

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



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Information sheet

BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH

ESTONIA



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1. Promotion and support of youth research

Is there a government strategy or programme for promoting and supporting research in the field of youth?

If yes, please explain.

National programme "Development of the Quality of Youth Work" initiated by the Youth Department of the Ministry of Education and Research and carried out by the Estonian Youth Work Centre specifies development of youth monitoring as one of its main activity strands. Within the program, national youth monitoring system has been set up (<http://www.noorteseire.ee/en/about-youth-monitor/structure-of-youth-monitoring>).

National Youth Monitoring system (www.noorteseire.ee/en/) is a system consisting of different components:

- Indicators, which reflect the more significant aspects of the lives of young people, and which are consistently collected and updated.
- Research and analyses related to the lives of young people, including:
 - Yearbook of youth monitoring;
 - quarterly policy reviews;
 - original studies based on questionnaires.
- An online database of studies, which are related to the lives of young people and carried out in Estonia.
- Development studies of youth policy.

Praxis Centre for Policy Studies (www.praxis.ee) is continuing the development and implementation of a comprehensive monitoring system of the lives of young people at the request of the Estonian Youth Work Centre (www.entk.ee).

Youth work evaluation at municipalities is another activity strand within the framework of the same national program. In cooperation with Ernst&Young, youth work evaluation guidelines, supportive materials and activities have been developed. Currently youth work evaluation activities are carried out in different municipalities.

2. Legal basis for an evidence-based approach to youth policy

Is there a reference to better knowledge on youth ensuring an evidence-based approach to youth policy in national legislation or policy strategies?

If yes, please explain.

In general, research on youth is carried out in accordance with requirements stated in legislative acts. Ethical considerations in youth research are given dutiful attention.

It is good practice to evaluate effects of all legislative changes and acts in Estonia. Youth related acts go through similar inspection, analysis and evaluation.

National Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013. While this is not a document that would set legally binding guidelines, it sets forth basic goals and guidelines in the field and is recognised by main actors in the youth field. Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013 defines youth research as one of the 10 areas of youth work.

National program "Development the quality of youth work" 2008-2013 foresees development and implementation of national youth monitoring system.

3. Structures and actors that play a role in gaining a better knowledge of young people

3.1. Departments in universities gathering knowledge on youth

Academic research on themes related to youth is carried out mostly in two universities:

University of Tartu

Faculty of Social Sciences

Faculty of Medicine

Faculty of Exercise and Sports Science
Faculty of Science and Technology
Faculty of Law
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
University of Tartu Narva College
University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy
The Centre for Applied Social Sciences (CASS) in the University of Tartu

Tallinn University

Institute of Educational Sciences
Institute of International and Social Sciences
Institute of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
Institute of Estonian Language and Culture
Institute of Informatics
Institute of Political Science and Governance
Estonian Institute of Humanities
Tallinn University Pedagogical College

3.2. Major public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth research, public companies included

Research on youth-related issues is concentrated in Universities, in faculties and institutes. Ministries or other state organisations commission research projects from research organisations as well as carry out research using their in-house expertise in analysis departments. The National Institute for Health Development is a government established research and development body collecting, connecting and providing reliable national information from a multitude of sources, related to the health of the Estonian population (<http://www.tai.ee/en/about-us/national-institute-for-health-development>).

3.3. NGOs gathering knowledge on youth

There are no NGOs which specialise on or have clearly defined activity strand of gathering knowledge on youth. (NGO Estonian Youth Institute, which was formerly active in the field, was liquidated in early 2013.)

3.4. Private companies dealing with youth research

In general, private companies deal with youth research on project or *ad-hoc* bases. Public opinion and research companies do not focus on youth research only neither have they clearly defined youth research as one of their activity strands.

Noorteuring OÜ, founded in 2010, is a private company which focuses on youth policy, youth work policy, youth work and youth research in Estonia as well as internationally. Contact: marti.taru@gmail.com

3.5. Statistical offices that collect statistics on youth

Statistics on youth is collected by Statistics Estonia as part of general statistical data collection. Online database can be accessed at <http://pub.stat.ee/px-web.2001/dialog/statfile1.asp>

National Institute for Health Development (<http://www.tai.ee/en>) runs online database on health related topics from where also information on younger age groups can be retrieved (<http://pxweb.tai.ee/esf/pxweb2008/dialog/statfile1.asp>).

National Education Information System (www.ehis.ee) is a database containing data on Estonian education system. One can retrieve data on all educational institutions, including hobby education, in Estonia.

Youth work information database contains information on youth work opportunities in municipalities of Estonia. This online database is maintained by National Youth Council (<http://www.enl.ee/et/andmebaas/Noorsootoo-andmebaas>).

3.6. Directory of national youth researchers

Andu Rämmer, Agnes Alvela, Rein Murakas, University of Tartu – values, youth sociology, youth work
Airi-Alina Allaste, Reelika Pirk, Tallinn University – lifestyles, subcultures, youth activism
Raii Nugin, Tallinn University – socialisation, generations
Triin Roosalu, Kadri Täht, Tallinn University – young families and labour market
Judith Strömpl, University of Tartu – school violence, trafficking
Anna Markina, University of Tartu – deviant behaviour, juvenile delinquency
Anne Tiko, Tallinn University – deviant behaviour
Marika Veisson, Tiiu Kurme, Leida Talts, Tallinn University – child research, pre-school child care institutions and elementary school, school and identity, academic achievement
Priit Reiska, Tallinn University – academic achievement, interdisciplinary teaching methods
Ellu Saar, Marge Unt, Rein Võormann, Jelena Helemäe, Tallinn University – education and labor market, transition from school to work
Marti Taru, Tallinn University – youth work, youth work policy, youth policy, youth participation
Anu Toots, Tallinn University – youth participation and civic education
Mare Ainsaar, University of Tartu – demographics, reproductive behaviour
Avo Trumm, Dagmar Kutsar, University of Tartu – child and youth poverty, young families
Urve Venesaar, Juhan Teder, Tallinn University of Technology – entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship education
Tõnis Mets, Made Torokoff, University of Tartu – entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship education
Veronika Kalmus, Margit Keller, Triin Vihalemm, Andra Sibak, University of Tartu – youth and new media, information society
Eve Kikas, Tiia Tulviste, University of Tartu – developmental psychology, family and peer socialisation, socialisation in elementary school
Toomas Veidebaum, Maarike Harro, University of Tartu, National Institute for Health Development – health behaviour of children and young people
Vahur Ööpik, Toivo Jürimäe University of Tartu – physical activism of youth, training methods of competitive athletes
Jüri Allik, Anu Realo, Helle Pullmann, University of Tartu – intelligence and academic capabilities of children, collectivism-individualism orientations in cross-national perspective
Jaanus Harro, University of Tartu – health behaviour, determinants and background of risk behaviour
Liilia Lõhmus, National Institute of Health Development – sexual risk behaviour, HIV/AIDS
Tiina Talvik, Helle Karro, Sulev Haldre, University of Tartu – health and determinants of (chronic) diseases among youth, sexual and reproductive behaviour of youth, substance misuse
Raivo Vetik, Gerli Nimmerfeldt, Tallinn University – ethnic identity, integration of young immigrants in mainstream society, multiculturalism; youth activism and patterns of free time spending
The list includes leaders of research groups; there are more researchers involved in youth-related research projects.

3.7. National research networks on youth

There are no national youth research networks.

3.8. Transnational networks on youth with relevance for national networks

Cooperation between researchers takes place within research project networks in institutional, national and international levels, also within professional organisations and networks.

Youth field actors participate actively in various networks, according to their speciality: youth policy networks, youth work networks, youth organisations networks. Researchers participate in researchers' networks, like Youth and Generation of European Sociological Association for example, and in other networks according to their research interests.

3.9. Knowledge networks supporting youth policy

Is there a permanent national network for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?

If yes, give names and contacts and explain its structure and your role within this network.

If no such network exists, please explain why and if there have been any attempts to set up such a network.

National Youth Monitoring system provides opportunities for linking the mentioned actors in the youth field. Information on the platform can be obtained from internet address www.noorteseire.ee/en/. For details refer to section 1.

Contacts:

Epp Reedik, chief expert on youth monitoring at Estonian Youth Work Centre, epp.reedik@entk.ee

Katrin Pihor, youth monitoring system project manager at think tank Praxis, katrin.pihor@praxis.ee

General contact: noorteseire@praxis.ee

FP7 financed large-scale project Myplace (www.fp7-myplace.eu) has established Youth Policy Advisory Group to advise policy makers and practitioners on issues related to youth (right/left-wing) political activism. YPAG meets twice a year. The project also produces three policy briefs and a policy publication on the themes of youth political activism. The project runs from June 2011 to May 2015.

For enquires contact Marti Taru, marti@iiss.ee

Was such a network set up specifically for some project/purpose?

4. Promotion and support to youth researchers and other actors who work towards a better knowledge of youth

Is there any measure undertaken for the:

- facilitation of exchanges between researchers, policy makers and practitioners in the field of youth

National Youth Monitoring system is the main platform set up for the purposes of evaluation and supporting development of policies in the youth field. It has the potential to support networking between researchers, policy makers and practitioner in the youth field. However, in reality its scope and activities are limited to a concrete topic of the Youth Monitoring Yearbook. In terms of personnel, it is limited mainly to researchers at think-tank Praxis and to very few researchers which are subcontracted to carry out research activities for the youth monitoring system.

Within the framework of the NYM, several other activities are organised which facilitate cooperation between different sectors. Every year a conference is organised in connection with launch of the yearbook. Every year a few discussion meetings are organised by think-tank Praxis. Results from the yearbook are circulated to parliament committees (Cultural Affairs Committee and Economic Affairs Committee). Also county and municipal level meetings are organised to disseminate research results. Researcher, policy makers, municipal officials and practitioners are invited to participate in all those events.

Ad hoc cooperation of researchers, policy makers and practitioners occurs also within other policy initiatives, started by different ministries and governmental bodies.

- support of mobility and skills improvement of youth researchers

No such policy measure.

5. Publications and accessible data in the youth field/on youth

5.1. Data collections which provide updated statistics on youth (public and private)

Different research projects collect data for their specific purposes. The data usually remains within partner-institutions of the project. Analysis results are published as research reports which might be directed to academic public (scholarly articles, monographs, collections of articles, project reports, ...) or to policy makers and practitioners (policy briefs, abridged articles in non-scholarly journals, collections of articles, articles in mass media, seminar presentations, ...).

Ministries and other governmental bodies collect and analyse data to monitor implementation of sectoral strategies. Analyses are published as non-academic research reports, fact-sheets, policy briefs, ...

National youth monitoring system collects data on situation of young people in Estonia. The information is made accessible to public via online portal www.noorteseire.ee where one finds statistical information, Youth Monitoring Yearbook and policy briefs on particular topics.

Private companies do not make their information available to wider public.

5.2. Regular youth reports

On national level

On national level, two kinds of publications are regularly issued within the framework of Youth Monitoring system. Youth Monitoring Yearbook is published annually. Policy briefs on selected themes are published regularly, one to three times a year.

On regional level

Estonian is a unitary state, no regional level youth reports are published.

5.3. National journals and reviews on youth research

No youth research journals are published in Estonia.

5.4. According to publications and recent data collections: what are priority themes in the field of youth research in your country

The main themes include education, non-formal education, transition from school to work, employment and unemployment, child and youth poverty, social alienation, youth activism and participation, youth work participation, youth policy, youth work policy, youth subcultures, youth and new communication media.

6. IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

Is there a dissemination of knowledge on youth via dedicated internet portals or online publications?

If yes, please explain.

6.1. Web-Portals and online databases on a better understanding of youth

www.noorteseire.ee is a national online portal on situation of young people in Estonia. The portal is part of an integrated youth monitoring system, which consists of the portal, youth monitoring yearbook, policy briefs and online database of research reports and projects on young people.

The portal contains online statistical analysis feature which gives statistical information on different aspects of young people's situation and lives in Estonia. The information is collected from Statistics Estonia as well as from different surveys.

6.2. Other

www.noorteseire.ee is the only online portal on youth situation in Estonia.

7. Good practice related to fostering a better knowledge of youth

Please describe methods and approaches for gaining a better understanding and knowledge of youth and for keeping it up to date.