

# 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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## **LATVIA, 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**

There are no such Departments in Universities dealing just with youth issues. In general, Universities do not have departments dealing only with 1 topic. However, at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia (LU FSI [www.fsi.lv](http://www.fsi.lv)) there is research grant on youth issues. Theme for 2002-2004 was #Youth Integration in transition# Theme for 2005-2007 #Risk of social exclusion of young people#. In 2004-2005 this LU FSI research group has received a grant from the Social Integration Foundation for a research #Identity development and participation of youth#. Researchers from LU FSI participate in the Nordic youth research network and Nordic doctoral studies network dealing with youth research. A few researchers at Daugavpils University do some research on regional youth (I.Ostrovskā).

## **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**

Every public and governmental institution can apply and initiate a research on the topic important for the sphere the institution is dealing with. There is no unified system on youth research in Latvia. However Ministry of Children and Family affairs is responsible for implementation of youth policy in Latvia working out State Youth Policy Program provides consultations with other public and governmental institutions in order to include essential researches on youth on youth in the priorities of the State Program. In 2006 there is foreseen to start the research on voluntary activities and non-formal education activities in Latvia.

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

Every public or governmental institution can apply and initiate a research on the topic important for the sphere the institution is dealing with. There is no unified system on youth research on local level in Latvia. Generally it is a local municipality which is initiating and financing researches on local level.

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

Latvian Youth Council in frames of projects and programs financed by European Programs provides researches on youth issues. In 2005 there is a research on development on youth non-formal education in Latvia initiated by the Latvian Youth Council and financed by Social Integration Foundation.

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



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There is no specific statistic office that collects statistics on youth. Latvian Central Statistic Bureau is collects all national data on various topics and by age group division, in some topics young people aged 15-25 (young people are defined in Latvia as persons aged 15-25) are marked out as a specific group. If information on specific topic is needed for governmental bodies, it is possible to order surveys on age group needed. Central Statistical Bureau regularly prepares materials on children and young people for UNICEF (MONET project)

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

Researchers of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology - I. Trapenciene, R. Rungule, I. Korovleva, S. Snikere, M. Trapencieris, I. Karklina, I. Ostrovska. Field of competencies # youth participation, social integration, risk of social exclusion, education, leisure time, drug use, youth organizations, health, including reproductive health, quality of life. ([www.fsi.lv](http://www.fsi.lv))

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Ministry of Children and Family Affairs overtook the responsibility of implementation and development of youth policy from the Ministry of Education and Science in November 2004. Wherewith Ministry of Children and Family Affairs is a new structure responsible for coordination of youth research in Latvia.

## **2 Legal basis**

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

There is no legal basis or guidelines promoting activities leading to a better knowledge and understanding of youth.

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

No considerable developments.

## **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**



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## **knowledge of youth**

There are no international funding sources for carrying out activities at national level aimed at acquiring better knowledge and understanding specifically on youth. However, it is possible to carry out researches on youth in the frames of projects # for example, Latvian-American Partnership Program.

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

There is no specific EU funding for carrying out activities at national level aimed at acquiring better knowledge and understanding specifically on youth. However, it is possible to carry out researches on youth in the frames of projects # for example, the Social Integration Foundation or Social Foundation, European Foundation for Regional Development.

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

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

There is no specific budget line for public national funding for youth research. NGOs, research institutes, private companies may apply and initiate a research on a topic important for the sphere if the institution is dealing with applying for funding in the governmental institution dealing with issues connected with the topic of the research. However the Ministry for Children and Family affairs responsible for implementation of youth policy in Latvia working out State Youth Policy Program organises consultations with other sectoral institutions in order to include essential researches on youth in the priorities of the State Youth Policy Program, activities of which are financed by the state.

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

N/A

### **3.4 Other funding**

N/A

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

There is no specific data on actors or structures mainly receiving funding. Data base of National Science Foundation shows that Latvian Institute of Philosophy and Sociology grant is the only state published research on Youth issues.

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

No considerable developments.



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

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

There is no specific paper dissemination of knowledge in the youth field. Central Statistic Office publishes reviews and surveys on all age groups, youth as a target groups is not marked out. Research on youth issues published by UNDP (I.Trapenciere, R.Rungule, 2002, I.Trapenciere , S.Snikere, M.Trapencieris, 2003) are available also in web. The UNDP publications cover different topics # youth delinquency, reproductive health. Researchers from the Latvian Institute of Philosophy and Sociology publish the results of recent research in 2005: Youth identity and participation (forthcoming 2005) (in Latvian) Sociological Portrait of Youth # 2 (forthcoming 2005) (in Latvian)

### **4.2 Regular youth reports**

There is no system of regular Youth reports. There are negotiations with the new Department on Youth affairs, Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, about possible youth reports in future.

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

There are no journals on youth research.

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

There is no funding for reviews on youth research in Latvia.

### **4.5 Other publications**

N/A

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

No considerable support.

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

### **5.1 Databases**

No database available.

### **5.2 Portals**

No portals available.

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



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## internet

www.ljp.lv # Latvian Institute of Philosophy and Sociology report on research on #Role of youth NGOs#, Latvian Institute of Philosophy and Sociology report on #Youth identity and participation# in September 2005 www.ljp.lv - Research on development of youth non-formal education in Latvia www.csb.lv - report on living conditions of population, incl. youth as age group www.sociology.lv # short description on youth research and researchers www.undp.lv # reports on reproductive health, juvenile justice www.his.de # report #Eurostudent# on living conditions of students, including Latvian Report (I.Trapenciere, M.Trapencieris)

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

No tools developed.

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

## 6.1 Quantative Methods

	used	frequency	themes
European tools (Eurostat, Eurobarometer)	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
Youth Opinion polls	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
Comparative studies	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
Longitudinal studies	Yes	per 5 years <i>per year</i>	Youth path of Life # plans, career, habits, health, etc.
Questionnaires	Yes	1 <i>per year</i>	Living conditions, leisure time, participation, education, health, addictions, gambling among youth.
Evaluation research	Yes	on request <i>per year</i>	Youth policy, participation, reproductive health policy for young people.

## 6.2 Qualitative methods

	used	frequency	themes
Ethnography	Yes	1 <i>per year</i>	Study on quality of



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	used	frequency	themes
			youth life
<b>Participant observation</b>	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
<b>Interviews</b>	Yes	1 <i>per year</i>	On various issues, incl. drug use, addictions, gambling, sexual health, participation, identity, qua
<b>Discourse analysis</b>	Yes	regularly <i>per year</i>	Identity, participation, leisure time, relations, addictions
<b>Grounded theory</b>	Yes	regularly <i>per year</i>	Youth subculture, leisure time, participation, identity
<b>Evaluation research</b>	Yes	regularly <i>per year</i>	Youth participation in Song festival, youth participation, hobby education, addictions, juvenile jus
<b>Action research</b>	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
<b>Questionnaires</b>		1 <i>per year</i>	Quality of life of young people
<b>Comparative studies</b>	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
<b>Longitudinal studies</b>	No	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A

### 6.3 The use of combining methods/ Triangulation

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

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

Latvian Institute of Philosophy and Sociology provides questioning of youth organisations in frames of the Society Integration Foundation project in 2004-2005.



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

Focus group discussions (FGD) with youth NGOs.

## 6.6 New methods that have been developed this year

Focus group discussions with youth NGOs, FGD with the representatives of Youth centers; evaluation FGD with the representatives of community youth centers.

## 7 Methods developed for keeping knowledge updated and coherent

No methods.

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

### 8.1 Existing Methods

	used	How it is implemented
Peer reviews	No	N/A
Expert analysts	Yes	seminars
Indicators	No	N/A
Training of youth researchers	Yes	Within the Nordic Youth research program network (Prof.H.Helve, Finland)
Other	No	N/A

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

No new methods.

## 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

Seminars for youth researchers within a PHARE project in Livani district (2004-2005) #Brain Gain# # 5 MA students in social sciences got scholarships to visit Universities of Sweden to work on their MA work on youth issues. There is an application for similar project for 2006.



## 9.2 Supporting their mobility

Seminars for youth researchers within a PHARE project in Livani district (2004-2005) #Brain Gain# # 5 MA students in social sciences got scholarships to visit Universities of Sweden to work on their MA work on youth issues. There is an application for similar project for 2006.

## 9.3 Improving their skills

Participation in Nordic Doctoral Program network on Youth research.

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

Participation in Nordic Doctoral Program network on Youth research .

## 9.5 New schemes that have been developed this year

No new schemes developed.

# 10 Comparing results

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

No methods developed.

## 10.2 Methods that have been developed this year?

No methods developed.

# 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
Seminar #Development of Youth identity and participation#	1 <i>per year</i>	02/08/2005, Riga	S.Snikere +371 7217988
Seminar #Youth attitudes towards family#	irregular <i>per year</i>	10-11/09/2005, Riga	I.Trapenciere +371 6801034
Seminar #Youth and	1 <i>per year</i>	15/09/2005, Riga	I.Trapenciere +371

Title of seminar or group	Frequency	Date & place of next meeting	Contact
Hobby education#			6801034
N/A	N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A	N/A

## **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)**

There is no permanent national network for developing a greater understanding of youth, however negotiations about the possibility to develop network between policy makers and researchers have been started.

### **11.2.1 Functioning and support of permanent national network**

N/A

### **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**

European Network of Youth Researchers Nordic Youth research program network

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

N/A

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

Latvian Network on youth researchers.

### **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#)

Dialogue between Latvian Institute of Philosophy and Sociology and Ministry of Children and Family Affairs Youth affairs department has started this year.

### 12.2 New developments planned this year.

To develop a network that ensures collaboration between Ministry and youth researchers and to make short term and mid term priorities for youth research.



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