- Improving anti-discrimination laws to address intersectionality and protect the rights of young people from marginalized communities, as well as improving access to youth-friendly health services, including support for mental health, sexual and reproductive health and addiction treatment.
- Undertaking comprehensive reform of the juvenile justice system, with a focus on diversion programs, rehabilitation, and alternatives to incarceration for young offenders. The system should prioritize their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
- Implementation of social support programs is needed to address socio-economic challenges faced by young people, including housing, employment opportunities and financial literacy programs.

In conclusion, the analysis of youth laws highlights the need for a holistic and evolutionary approach to address the challenges and opportunities facing young people. These recommendations aim to create a fairer and more inclusive legal framework that encourages the well-being, development and active participation of young people in society

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Law on Culture (Official Gazette of RM, No. 31/98, 49/03, 82/05, 24/07, 116/10, 47/11, 51/11, 136/12, 23/13, 187/13, 44/14, 61/15, 154/15, 39/16, 11/18 and 11/18)

Law on Games of Chance and Entertainment Games (Official Gazette of the RM, no. 24/2011 dated 19.06.2018 dated 25.02.2011)

Election Code (Official Gazette of RM, no. 40/06, 136/08, 148/08, 155/08, 163/08, 44/11, 51/11, 142/12, 31/13, 34/13, 14/14, 30/14, 196/15, 35/16, 97/16, 99/16, 136/16, 142/16, 67/17, 125/17, 35/18, 99/18, 140/18, 208/18, 27/19 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 98/19, 42/20, 74/21 and 215/21)

Law on Associations and Foundations (Official Gazette of RM, no. 52/10, 135/11 and 55/16 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 239/22)

Law on Film Industry (Official Gazette of RM No. 82/13, 18/14, 44/14, 129/15, 152/15, 39/16 and 11/18 and Official Gazette of RNM, No. 275/19)

Law on Secondary Education (Official Gazette of RM, no. 37/96, 80/99, 4/02, 43/03, 19/04, 81/05, 60/06, 73/06, 7/08, 139/08, 114/09, 51/11, 135/11, 185/11, 142/12, 166/12, 55/13, 82/13, 14/14, 27/14, 28/14, 41/14, 115/14, 132/14, 160/14, 199/14, 196/15, 226/15, 97/17 and 248/18 and Official Gazette of RNM, no. 36/23 and 188/23)

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Law on Supporting Young People when Purchasing Musical Instruments (Official Gazette of RM, no. 113/2018 of 19.06.2018)

Law on Free Legal Aid (Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova, No. 101/19)

Law on Personal Data Protection (Official Gazette of RNM, no. 42/20 and 294/21)

Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services (Official Gazette of RM, No. 184/13, 13/14, 44/14, 101/14, 132/14, 142/16, 132/17, 168/18, 248/18 and 27/19 and Official Gazette of RNM, No. 42/20, 77/21 and 154/23)

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