



This project is co-financed by the European Union and implemented by the OECD Development Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

EU-OECD YOUTH INCLUSION PROJECT – VIET NAM

How's life for youth in Viet Nam?

Presentation of the OECD report: “Youth Well-being Policy Review of Viet Nam”

22 November 2017

Melia Hotel, 44B Ly Thuong Kiet, Ha Noi

AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcoming remarks**

Mr Nguyen Duy Thang, Vice Minister of MOHA
Ambassador Bruno Angelet, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Viet Nam
Dr. Axel Neubert, Representative of Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS)

09:30 – 10:45 **Introduction to the project and presentation of the *Youth Well-Being Policy Review of Viet Nam***

Ms Naoko Ueda, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre

Discussants: Prof. Nguyen Thi Lan Huong, Former Director General of Institute of the Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA)

Dr. Nguyen Thang, Director, Centre for Analysis and Forecasting, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS)

Ms. Astrid Bant, UNFPA Representative in Viet Nam

In Viet Nam, young persons aged 15-29 currently account for a quarter of the country's population. This is the highest youth population ever for Viet Nam, providing the country with a unique socio-economic development opportunity. Young people represent an asset for the nation's prosperity which can only be tapped if they have access to quality education, healthcare, decent employment and active social and political lives. However, Vietnamese youth face challenges on multiple fronts. The OECD Youth Well-being Policy Review of Viet Nam takes a multisectoral approach to look in-depth at the situation of youth in education, health, employment and civic participation. This session will present the main findings from the Review and discuss the policy recommendations.

Debate questions:

- Are sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues adequately addressed in schools and communities?
- How are gender-discriminatory norms affecting access to SRH care for young people?
- Could conditional cash transfers help keep children and youth from poor households in school? What is the evidence in Viet Nam?
- What can be done to narrow the skills gaps?
- What training schemes would be most effective to reach informal young workers, low-skilled youth and rural youth?
- How can the private sector be more engaged in skills development?

10:45 – 11:45 **Progress on the Vietnamese Youth Development Strategy 2011-2020 and policy implications**

Mr Vu Dang Minh, Director of Youth Department, Ministry of Home Affairs

Many governments are demonstrating growing political will to develop comprehensive policies to provide a better response to the needs and aspirations of young people. Nearly two out of three countries in the world today have a national youth policy. In Viet Nam, the youth agenda has progressively moved to the centre of the policy debate as demonstrated by the adoption of a Youth Law in 2005 and the Vietnamese Youth Development Strategy (VYDS) 2011-2020. The strategy is multi-sectoral and covers all aspects of youth well-being including health, vocational training, drug control, employment, life skills, and civic and political participation. MOHA has been co-ordinating the implementation of the strategy in collaboration with all the relevant ministries and youth organisations. A mid-term evaluation was carried out as part of the Youth Inclusion project in 2016 to assess the level of implementation. This session will present progress made in implementing the VYDS and the remaining challenges, and discuss how the Youth Well-being Policy Review recommendations can be reflected into the second phase of the Strategy.

Debate questions:

- What are the financial, institutional and capacity gaps to be filled to achieve the objectives set in the VYDS?
- How can sub-national structures be more involved in designing and implementing youth programmes that are better adapted to the local context?
- Which policy recommendations from the Youth Well-being Policy Review could be prioritised and taken up in the second phase of the VYDS?

11:45 – 12:00 **Closing remarks**

12:00 **Lunch**

About the Youth Inclusion Project

The Youth Inclusion Project is implemented by the OECD Development Centre with the co-financing of the European Union. This 3-year project aims to support 9 countries to review and improve policies for youth and to strengthen young people's participation in national development processes. Viet Nam, through the Ministry of Home Affairs, is one of the participating countries. <http://oe.cd/1h0>