

# The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on  
**Better Understanding of Youth**



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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## **DENMARK, 2005**

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

#### **1.1 Departments in universities dealing with youth issues**

Danish University of Education, Danish Centre of Youth Research, Learning Lab Denmark: Birgitte Simonsen, Professor and Head of Center, [www.cefu.dk](http://www.cefu.dk) University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Philosophy, Education and Rhetoric: Jan Riis Flor, Lector and Leader, [www.ku.dk](http://www.ku.dk)

#### **1.2 Major public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth issues**

##### **1.2.1 National public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth issues**

Centre for Youth Research: Birgitte Simonsen, Professor and leader The Danish National Institute of Social Research: Niels Plough, Research Director

##### **1.2.2 Local public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth issues**

It should be mentioned that since Denmark does not have a single government body responsible for gathering information about young people. Issues concerning youth is handled sector by sector from many different sources, usually at an ad hoc basis which makes the field diverse and multisided.

#### **1.3 NGOs dealing with youth issues**

The Danish Youth Council ([www.duf.dk](http://www.duf.dk), contact: Thomas Bach, [tb@duf.dk](mailto:tb@duf.dk)) is an umbrella organisation for more than 70 organisations working with children and young people at both national and global level. DUF supports it's member organisations financially and work to strengthen the participation and democratic involvement of young people in the society.

#### **1.4 Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth**

Statistics Denmark, StatBank Denmark, [www.statistikbanken.dk](http://www.statistikbanken.dk) Danish University of Education, Danish Centre of Youth Research, Learning Lab Denmark: Birgitte Simonsen, Professor and leader, [www.cefu.dk](http://www.cefu.dk) Social Research Denmark, see [www.sfi.dk](http://www.sfi.dk)

#### **1.5 Youth researchers or experts**

See list of Danish youth researchers at [www.cefu.dk](http://www.cefu.dk)

#### **1.6 Private companies dealing with youth issues**

Institute of local government studies: All kinds of youth research related to local and regional bodies.



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See [www.akf.dk](http://www.akf.dk) for more details.

### **1.7 Others dealing with youth issues**

N.A.

### **1.8 New structures and actors that have been set up this year**

None.

## **2 Legal basis**

### **2.1 Legal basis or guidelines facilitating activities leading to a better understanding of youth**

None.

### **2.2 New Developments that have taken place this year?**

None.

## **3 Funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better understanding of youth**

### **3.1 International funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge of youth**

No international funding on the youth subject. The means for funding depends entirely on the project.

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

The means for funding depends mostly on the project.

### **3.3 National funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth**

#### **3.3.1 Public national funding**

No government funding earmarked specifically for youth purposes. Must funding is given to specific projects through the Danish Research Agency, which has several subgroups aimed at social research, but none specific at youth research.

#### **3.3.2 Private national funding**



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Several large foundations support youth research. The Danish Centre for Youth Research is supported by private funding.

### **3.4 Other funding**

N.A.

### **3.5 Actor(s)/structure(s) mainly receiving funding**

Who receives funding depends entirely on the project. Some of the typical receivers are: The Danish National Institute of Social Research. The Danish Centre for Youth Research

### **3.6 New developments that have taken place this year**

None so far. The financial structure for funding of youth research has remained largely unchanged this year.

## **4 Paper publications disseminating knowledge about the youth field**

### **4.1 Figures for paper publications disseminating knowledge about the youth field**

The Danish Council published a magazine 4 times an year, with new information. See [www.duf.dk](http://www.duf.dk).

### **4.2 Regular youth reports**

Since September 2000 Cefu has published the magazine #Ungdomsforskning# (Youth Research) four times a year (each vol. app. 60 pages) and the centre has an annual production of reports/books. Editor: Niels-Henrik M. Hansen, [nhmh@lld.dk](mailto:nhmh@lld.dk), can be downloaded at [cefu.dk](http://cefu.dk). Latest issue: "Body and culture" Project reports and articles by researchers on youth related topics are often published in different connections. The Danish Ministry of Education has on an irregular basis published a few reports commissioned by the Ministry.

### **4.3 Journals that publish youth research**

#Dansk Sociologi#, published by the Danish Sociology Society, contact: [dansk.sociologi@sociology.ku.dk](mailto:dansk.sociologi@sociology.ku.dk), [www.sociologi.dk](http://www.sociologi.dk) #Folkeskolen# published by The Danish Public School Teachers, [www.folkeskolen.dk](http://www.folkeskolen.dk), contact: [folkeskolen@dlf.dk](mailto:folkeskolen@dlf.dk)

### **4.4 Reviews on youth research**

#Ungdomsforskning#, published by Centre of Youth Research, editor: Niels-Henrik M. Hansen, [nhmh@lld.dk](mailto:nhmh@lld.dk), can be downloaded at [cefu.dk](http://cefu.dk). Latest issue: "Body and culture"

### **4.5 Other publications**

N.A.



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#### 4.6 What new support has been developed this year?

None so far.

### 5 IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

#### 5.1 Databases

Statistics Denmark has a large database of all official statistics in Denmark. This is updated as new information comes by, but mostly each year. Most can be accessed at the statsbank: See [www.statistikbanken.dk](http://www.statistikbanken.dk).

#### 5.2 Portals

[www.duf.dk](http://www.duf.dk): The Danish Youth Council is an umbrella organisation for more than 70 organisations working with children and young people at both national and global level. Updated continually.  
[www.cefudk.dk](http://www.cefudk.dk): Danish University of Education, Danish Centre of Youth Research, Learning Lab Denmark: Updated each day with news and other information about youth research (in Danish).

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

[www.statistikbanken.dk](http://www.statistikbanken.dk): Statistics Denmark, StatBank Denmark, [www.cefudk.dk](http://www.cefudk.dk): Danish University of Education, Danish Centre of Youth Research, Learning Lab Denmark

#### 5.4 What new tools have been developed this year?

Most of the portals are updated throughout the year, but no radical features have been added this year.

### 6 Methods and approaches for gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of youth

#### 6.1 Quantitative Methods

	used	frequency	themes
European tools (Eurostat, Eurobarometer)	No	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
Youth Opinion polls	Yes	10 <i>per year</i>	Drug use, gambling, weight control, alcohol, voting
Comparative studies	No	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.

	used	frequency	themes
<b>Longitudinal studies</b>	No	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Questionnaires</b>		100 <i>per year</i>	Alcohol, social network, friends, use of internet, drugs, body
<b>Evaluation research</b>	Yes	15 <i>per year</i>	Different projects on education, drugsusers and so on

## 6.2 Qualitative methods

	used	frequency	themes
<b>Ethnography</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Participant observation</b>	Yes	NA: <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Interviews</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Discourse analysis</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Grounded theory</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Evaluation research</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Action research</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Questionnaires</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Comparative studies</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Longitudinal studies</b>	Yes	NA <i>per year</i>	N.A.

## 6.3 The use of combining methods/ Triangulation

	used	frequency	themes
<b>Action research</b>	Yes	NA: <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Evaluation research</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Questionnaires</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Comparative studies</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.
<b>Longitudinal studies</b>	Yes	NA. <i>per year</i>	N.A.

## 6.4 Questioning youth organisations and NGOs (especially to collect practical knowledge)

In connection with distributing of the state lottery pool DUF is in a continuous dialogue with its member organisations. Furthermore DUF is doing specific member analyses.

## 6.5 Innovative methods used in the collection of youth knowledge

One example is research-assistant Anne Koefod, Centre for Youth Research, who used



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SMS-text-messages to receive information on her young informants. Another example is to let young people interview themselves and then use the themes from this to develop the study further.

## 6.6 New methods that have been developed this year

Use of SMS as a tool to get in touch with young people.

## 7 Methods developed for keeping knowledge updated and coherent

The Danish Youth Centre is trying to coordinate and develop an overview of all youth research in Denmark. Much of the research is - however - done in many different organisations and there is no national central body, which tries to coordinate or keep track of the knowledge within the youth field.

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

### 8.1 Existing Methods

	used	How it is implemented
Peer reviews	Yes	In connection with publication of articles.
Expert analysts	Yes	If there is a problem the proper experts will analyse it.
Indicators	Yes	Statistics Denmark regularly publishes new statistics
Training of youth researchers	No	No such education exists, they are trained within the Universities, but not as youth researchers.
Other		None

### 8.2 This year's developments of quality assessment in the youth research field.

N.A.

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



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### **9.1 Facilitating the exchange of experience and practice**

The Danish Centre for Youth Research hosts an annual youth researchers network. The idea is to create an annual meeting between relevant youth researchers in Denmark. The Danish Youth Centre does also host 1-2 conferences each year, which is open to all people working within the youth field in Denmark. This is to give the actors in the youth field in Denmark in order to have an open dialog on a specific youth related topic. Youth researchers will be a natural part of the relevant actors.

### **9.2 Supporting their mobility**

The EU-programme are promoted within the existing structures. There is no specific structure for youth research.

### **9.3 Improving their skills**

None.

### **9.4 Funding for PhDs and support of students in this field**

None. There is no University or other schools/programme aimed at education youth researchers. The Danish Centre for Youth Research funds in cooperation with others PhDs.

### **9.5 New schemes that have been developed this year**

None.

## **10 Comparing results**

### **10.1 Methods to exploit and compare results of activities carried out for a better knowledge and understanding of youth**

Nordic Youth Research Information, [www.alli.fi/nyri](http://www.alli.fi/nyri), is the general organisation of a range of networking activities and information systems for youth research in the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden). The coordination and cooperation on NYRI activities is sponsored by Nordic Council of Ministers and Nordic Youth Council through a Nordic Coordinator, and by the national youth ministries through an Advisory Group. Some 1700 researchers, documentalists, users of research knowledge etc. are linked through these networks.

### **10.2 Methods that have been developed this year?**

None.

## **11 Methods to ensure exchanges and dialogue between all actors in the youth field**



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

Title of seminar or group	Frequency	Date & place of next meeting	Contact
May-conference on youth-culture, sexuality and consume	1 <i>per year</i>	24 May 2006, Copenhagen.	Anne Kofod, akofod@lld.dk
ANGORA 2005:EDUCATON! EDUCATION! EDUCATION!	1 <i>per year</i>	9. December 2005, Copenhagen.	Anne Balle, angora@lld.dk
Disadvantaged youth and children in Denmark and Europe	1 <i>per year</i>	8. November 2005, Copenhagen	Socialpolitisk forening (Sociopolitical Society), Soc.pol.fo@post.tele.dk
NA	NA <i>per year</i>	NA	NA

## 11.2 Permanent national networks for developing a greater knowledge of youth that link all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)

See list of Danish youth researchers at [www.cefu.dk](http://www.cefu.dk)

### 11.2.1 Functioning and support of permanent national network

The annual youth conference is hosted by the Minister of Education, organized in cooperation with the Danish Youth Council. The idea is to create an annual meeting between relevant actors in the youth field in Denmark in order to have a dialog on a youth topics. Youth researchers will be a natural part of the relevant actors. There is also a permanent youth researcher network. It is voluntary to participate. Participation is free, and the networks meets 1-2 times a year. It is organised by the Danish Centre for Youth Research.

### 11.2.2 The strategy for creating a permanent national network if one does not exist (i.e. setting up a working group on the issue, organising exchange of good practice on the issue, developing the network taking as starting point national correspondents for knowledge centre, creating a virtual national community linking actors, #)

N.A.

### 11.2.3 The plans for this year

Updating of the list of Danish youth researchers at [www.cefu.dk](http://www.cefu.dk). Having a network meething in



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autum - see [www.cefudk.dk](http://www.cefudk.dk) for details.

## 11.3 Other networks in the youth field

### 11.3.1 Transnational networks

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### 11.3.2 Local and regional networks

None.

### 11.3.3 Networks specific to certain actors

CeFU takes part in vocational training and hosts national network. The US-centers obtains a network for The Youth Schools. The institutions that does research on the conditions of the life of young people has an intern network.

### 11.3.4 New developments planned this year

None

## 12 Transsectoral dialogue

### 12.1 Organisation and promotion of transsectoral dialogue for example between university departments and governmental departments (e.g. seminars, working groups, common advisory structures#)

A wide range of researchers and governmental actors participates at the seminars hosted by the Danish Centre for Youth Research.

### 12.2 New developments planned this year.

The annual May-conference hosted by Centre for Youth Research is going to theme youth-culture, sexuality and consume.



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