

# 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, 2006**

# **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 citizenships; Tarja Tolonen, transitions, space and spatiality, gender, social class, social and cultural capitals; Sinikka Aapola, age, youth, growing-up, life-course, transition, gender, discourse University of Tampere: Department of Education, Juha Nieminen, History of Finnish Youth Work; Department of Social Policy and Social Work, Prof. Tarja Poso, youth institutions; Atte Oksanen, childhood, youth, identity, masculinity, violence, body; Anna Rastas, difference, racialisation, racism. 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; Kaisa Vehkalahti, gender, delinquency, reform schools, history of youth; Tero Jarvinen, youth, education, work, unemployment, social exclusion. University of Jyväskylä: Faculty of Social Sciences, Research Director Kaarlo Laine, Youth, Sports and Leisure Time. Department of Sociology, Prof. Martti Siisiainen, 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; Sirkku Kotilainen, civic participation, communication technology, media education, youth 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](http://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, umbrella organisation) [www.alli.fi](http://www.alli.fi)



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## 1.4 Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth

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

## 1.5 Youth researchers or experts

Internet database of Finnish youth researchers. The Registry is in Finnish, but it also has a key word search in English. [http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/tutkijarekisteri/en\\_rekisteri2.php](http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/tutkijarekisteri/en_rekisteri2.php)  
D.Soc.Sc. (Docent) Tommi Hoikkala, Research Director of Finnish Youth Research Network, sociology of generation, narrative research. Ph.D. Terhi-Anna Wilska, Chair of Finnish Youth Research Society, young people, consumption, consumer cultures, information society, technology, mobile services, sustainable development. 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. Tarja Tolonen, transitions, space and spatiality, gender, social class, social and cultural capitals. Lis.Soc.Sc. Petri Paju, Director of Lasten Kesa, youth in welfare state, youth policy, generations. M.Soc.Sc. Helena Laaksonen, Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD), young adults in changing welfare societies, long transition to adulthood and citizenship in Finland, Sweden and Germany M.Soc.Sc. Pia Lundbom, Civic activism, animal rights activism, anti-globalization activism, youth and political participation, social movements. D.Soc.Sc. Petri Hautaniemi, transnationalism, ethnicity. D.Soc.Sc. Anneli Pohjola, social work, marginalization.

## 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

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

Finnish University Network for Youth Research

# 2 Legal basis

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

Youth Act. The Government shall adopt a youth policy development programme every four years. The development programme shall contain the national objectives for youth policy and provide guidelines for youth policy programme work at the provincial and local levels. The development



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programme shall be revised according to need. An effective follow-up system is also needed.

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

Youth Act, replaced in 2006 old Youth Work Act (1995). The Youth Act e.g. clarifies the responsibility and roles of local authorities. Government's youth policy development programme has been prepared.

## **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**

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 Government Institute for Economic Research (VATT) is an independent applied economic research institute that operates under the authority of the Ministry of Finance in Helsinki, Finland. VATT will finance one research which will be carried out in 2007 in cooperation with Finnish Youth Research Network. The Finnish National Fund for Research and Development (Sitra) is an independent public foundation under the supervision of the Finnish Parliament.



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

Finnish Youth Research Network

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

No answer available

## **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 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. In 2006 the topic was gender and health. 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. In 2006 the main topic was religion.

### **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](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](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



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## 4.5 Other publications

No answer available

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

The Finnish Youth Research Network has launched in 2006 new Internet magazine [www.kommentti.fi](http://www.kommentti.fi) It includes youth research related topics e.g. blogs of youth researchers, discussion forum, news, columns etc.

# 5 IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

## 5.1 Databases

[www.nuoret.org](http://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](http://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.

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

[http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli\\_id=153](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?

The Finnish Youth Research Network has launched in 2006 new Internet pages [www.kommentti.fi](http://www.kommentti.fi) It includes youth research related topics e.g. blogs of youth researchers, discussion forum, news, columns etc.

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

## 6.1 Quantative Methods

	used	frequency	themes
European tools (Eurostat,	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	various



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	used	frequency	themes
<b>Eurobarometer)</b>			
<b>Youth Opinion polls</b>	Yes	1 <i>per year</i>	Values and attitudes.
<b>Comparative studies</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. Internet cultures of Finland and Japan.
<b>Longitudinal studies</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. Helena Helves longitudinal reserch project on values of youth
<b>Questionnaires</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. study on young Finns and 2007 parliamentary elections
<b>Evaluation research</b>	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A

## 6.2 Qualitative methods

	used	frequency	themes
<b>Ethnography</b>		N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. racism, transculturalism
<b>Participant observation</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. new drug cultures
<b>Interviews</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. criminology
<b>Discourse analysis</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	various topics (one of the main methods in academical youth research) e.g. life-course, growing up
<b>Grounded theory</b>	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
<b>Evaluation research</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. participation, marginalization
<b>Action research</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. participation
<b>Questionnaires</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. participation
<b>Comparative studies</b>		N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. forms of youth participation in Helsinki and Tallinna
<b>Longitudinal studies</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	e.g. religional values

## 6.3 The use of combining methods/ Triangulation



	used	frequency	themes
<b>Action research</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	municipal participation
<b>Evaluation research</b>	Yes	N/A <i>per year</i>	political participation
<b>Questionnaires</b>		N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
<b>Comparative studies</b>	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
<b>Longitudinal studies</b>	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 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.. 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

e.g. increasing usage of Internet-questionnaires

## 6.6 New methods that have been developed this year

N/A

## 7 Methods developed for keeping knowledge updated and coherent

N/A

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

No answers available

## 9 Promotion of youth researchers and their generational renewal and other actors who work towards a better 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. Finnish University Network for Youth Research.



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## 9.2 Supporting their mobility

No answer available

## 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

Finnish University Network for Youth Research.

# 10 Comparing results

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

N/A

## 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

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>	2008	christian.wentzel(at)alli.fi
Youth Research Seminar	1 <i>per year</i>	2007	tanja.nisula (at) youthresearch.fi
Publication Events of	>1 <i>per year</i>	2007	tarmo.manninen (at)



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Title of seminar or group	Frequency	Date & place of next meeting	Contact
major researches such as Youth Barometer			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**

Nordic Youth Research Information Symposia (NYRIS)

### **11.3.2 Local and regional networks**

N/A

### **11.3.3 Networks specific to certain actors**

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

### **11.3.4 New developments planned this year**

N/A



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## 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.**

There will be working group to prepare the Government's youth policy development program. In the working group there will be representatives and expert members from administration, ministries, youth research and youth work, municipalities... Finnish University Network for Youth Research will be further developed.



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