



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“BETTER

UNDERSTANDING OF

YOUTH”

LATVIA



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission




Education and Culture DG



c/o Council of Europe :: Directorate of Youth and Sport :: F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France
Fax: (33) 3 88 412 778 :: E-mail: youth-partnership@coe.int :: www.youth-partnership.net

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1 Structures and actors that play a role in gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of young people

In 2005, the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs has formed the Council of Youth Policy Coordination, (www.jaunatneslietas.lv) where National Youth Council of Latvia and Latvian Student Association are actively involved. It is the first consulting and coordinating institution on state level, and it has the aim to promote the development and implementation of youth policy in the country and the involvement of youth in the process of decision making. It is an open council, and its main function is to ensure coherent implementation of youth policy in the country, as youth policy is carried out by different organisations. The Youth Policy Coordination Council is chaired by the Minister of Children and Family Affairs.

1.1 Specific youth departments in universities dealing with youth issues

No departments dealing with youth issues. Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia, regularly initiates youth research.

1.2 Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth

Central Statistical Bureau (www.csb.gov.lv) collects official statistics.

1.3 Major public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth issues

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia, regularly initiate youth research: Youth Participation (2005), Youth in the Labour Market (2007), EKAD study (field work in Riga City in 2006, published in 2007).

1.4 NGOs dealing with youth issues

Latvian Youth council (LJP), Latvian Student association (LSA), Youth council of the Latvian Free Trade Union Association (LBAS) might have practical knowledge on needs and expectations of young people. However, NGOs do not undertake research on young people.

1.5 Youth researchers or experts

There is a group of youth researchers (Trapenciē, Koroleva, Rungule, Snikere, Trapenciē) at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia (Director M.Kūle) that performs regular youth research on national level. The main areas of research: youth participation, youth in the labour market, leisure time and deviant behaviour, quality of youth life. The group of researchers organises regular seminars and conferences on youth research.

Baltic Institute of Social Sciences has performed some research on risk of social exclusion of youth risk groups (2006-2007). Laboratory of analytical and strategic studies has performed a research on Youth social and political activities (2007).

1.6 Private companies dealing with youth issues

Baltic Institute of Social Sciences has undertaken a few applied studies on integration of young people with low educational level.

2 Legal basis or guidelines for activities leading to a better knowledge and understanding of youth

Youth Policy State programme, chapter on Information includes some guidelines on need of youth research.

3 Funding for research on youth

3.1 International funding for carrying out activities aimed at youth research

No international funding for carrying out activities aimed at youth research.

3.2 EU funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth

EU related funding - from the ESF for the National Programme "Labour market studies", 2005-2007: "University Graduates Employment Possibilities in the Labour Market" (245.000€).

3.3 Public and private national funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth

Local governments provide funding for the youth Information Centres, State provides funding for the portal of youth issues (www.jaunatneslietas.lv).

3.4 Actor(s)/structure(s) mainly receiving funding

Youth Information centres (from the budget of local governments).

4 Paper publications on the youth field

4.1 Statistics of books on the youth field

Sociological Portrait of Latvian Youth (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, 1999)

Young adults in the Labour Market: assessment of the current situation and of the factors determining employment (Institute of Sociological Research, 2007);
Statistical yearbook (Central Statistical Bureau, 2007), published yearly.

4.2 Regular Youth reports

No regular youth reports. In 2007, Latvia has prepared a youth policy report for the Council of Europe

http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2364

4.3 Journals and reviews on youth research (name of journals/reviews, publishers, how regularly published, contents: same core topics or different issues)

No journals and reviews on youth research.

5 IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

5.1 Databases

www.bm.gov.lv includes a partial data base on 24 youth research projects, provides titles of studies in Latvian. Provider of the database - Ministry for Children and Family Affairs.

Database is freely accessible, the information is updated regularly.

<http://petijumi.mk.gov.lv/ui/default.aspxo> provides data base on the main studies in Latvia, part of the published reports are accessible on this page (in Latvian). Provider of the data base - Cabinet of Ministers. Database is freely accessible, the information is updated regularly.

www.bm.gov.lv provides with a data base on youth organisations, includes 70 youth organisations, region of activities, contacts, area of activities. Information available in Latvian. Provider of the database - Ministry for Children and Family Affairs

www.bm.gov.lv provides data base on regional youth centres, names of coordinators in regions and their contacts. Information available in Latvian. Database is freely accessible, the information is updated regularly. Provider of the database - Ministry for Children and Family Affairs.

5.2 Web-Portals

www.jaunatneslietas.lv

5.3 Statistics, reports, journals, reviews or other publications available on the internet

No publications that are only available on Internet.

6 What are the methods and approaches for gaining a better understanding and knowledge of youth

No special methods and approaches for gaining a better understanding and knowledge of youth.

7 Methods and tools developed for keeping knowledge updated and coherent

No specific methods or tools to keep the information about young people up to date.

8 Methods and tools for ensuring and assessing quality of knowledge in the youth field

No specific quality assurance strategies in youth research. The quality assurance strategy in youth research is based on Code of Ethics in Sociological research (Sociological Association of Latvia). However, there are cases, when according to the Law on Purchase the applicant of the lowest price is chosen, and the quality is lower.

9 Promotion of youth researchers and their generational renewal and their actors who work towards a better knowledge of youth

9.1 Facilitating the exchange of experience and practice

No formal national networks on youth research established. In collaboration with the Nordic Youth research association, young Latvian Youth researchers have participated in the NYRIS seminars for the doctoral students. Conferences on youth research are organised by the researchers from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology about every third to fourth year (previous conference was in 2005, next takes place in 2008).

9.2 Supporting their mobility

During the NYRIS programme for doctoral students in Youth research, Latvian participants received funding for the mobility from the NYRIS programme.

9.3 Improving their skills (language, cultural ...)

Participants of the NYRIS programme for doctoral students in Youth research improved language, cultural knowledge and skills, improved theoretical and methodological knowledge on youth research, participated in practical workshops.

9.4 Funding for PhDs and support of students in this field

No funding for PhDs and support of students in the field of youth research.

10 Methods and tools to ensure exchanges and dialogue between all actors in the youth field

10.1 Seminars, working groups for a better knowledge and understanding of youth

Regular informative seminars for youth coordinators.

10.2 Names and contacts for permanent national network for a greater knowledge and understanding of youth linking all actors in the field

No permanent national network for a greater knowledge and understanding of youth linking all actors in the field.

10.3 If a national youth knowledge network in the youth field exists, explain its structure and the way it works.

No network.

10.4 If no permanent youth knowledge network exists on the national level, please report if there are any attempts to set up such a network. Explain how this could be done. What is your strategy to set up a permanent national network linking all actors

There is an idea to establish a youth knowledge network as a section within the Latvian Sociological Association in 2008. It is planned to discuss the procedure of establishment during the youth researchers' conference in 2008.

11 Other networks in the youth field

11.1 Transnational networks

Large youth organisations like Scouts and Guides' Organisation, Students' Council, Red Cross and others have established and participate in transnational networks.

11.2 Networks specific to certain actors

There is an idea to establish a youth knowledge network as a section within the Latvian Sociological Association in 2008. It is planned to discuss the procedure of establishment during the youth researchers' conference in 2008.

11.3 Organisation and promotion of interdisciplinary dialogue for example between university departments and governmental departments

There is a communication between representatives from various ministries on the issues related with youth health, education, employment etc. There are regular working group meetings on concrete issues related to youth. However, researchers are not invited to participate in such meetings.