

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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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

Every university with departments of (youth) psychiatry, pedagogic, sociology, health science, criminology, labour and economics etc deals with youth. The most important universities for youth are: Amsterdam, Groningen, Leiden, Nijmegen, Tilburg and Utrecht. In the academic sphere, various inter-university networks exist. The Interuniversity Interdisciplinary National Research School (ISED) is an important network. In university research, much attention is given to: integration of the (problematic) development of youth in social systems; diversity and multiculturalism; transition to the labour market (e.g. life-long learning), criminality, child rearing, drugs, youth health care etc. The Netherlands research database (NOD) contains information on research, researchers and research Institutes (including English abstracts): www.onderzoekinformatie.nl/nl/oi/nod. In higher vocational education are several so-called #knowledge centres# and lectureships regarding youth topics

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

Besides academic research there is a focus at policy research. The Youth Monitor is an important recent national public cooperation on youth issues between the Ministries of Health, Welfare, and Sport, Education, Justice, Social Affairs and Employment, internal relations, the Association of Provincial Authorities (IPO) and Dutch Municipalities (VNG) and the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS, www.cbs.nl). The Ministries also have their own research bodies. The Social and Cultural Planning Bureau (SCP, www.scp.nl) is an other important national public research body. Semi-public bodies are e.g.: Youth Knowledge Centre which will be set up in 2006, in which the Netherlands Institute for Care and Welfare (NIZW, www.nizw.nl) participates. Trimbos Institute (www.trimbos.nl), TNO quality for life (www.tno.nl), SGB0 research and advise, www.sgbo.nl. There are diverse advise councils on youth topics. The National Youth Council has an Internet Panel (www.jeugdraad.nl).

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

Provincial and regional authorities have their own research institutes e.g. audit offices or research institutes of local governments. Furthermore, local municipalities monitor local youth policy (quality and quantity) and they assign research. Research is also conducted by e.g.: Municipal Healthcare Services (GGD, www.ggd.nl) and SGB0 (www.sgbo.nl).

1.3 NGOs dealing with youth issues



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Defence for Children International the Netherlands (DCI-NL): www.defenceforchildren.nl, children's rights Institute for Public and Politics (IPP): www.publiek-politiek.nl, active citizenship and political participation. Jantje Beton (www.jantjebeton.nl) and Stichting Kinderpostzegels (www.kinderpostzegels.nl), funding for children and youth (research) projects.

1.4 Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth

Various methods are used, including qualitative studies, surveys, combined quantitative and qualitative research, longitudinal research, etc. The Youth Monitor is an important recent cooperation on youth issues between diverse important actors (see answer 1.2.1). An internet portal and database is under development. There are many self-reporting surveys that give insight in the problem and risk behaviour of youth conducted by e.g. the Central Bureau for Statistics (Netherlands Statistics / CBS, www.cbs.nl) and the Social and Cultural Planning Bureau (SCP, www.scp.nl) alongside registration and monitoring. The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO, www.nwo.nl) has conducted cohort researches in education. The method of research generally is large-scale survey research, although in the past years more use is made of qualitative methods as e.g. interviews or focus groups. A methodology has been developed to involve young people directly in the research process.

1.5 Youth researchers or experts

The youth researchers who participate in the Youth Monitor are important. Most of them are linked to one of the Ministries involved (e.g. the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport www.minvws.nl. This Ministry has a coordinating role in youth research in general). Furthermore there are researchers involved of the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS, www.cbs.nl); the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG); the Association of Provincial Authorities (IPO). Examples of youth researchers who have helped with answering this questionnaire are (this list will be complemented after having approached more researchers): Prof. dr. M. du Bois-Reymond University of Leiden (www.leidenuniv.nl): European youth researcher. dr. E. Zeijl; the Social and Cultural Planning Office (www.scp.nl). Specialisation: young people's life world and perceptions. dr. R. Gilsing; the Social and Cultural Planning Office (www.scp.nl). Specialisation: national and local youth policies in the Netherlands.

1.6 Private companies dealing with youth issues

Examples of commercial bodies dealing with youth issues: Association Alexander (www.st-alexander.nl): specialised in peer to peer research. Combat (www.combat.nl): communication bureau for children and adolescents. Institute of Groningen for research and education (Gion, www.gion.nl): education Interview NSS (www.interview-nss.com): research based consultancy, specialised in helping organisations through research and consultancy improving their relation with the target groups, ITS (www.its-nijmegen.nl): Education, care and welfare, labour, mobility and data research. Panteia is a new group of companies that offer full service policy research, policy advice and market research (www.panteia.nl). Qrius (www.qrius.nl): specialised in doing research on children and teenagers for companies and organisations: Regioplan (www.regionplan.nl): policy research, youth unemployment. Sardes (www.sardes.nl): education,



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youth, welfare and healthcare. SCO-Kohnstamm Institute (www.sco-kohnstammstituut.uva.nl): youth rearing and education. Verwey-Jonker Institute (www.verwey-jonker.nl)

1.7 Others dealing with youth issues

In higher vocational education are several so-called #knowledge centres# and lectureships regarding youth topics, e.g. the knowledge circle #living world of youth# at the In-Holland school, in The Hague, knowledge circle #growing up in the city# at the Hogeschool Rotterdam and the lectureship #city and regional development# at the Fontys school in Tilburg, in addition to several branches of study with regard to youth (teacher primary education, group leader child care, youth worker etc). Data of the police and of the judicial system

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

NA

2 Legal basis

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

There is no legal basis for activities leading to a better knowledge and understanding of youth, but there are various provisions concerning information gathered by the departments involved in youth policy. For example, various policy memoranda have been produced to cover Major City Policy, education (cohorts), safety, prevention activities etc. The larger institutes such as the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS, www.cbs.nl) and Netherlands Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM, www.rivm.nl) have their own regulations.

2.2 New Developments that have taken place this year?

NA

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

N/A

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

EU funding for carrying out activities are EU framework programmes like: SOCRATES, COMENIUS, Leonardo da Vinci, the youth programme and Daphne programme. There is no



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overview of the budgets, which are used by researchers.

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

3.3.1 Public national funding

Central Government is the main financier of scientific, academic and applied research. The Youth Monitor for example # which is an important recent cooperation on youth issues between the Ministries of Welfare, Care and Sport, Education, Justice, Social Affairs and Employment, internal relations, the Association of Provincial Authorities (IPO) and the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG) and the Central Bureau for Statistics (Netherlands Statistics / CBS, www.cbs.nl) - is financed by the Government. It is not possible to offer a detailed answer to this question, there being many policy fields and activities involved.

3.3.2 Private national funding

Examples of private national funding for more practical youth research: Stichting Kinderpostzegels (www.kinderpostzegels.nl) and Jantje Beton (www.jantjebeton.nl).

3.4 Other funding

Other examples of financiers are: The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW, www.knaw.nl), the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO, www.nwo.nl) and e.g. Prins Bernhard Cultural Fundings (www.prinsbernhardcultuurfonds.nl).

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

Funding is not allocated to any specific institute. Research assignments are generally offered by (European) tender.

3.6 New developments that have taken place this year

Funding is not allocated to any specific institute. Research assignments are generally offered by (European) tender.

4 Paper publications disseminating knowledge about the youth field

4.1 Figures for paper publications disseminating knowledge about the youth field

N/A

4.2 Regular youth reports



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- The national Youth Monitor will be introduced in 2007. This monitor is a summary of information available on paper and on the Internet on the situation of youth (0-24) in the Netherlands: with regard to demographics, health, welfare, values, standards, family, upbringing, leisure time, high-risk behaviour (smoking, drugs, crime, etc.), problems, education, early school leavers, work, unemployment, etc. The monitor will be compiled on the basis of the many surveys undertaken in the Netherlands. This Youth Monitor is a cooperation between the Ministries of Welfare, Care and Sport, Education, Justice, Social Affairs and Employment, internal relations, Association of Provincial Authorities (IPO, www.ipo.nl) and the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG, www.vng.nl). The youth monitor will replace the bi-annual reports of the Social and Cultural Planning Bureau (SCP) and Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS). - Furthermore there are several large-scale cross-sectional surveys that are regularly repeated representative for contemporary Dutch pupils. These studies sketch the developmental status of young people, their family lives, their participation in youth organizations and services and their exposure to risk factors. These figures will be published in the Dutch youth monitor. - Lately many other monitors are initiated either by national or local governments.

4.3 Journals that publish youth research

- Zicht op Jeugd# (ŽVision on YouthŽ) series. This interdepartmental research programme conducted by the Interdepartmental Commission for Youth Studies (CJO), brought together interdisciplinary and transsectoral knowledge with regard to current issues in youth policy, such as participation, social divisions, high-risk behaviour social integration and cohesion, and crime and violence. Forty researchers worked on the programme. The series comprises 11 publications on different youth topics were published between: 1999-2003 (Van Gorcum, ISBN 90 232 3477 4). - tijdschrift voor orthopedagogiek (www.tijdschrift025.nl) - kind en adolescent (www.kindenadolescent.nl) - kind en adolescent praktijk (www.bsl.nl/secties/kind-en-adolescent/kap/inditnummer.html) - Pedagogiek (www.pedagogiek-online.nl)

4.4 Reviews on youth research

N/A

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

- The Youth Monitor - an important recent cooperation on youth issues between the Ministries of



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Welfare, Care and Sport, Education, Justice, Social Affairs and Employment, internal relations, the Association of Provincial Authorities (IPO) and the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG) and the Central Bureau for Statistics (Netherlands Statistics / CBS, www.cbs.nl) will have a website and portal function in the near future. - The Dutch Research Database (De Nederlandse Onderzoek Databank /NOD) is an online database with information on scientific research, researchers and research institutes on all scientific (multidisciplinary) disciplines: www.onderzoekinformatie.nl. - Furthermore, most of the research institutes have their own website, which mentions their own publications, researchers etc. (e.g.: www.cbs.nl, www.scp.nl).

5.2 Portals

The Youth Monitor - an important recent cooperation on youth issues between the Ministries of Welfare, Care and Sport, Education, Justice, Social Affairs and Employment, internal relations, the Association of Provincial Authorities (IPO) and the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG) and the Central Bureau for Statistics (Netherlands Statistics / CBS, www.cbs.nl) will have a website and portal function in the near future.

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

N/A

5.4 What new tools have been developed this year?

N/A

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	frequent <i>per year</i>	E.g. CBS report Jeugd 2003, Feiten en Cijfers [#Youth in 2003: facts and figures] which is part of t
Youth Opinion polls	Yes	frequent <i>per year</i>	Through the National Youth Council Internet Panel, the opinions of young people can be gauged. Theme
Comparative studies	Yes	frequent <i>per year</i>	Diverse Dutch research



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	used	frequency	themes
			groups who are involved in the EU framework programmes and diverse internatio
Longitudinal studies	Yes	frequent <i>per year</i>	Two large-scale longitudinal panel investigations have been initiated enabling researchers and other
Questionnaires	Yes	frequent <i>per year</i>	Questionnaires are used in all sorts of youth research. The aim is to combine quantative and qualiti
Evaluation research	Yes	frequent <i>per year</i>	Attempts are being made to conduct more studies that aim to evaluate current youth policies. There i

6.2 Qualitative methods

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

6.3 The use of combining methods/ Triangulation

	used	frequency	themes
Action research		N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
Evaluation research		N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A

	used	frequency	themes
Questionnaires		N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
Comparative studies		N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A
Longitudinal studies		N/A <i>per year</i>	N/A

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

N/A

6.5 Innovative methods used in the collection of youth knowledge

N/A

6.6 New methods that have been developed this year

N/A

7 Methods developed for keeping knowledge updated and coherent

The Youth Monitor is cooperation between the Ministries of Health, Welfare and Sport, Education, Justice, Social Affairs and Employment, internal relations, Association of Provincial Authorities (IPO, www.ipo.nl) and the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG, www.vng.nl) and the Central Bureau for Statistics (Netherlands Statistics / CBS, www.cbs.nl). With the introduction and cooperation of different actors within the Youth Monitor, knowledge on youth will be kept updated and coherent.

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	E.g. through participatory youth research and through debates with young people about the results of research studies (e.g. Zicht op Jeugd project, View on youth#). See question 4.3 and 12.1 for more information.
Expert analysts	Yes	Where research is commissioned by the

	used	How it is implemented
		government, it is customary to appoint an external review commission to monitor the progress and quality of research. The expert group of the Youth Monitor review research. Furthermore, researchers, practitioners and policymakers are part of the supervisory committees overseeing research into youth policy.
Indicators	Yes	The development of performance indicators is an important ongoing development with attention in practise as well as in policy.
Training of youth researchers	Yes	In universities, young promising researchers are trained (Assistants under vocation / assistant in opleiding, AIO).
Other	Yes	The research institutes also take steps to safeguard quality. They are able to apply for certification to ISO 2000. Moreover, there is a scientific forum and an Association for Policy Research.

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

No answers available

10 Comparing results



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

Comparative research is mainly done within the framework of the European Union and which is relevant for policy makers in the field of youth like ministries and local governments.

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
education research day	once <i>per year</i>	N/A	ministry of Education, Culture and Science, www.minocenw.nl
youth care research day	once <i>per year</i>	N/A	Ministry of health, welfare and sport, www.minvws.nl
Around the outcomes of the Youth Monitor, exchanges and dialogues are held.	frequent <i>per year</i>	N/A	Ministry of health, welfare and sport, www.minvws.nl
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 are no permanent research networks run under the auspices of the government. However, attention is devoted to youth issues by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO, www.nwo.nl), the Interuniversity Interdisciplinary National Research School (ISED, www.ised.nl), and Social Policy Research (SISWO, www.siswo.nl) with a view to promoting cooperation and debate. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science partly funds these institutes.



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11.2.1 Functioning and support of permanent national network

On an ad hoc basis, the government does found temporary networks of researchers dealing with youth issues, and provides funding. Such networks consider topical policy questions such as violence and crime, social integration, etc. Other networks are set up to prepare for international knowledge exchange.

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, #)

All efforts are focussed on developing the National Youth Monitor (see also e.g. answers 1.2.1, 1.4, 1.5, 3.3.1, 4.2).

11.2.3 The plans for this year

N/A

11.3 Other networks in the youth field

11.3.1 Transnational networks

- Childoneurope: (www.childoneurope.org). - European Association for Research and Adolescence (EARA, www.earaonline.org). - European Group for Integrated Social Research (EGRIS, www.iris-egris.de). - European Network on behavioural development (ISSBD, www.issbd.org). - UNESCO has a number of specialised centres and institutes on the topic of education, like the International Bureau of Education (IBE) (www.unesco.org). - World Health Organisation (WHO) has a special unit for the health of children. www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/right.htm.

11.3.2 Local and regional networks

N/A

11.3.3 Networks specific to certain actors

Each researcher has his / her own (international) network. For the government the expert group of the Youth Monitor (see also answer 1.2.1 etc) is the most important network with statistics and information on youth. The results and network of Operation Young are important for youth policy. This government initiative is in action from 2003 until 2006. Youth policy at all levels is to be implemented at local and regional level by variety of organizations. A Youth Team supports Operation Young, comprising representatives of all the Ministries concerned (www.operatiejong.nl).

11.3.4 New developments planned this year



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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#)

In the Netherlands, there is a relatively long tradition of transsectoral cooperation on the topic of youth, in policy, practice and research. An example of this is the #Zicht op Jeugd# (ŹVision on YouthŹ) series. This interdepartmental research programme conducted by the Interdepartmental Commission for Youth Studies (CJO), brought together interdisciplinary and transsectoral knowledge with regard to current issues in youth policy, such as participation, social divisions, high-risk behaviour social integration and cohesion, and crime and violence. Forty researchers worked on the programme. The series comprises 11 publications on different youth topics were published between: 1999-2003 (Van Gorcum, ISBN 90 232 3477 4). For each research project, it is first determined which sectors are to be involved in answering the question, and which research disciplines are best equipped to do so. Much successful experience has been gained in interdisciplinary and transsectoral cooperation. The National Youth Monitor (see also answers 1.2.1 etc) is also transsectoral.

12.2 New developments planned this year.

N/A



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