

# 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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## **SWEDEN, 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**

N/A

## **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**

National council of Swedish youth organisations [www.lsu.se](http://www.lsu.se) The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations, the LSU, was founded in 1949 to increase contacts between young people in the Eastern and the Western Europe. Today the LSU operates as a platform on different matters, on international as well as national topics. Through this cooperation, all our member organisations can share experiences, run projects and influence society. The LSU is a coordinating body for almost 100 Swedish youth organisations. The members come from all kinds of organisations, from the party political youth organisations, student movements, religious organisations, environmentalists to chess players.

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

N/A

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

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations [www.lsu.se](http://www.lsu.se) The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations, the LSU, was founded in 1949 to increase contacts between young people in the Eastern and the Western Europe. Today the LSU operates as a platform on different matters, on international as well as national topics. Through this cooperation, all our member organisations can share experiences, run projects and influence society. The LSU is a coordinating body for almost 100 Swedish youth organisations. The members come from all kinds of organisations, from the party political youth organisations, student movements, religious organisations, environmentalists to chess players.

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

Statistics Sweden [www.scb.se](http://www.scb.se)

## **1.5 Youth researchers or experts**

N/A



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

The Youth Barometer. [www.ungdomsbarometern.se](http://www.ungdomsbarometern.se). Conduct yearly surveys, mainly in the field of youth attitudes. Presents the results in a number of yearly reports on different topics relating to youth.

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

N/A

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

The government decided in April 2005 that The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (FAS) will have the responsibility for coordinating research on youth. This means that FAS will financially support research, disseminate results and coordinate interaction between different actors in this area.

## **2 Legal basis**

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

The national policy on youth was presented in September 2004. National youth policy concerns the situation of young people in several different spheres such as work, housing, education, health, leisure time and their opportunity to exert an influence. The policy is carried out by independent authorities in their field of expert.

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

N/A

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

No answers available

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

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

Statistics Sweden [www.scb.se](http://www.scb.se) No regularly statistical publications specifically in the youth field.

### **4.2 Regular youth reports**



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The National Board for Youth Affairs regularly releases papers on youth affairs and living conditions. In 2005 the Board presents the first thematic study and will do so every year. This latest study (FOKUS05) dealt with youth and labour market issues.

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

The National Board for Youth Affairs presents yearly different documents, papers, journals, theme studies etc. [www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se](http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se) LOCUS is a journal 'bout research in the child and youth field. Four publications a year and publisher is the Department of Human Development, Learning and Special Education (IOL) at the The Stockholm Institute of Education. The journal can be ordered from Swedish Science Press, Box 118, 751 04 Uppsala phone +46 18 36 55 66 e-post [info@ssp.nu](mailto:info@ssp.nu) For information: <http://www.lhs.se/iol/locus>

#### **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**

Statistics Sweden [www.scb.se](http://www.scb.se) Data on living conditions is updated yearly. The National Board of Health and Welfare [www.socialstyrelsen.se](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se) Data on health, healthcare, social assistance, care of elderly and disabled. Updated yearly. National Agency for Higher Education [www.hsv.se](http://www.hsv.se) Data on higher education and research Updated yearly The Swedish National Board of Student Aid [www.csn.se](http://www.csn.se) Data on education, research and financial aid for students. Updated yearly The Swedish National Agency for Education. [www.skolverket.se](http://www.skolverket.se). Data on all levels of the education system except universities. data updated yearly

#### **5.2 Portals**

The National Board of Youth Affairs [www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se](http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se) Statistics Sweden [www.scb.se](http://www.scb.se)

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

The National Board of Youth Affairs [www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se](http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se) Statistics Sweden [www.scb.se](http://www.scb.se)

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



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The National Board for Youth Affairs are in progress of developing a new follow up system for youth living conditions and will presents it's first data in 2006. This is not planned to become a statistical databas. Independent authorities are responsable for presenting data on youth living conditions in their field of expert.

## 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	- <i>per year</i>	In every day work
Youth Opinion polls	Yes	1 <i>per year</i>	We carry out a nationally representative questionnaire in order to have a knowledge based youth poli
Comparative studies	Yes	3 <i>per year</i>	Our reports have the ambition to have a comparatative approach on local, regional and international
Longitudinal studies	Yes	- <i>per year</i>	every fourth year - Attitudes and value studies
Questionnaires	Yes	40 <i>per year</i>	National youth questionnaires (once a year) and municipallity questionnaires
Evaluation research	Yes	20 <i>per year</i>	Labour market projects for youth

### 6.2 Qualitative methods

	used	frequency	themes
Ethnography	Yes	2 <i>per year</i>	We invite researchers to highlight this aspect in our reports

	used	frequency	themes
<b>Participant observation</b>	No	- <i>per year</i>	-
<b>Interviews</b>	Yes	2 <i>per year</i>	In every report we produce we are using quantitative approaches as well as qualitative methods
<b>Discourse analysis</b>	Yes	2 <i>per year</i>	We invite researchers to highlight this aspect in our reports
<b>Grounded theory</b>	No	- <i>per year</i>	-
<b>Evaluation research</b>	Yes	20 <i>per year</i>	Labour market projects and work with marginalized youth
<b>Action research</b>	No	- <i>per year</i>	-
<b>Questionnaires</b>	Yes	3 <i>per year</i>	National questionnaire including health, education, participation and leisure time topics
<b>Comparative studies</b>	Yes	3 <i>per year</i>	Our reports have the ambition to have a comparative approach on local, regional and international
<b>Longitudinal studies</b>	Yes	1 <i>per year</i>	Every fourth year we produce an attitude and value study

### 6.3 The use of combining methods/ Triangulation

	used	frequency	themes
<b>Action research</b>	No	- <i>per year</i>	In Sweden this research tradition is not so common
<b>Evaluation research</b>	Yes	20 <i>per year</i>	-
<b>Questionnaires</b>	Yes	3 <i>per year</i>	-
<b>Comparative studies</b>	Yes	3 <i>per year</i>	-
<b>Longitudinal studies</b>	Yes	1 <i>per year</i>	-

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



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## knowledge)

The National Board for Youth Affairs involves NGO's as often as possible in research studies and other actions concerning the Board or living conditions among the young population.

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

The National Board for Youth Affairs (NBYA) have developed an electronic questionnaire that Municipalities are using with professional assistance from NBYA. This provides the municipalities with greater understanding of youth and gives them a base when developing youth policy. Up to now 30 municipalities have completed the questionnaire and 23 are in process. We are doing a nationally representative youth questionnaire that gives the municipalities an opportunity to undertake comparative analysis.

### 6.6 New methods that have been developed this year

It is an ongoing process. The National Board for Youth Affairs are financing several labour market projects and projects including marginalized groups of young people. In these projects new methods are used and evaluators and researchers are involved throughout the process. Our goal in these projects is to inspire and coordinate knowledge transmission between research, practice and young people themselves.

## 7 Methods developed for keeping knowledge updated and coherent

No answers available

## 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	-
Expert analysts	Yes	-
Indicators	Yes	Independent national authorities collecting data
Training of youth researchers	No	-
Other	Yes	Thematic studies in the youth field

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

Thematic studies will be presented every year by the National Board of Youth Affairs. In december 2005 the first study was presented. "Establishing and self support among youth". (Edit Susanne Zander)

## **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**

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

A national follow up system in the youth field is being developed. The results will give a wider knowledge in living conditions among the young population.

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

The National Board for Youth Affairs have been coordinating a project aimed to developing new follow up system in the youth field. A number of independent national authorities in different fields (housing, labour market, education, health etc) has been identifying indicators. The results will be presented during 2006.

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

No answers available

## **12 Transsectoral dialogue**

No answers available