

The World Bank is currently undertaking a number of projects and analytical activities in follow up to the Conference “Young People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: From Policy to Action”, which took place in Rome, Italy, May 21-24, 2007.

- **Capacity Building Grant for Strengthening National and Local Capacities for Youth Strategy Implementation in the Republic of Moldova.** This grant was signed in September 2007 and is supported by Italy as part of the Social Development Initiative for South East Europe, an initiative dedicated to youth development. This grant will build the capacity of Moldova's Ministry of Education and Youth, regional and local governments as well as youth NGOs, including the Moldovan Youth Council, to implement the Youth Strategy.

- **Joint assessment with the European Commission on the role and impact on non formal education on young people** with respect to the acquisition of life and livelihood skills complementary to formal schooling. This joint study, to be launched in spring 2008, will focus on five countries in Eastern and South Eastern Europe.

- **Capacity Building for Moldovan Youth NGOs.** This is a EURO 60,000 grant from the European Commission which is tied to a larger Bank-supported project called Rural Investment and Services Project 2. It will be implemented by the Youth Department of the Moldovan Ministry of Education and Youth together with the Moldovan National Youth Council between July 2008 and December 2009. About 250 young people will be trained using the grant funds. Training modules will be provided by competitively selected local and international trainers for youth NGOs that are effectively operating and youth workers. Training will include organizational and project management, fund-raising, youth outreach, participatory monitoring and evaluation, sustainable youth community development, youth participation and information. Workshops, seminars, partnership-building events, etc. will also be included.

- **New WB grant for youth development in Georgia supporting non formal education** opportunities for young Georgians through a network of local youth centers, start-up opportunities for young entrepreneurs, and youth policy implementation.

- **Preparation of a comprehensive regional report** covering all ECA countries which presents the most comprehensive and up-to-date data on young people with respect to the two main themes of the conference: i) transition to work and ii) active youth citizenship. It will serve as a guide for prioritizing investments. It is expected to be launched by June 2008.

- **A North Caucasus Post Conflict Grant** has just been approved. This is a USD 2 million grant to be implemented with UNICEF that aims to empower and enhance the security of at-risk youth from different ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds and their communities in the republics of the North Caucasus. The program has 3 main components.

- i) a program for the promotion of peace, tolerance and social cohesion including media campaigns targeting young people, training and opportunities for discussion among youth leaders and opinion shapers and cultural activities celebrating diversity and inclusion through art, music, dance, film, etc.;
- ii) pilot multi-purpose youth centers to develop community-based approaches to include adolescents and youth at risk (aged 12-24);
- iii) technical assistance and capacity-building to the Youth and Education Ministries for strengthening employment generation, life skills development and peace and tolerance communication programming for youth.

- Continued support to **Youth Voices Groups'** engagement in World Bank work (including Country Partnership Strategies, project evaluations, and portfolio development/implementation). The objective of the Youth Voice groups in ECA is to establish a mutual learning initiative for youth stakeholders and for the World Bank. The Youth Voices Groups have created a blog: <http://yvginternational.wordpress.com>

- Thirteen youth organizations from Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus received \$232 000 in grants on April 3-4, 2008 from a World Bank–led initiative supporting innovative development projects. The organizations were the winners of the Youth Development Marketplace (DM) 2008, a competitive grant program of the World Bank funding innovative, sustainable, small–scale development projects that target youth and have the potential to be expanded or replicated elsewhere. This year, the competition was focused on the theme, ‘Choose Your Future Today: Improving Work Opportunities and Developing Healthy Lifestyles for Young People.’ It was the first youth–focused DM led by a specialized sector, which focuses on two key youth transitions highlighted by the World Development Report (WDR) “Development and the Next Generation.”