

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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FINLAND, 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

University of Helsinki: Department of Sociology, Prof. Riitta Jallinoja, Cultural Studies On Transition to Adulthood; Department of Education, Prof. Elina Lahelma, Youth, Gender and Citizenship. University of Tampere: Department of Education, Juha Nieminen, history of Finnish Youth Work; Department of Social Policy and Social Work, Prof. Tarja Pösö, Youth Institutions. University of Turku: Faculty of Humanities, School of Art, Literature and Music, Prof. Jukka Sihvonen, Historical Connections Between Audiovisions and Technology. Department of Education, Prof. Risto Rinne, Youth and Education. Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, Prof. Terhi-Anna Wilska, Consumption and Generations. University of Jyväskylä: Faculty of Social Sciences, Research Director Kaarlo Laine, Youth, Sports and Leisure Time. Department of Sociology, Prof. Martti Siisiäinen, Social Movements, Voluntary Associations and Networks. Research Centre for Contemporary Culture, Prof. Erkki Vainikkala, Media Research. Department of Psychology, Prof. Lea Pulkkinen, Longitudinal Study of Health and Behavior in Twin Children. University of Joensuu: Department of Sociology, Prof. Leena Koski, Multiculturalism and Citizenship. University of Oulu: Department of Education, Veli-Pekka Ulvinen, Youth and Marginalization. University of Lapland: Department of Social Studies, Prof. Asko Suikkanen, Evaluational Studies. Department of Social Work, DSocSc. Anneli Pohjola, Maternity and Work in the Northern Periphery

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

Finnish Youth Research Society, Finnish Youth Research Network, <http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/> Advisory Council for Youth Affairs (Nuora) is an expert body attached to the Ministry of Education. www.minedu.fi

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

Youth Department, City of Helsinki

1.3 NGOs dealing with youth issues

Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi ry (a national youth council) www.alli.fi

1.4 Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth

Statistics Finland (Tilastokeskus) http://www.stat.fi/index_en.html National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health.(Stakes). <http://www.stakes.fi/english/index.html>



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1.5 Youth researchers or experts

D.Soc.Sc. Tommi Hoikkala, Research Director of Finnish Youth Research Network, sociology of generation, narrative research Ph.D. Helena Helve, Associated Professor (Docent) in Sociology and Comparative Religion at the University of Helsinki. Longitudinal study, values, gender, ideology, socialization D.Soc.Sc. Leena Suurpää, Youth Research Network, racism, cultural difference, communality, collective identity Lis.Soc.Sc. Kari Paakkunainen, Researcher of University of Helsinki, pol.participation, pol.concets, soc.marginality, modern youth policy, life politics Lis.Soc.Sc. Petri Paju, Researcher of University of Tampere, youth in welfare state, youth policy, generations Ph.D. Terhi-Anna Wilska, Professor of Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, young people, consumption, consumer cultures, information society, technology, mobile services, sustainable development

1.6 Private companies dealing with youth issues

15/30 #research is a Finnish research company that specializes exclusively in youth markets. Their main focus is on 15-30 year-olds. Their studies concentrate on values, consumer behaviour, brand attitudes and preferences, media usage, youth cultures and trends. They conduct quantitative and qualitative research on an ongoing basis. <http://www.1530.fi/english/>

1.7 Others dealing with youth issues

N/A

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

N/A

2 Legal basis

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

Youth Work Act (1995), which will be replaced by a new Youth Act in 2006.

2.2 New Developments that have taken place this year?

Newly prepared Youth Act, which will replace 1995 Youth Work Act, was placed on Finnish Parliament's agenda. The Youth Act e.g. clarifies the responsibility and roles of local authorities.

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



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Nordic Council of Ministers

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

2003-2005 Finnish Youth Research Network was participating in EU project EUYOUNG - Political Participation of Young People in Europe. The aim of EUYOUNG was to develop a high-quality instrument for the comparative measurement of political participation of young people (aged 15-25 years) in Europe. EUYOUNG was funded under the 5th framework programme of the European Commission. InTO: Inside The Outsiders, under the framework of the European Commission pilot project, "Integration of Third-Country Nationals INTI".

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

3.3.1 Public national funding

Ministry of Education / Youth Division Academy of Finland

3.3.2 Private national funding

none

3.4 Other funding

The Finnish National Fund for Research and Development (Sitra) is an independent public foundation under the supervision of the Finnish Parliament.

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

Finnish Youth Research Network

3.6 New developments that have taken place this year

Finland # South-Korea # Japan #cooperation in research project Youth and Internet Cultures

4 Paper publications disseminating knowledge about the youth field

4.1 Figures for paper publications disseminating knowledge about the youth field

The Finnish Youth Research Society publishes a series of publications, which are both academic and polemic. This publication series includes research reports and position statements concerning contemporary youth as well as doctoral dissertations. Most of this publication series is in Finnish but the list also includes a few titles in English and Swedish. The yearly number of publications is



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approximately 10.

4.2 Regular youth reports

Youth Living Conditions is published yearly (since 2001) by Advisory Council for Youth Affairs (Nuora), Youth Research Network and National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health.(Stakes). It has a new topic each year. Youth Barometer is published yearly (since 1994) by Advisory Council for Youth Affairs (Nuora) and Youth Research Network. It is based on phone interviews, and it reflects young people's attitudes and values. Each year there are both changing topics and repetitive questions enabling the study of long-term attitude changes.

4.3 Journals that publish youth research

The Finnish Youth Research Society produces the journal Nuorisotutkimus (Youth Research), which is published by the Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi. The magazine includes English summaries of articles, which can be found here http://www.alli.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=271. Frequency: Quarterly Young (Nordic Journal of Youth Research) publishes articles, reviews and scholarly comment which develop and qualify international youth research. Frequency: Quarterly

4.4 Reviews on youth research

The Finnish Youth Research Society produces the journal Nuorisotutkimus [Youth Research], which is published by the Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi. The magazine includes English summaries of articles, which can be found here http://www.alli.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=271. Frequency: Quarterly Young (Nordic Journal of Youth Research) publishes articles, reviews and scholarly comment which develop and qualify international youth research. Frequency: Quarterly

4.5 Other publications

N/A

4.6 What new support has been developed this year?

N/A

5 IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

5.1 Databases

www.nuoret.org Living standard indicators represent the living standards of Finnish youth aged 15-29. The database is updated yearly. Also in English .

5.2 Portals

www.alli.fi Portal of Allianssi, which is an umbrella organisation for Finnish youth organisations. It is constantly updated. Some of the material is also in English.



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

Internet publications of Finnish Youth Research Network (in Finnish)

http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=85 (in English)

http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=153 The Ministry of Education produces various series of publications. Part of the publications are in English

<http://www.minedu.fi/minedu/publications/index.html>

5.4 What new tools have been developed this year?

<http://www.stakes.fi/sotka/> is a statistical database of social and health work in Finland, developed by National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (Stakes).

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

6.1 Quantative Methods

	used	frequency	themes
European tools (Eurostat, Eurobarometer)	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
Youth Opinion polls	Yes	1 <i>per year</i>	Various themes on values and attitudes of Finnish youth. Phone interviews.
Comparative studies	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. Youth and Internet Cultures in Finland#South-Korea#Japan. Questionnaires in each country.
Longitudinal studies	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. Helena Helve#s longitudinal research project on Values, Change and Youth.
Questionnaires	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. ongoing research Multicultural youth, civic society and leisure time activities
Evaluation research	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A

6.2 Qualitative methods

	used	frequency	themes
Ethnography	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. racism, postmodern youth cultures, communality
Participant observation	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. immigrant youth, new drug cultures
Interviews	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. political participation, criminology, cultural memberships
Discourse analysis	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. age, youth, growing-up, life-course, transition, gender
Grounded theory	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
Evaluation research	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. youth policy, participation, marginalization
Action research	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	participation
Questionnaires	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	Consumption, leisure time activities
Comparative studies	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	Internet cultures
Longitudinal studies	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	Change and values

6.3 The use of combining methods/ Triangulation

	used	frequency	themes
Action research	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	Municipal participation
Evaluation research	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	Political participation
Questionnaires	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
Comparative studies	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
Longitudinal studies	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	Attitudes and values

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

Prior to previous municipal elections in 2004 a survey-based research was made on youth influence groups, such as youth councils. Summary in English

<http://www.minedu.fi/nuora/julkaisut/nuortenaanijakunnant.pdf> Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi (national youth council) has made an inquiry for its member organizations.

6.5 Innovative methods used in the collection of youth knowledge

Prior to previous municipal elections in 2004 a seminar tour was organized with intention not only to collect knowledge about youth participation in local level, but also to inspire young people to vote. In each seminar there were representatives of youth research, youth policy, members of youth influence groups and one member of Finnish Government present.

6.6 New methods that have been developed this year

N/A

7 Methods developed for keeping knowledge updated and coherent

Ongoing discussion and peer evaluation in Finnish Youth Research Network. Finnish Youth Research Network organizes research seminars, annual youth research conferences etc. 2005 started a study circle for youth researchers, which gets together about once a month.

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	Nuorisotutkimus, refereed Youth Research journal
Expert analysts	No	N/A
Indicators	No	N/A
Training of youth researchers	Yes	Finnish Youth Research Network organizes research seminars, study circles, conferences etc.
Other	No	N/A

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

none

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



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knowledge of youth

9.1 Facilitating the exchange of experience and practice

Finnish Youth Research Network organizes research seminars, study circles, annual youth research conferences, courses etc.

9.2 Supporting their mobility

N/A

9.3 Improving their skills

Finnish Youth Research Network organizes research seminars, study circles, annual youth research conferences, courses etc.

9.4 Funding for PhDs and support of students in this field

Many researchers of Finnish Youth Research Network are PhD students and its publication series includes their doctoral dissertations.

9.5 New schemes that have been developed this year

Study circle for Finnish youth researchers, which gets together about once a month.

10 Comparing results

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

Prior to previous municipal elections in 2004 a seminar tour was organized with intention not only to collect knowledge about youth participation in local level, but also to inspire young people to vote.

10.2 Methods that have been developed this year?

N/A

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

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



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Title of seminar or group	Frequency	Date & place of next meeting	Contact
National Youth Work Conference	1/2 <i>per year</i>	2007	matti.cantell(at)alli.fi
Allianssi Cruising Seminar	1/2 <i>per year</i>	16.-17.3.2006	christian.wentzel(at)alli.fi
Tuhti Seminar	1/2 <i>per year</i>	November 2006, Mikkeli	Tapio.kuure(at)uta.fi
Publication Events of major researches such as Youth Barometer	>1 <i>per year</i>	2006	pia.metsahuone(at)minedu.fi

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)

National Youth Work Conference, Matti Cantell Matti.cantell(at)alli.

11.2.1 Functioning and support of permanent national network

Exchange between actors of youth field in Finland is made relatively easy, since many of them (e.g. Finnish Youth Research Network, national youth council Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi) are located under the same roof in Allianssi-talo in Helsinki.

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

N/A

11.3 Other networks in the youth field

11.3.1 Transnational networks

N/A

11.3.2 Local and regional networks

N/A

11.3.3 Networks specific to certain actors



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Finnish Youth Research Network Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi (national youth council)

11.3.4 New developments planned this year

N/A

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#)

The purpose of the Finnish Youth Research Society is to promote multi-disciplinary youth research in Finland. To this end it organizes national and international seminars, maintains a registry of youth researchers etc. National Youth Work Conference gathers every second year policy makers, youth researchers and professionals of youth work from whole Finland together.

12.2 New developments planned this year.

N/A



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