

QUESTIONNAIRE
“BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF YOUTH”
BELGIUM-FLANDERS



Table of contents

1. Structures and actors that play a role in gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of young people.....	3
2. Legal basis	6
3. Funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth (<i>name funding possibilities and approximate amount in euros</i>)	7
4. Paper dissemination of knowledge in the youth field	7
5. IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field	9
6. Methods and approaches for gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of youth (<i>If yes tick used and then say how regularly and on what themes in the latest studies</i>).....	11
7. Methods for keeping knowledge updated and coherent (to avoid gaps, overlaps, waste of resources-highlight if these are new this year)	13
8. Promotion of youth researchers/generational renewal and other bodies active in gaining a better knowledge and understanding of youth	13
9. Comparing results	14
10. Methods to ensure exchanges and dialogue between all actors in the youth field..	15
11. Transsectoral dialogue.....	17

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 (*give names of universities that have such departments + name of department and of person in charge of the department. Precise themes of research this year*)

Youth is looked at from different angles, especially from the viewpoint of social sciences (child and adolescent psychology, youth sociology, social pedagogy, historical pedagogy, youth criminology, etc.), but also, and, to a lesser extent, from the viewpoint of other disciplines like law, economy, history, etc.

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Onderzoeksgroep Jeugdcriminologie. Prof. Lode Walgrave.

Theme: youth crime, social exclusion

<http://www.law.kuleuven.be/ogjc/>

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Centrum voor gezinspedagogiek. Prof. L. Vandemeulebroecke

Theme: family and upbringing support

<http://ppw.kuleuven.be/cgp/>

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, vakgroep Sociologie, Onderzoeksgroep TOR. Prof. Mark Elchardus.

Themes: education, youth culture and participation.

<http://www.vub.ac.be/TOR/>

Universiteit Antwerpen, departement Sociologie. Prof. Dimitri Mortelmans.

Theme: youth information policy

<http://www.ua.ac.be>

Universiteit Antwerpen, departement Sociologie, Onderzoeksgroep cultuur en welzijn. Prof. Pelleriaux & Prof. Meulemans

Themes: education, youth work.

<http://www.ua.ac.be>

Universiteit Gent, vakgroep Sociale Agogiek. Prof. Maria Bouverne- De Bie en Prof. Nicole Vettenburg

Themes: youth work, youth assistance, childcare, children's rights

<http://www.sociale-agogiek.ugent.be/>

Universiteit Gent, vakgroep Onderwijskunde,

Themes: education

<http://www.onderwijskunde.ugent.be/>

Universiteit Gent, vakgroep sociologie. Prof. Vincke

Theme: Flemish pupil survey

<http://www.psw.ugent.be/socio/>

Limburgs Universitair Centrum (LUC) Diepenbeek, Instituut voor Mobiliteit.

Theme: mobility

<http://www.luc.ac.be/imob>

Limburgs Universitair Centrum (LUC), Diepenbeek, Sociaal-Economisch Instituut. Prof. dr. Mieke Van Haegendoren

Themes: equal opportunities

<http://www.luc.ac.be/sein/>

1.2 Public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth issues (included public companies) (give name and mandate and themes of research this year)

1.2.1 National public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth issues

Centrum voor Bevolkings – en Gezinsstudie. Vlaamse Wetenschappelijke Instelling.

Theme: participation

<http://www.cbgs.be/>

Onderzoeks- en informatiecentrum van de Verbruikers Organisaties.

Theme: consumption

<http://www.oivo-crioc.org/>

Onderzoekscentrum Kind en Samenleving.

Themes: mobility, child participation

<http://www.k-s.be/>

Kinderrechtencommissariaat. J. Van Haelst.

Coordination of contact points for Children's Rights.

<http://www.kinderrechtencommissariaat.be/>

Kind en gezin.

Themes: day care for children, deprived children, adoption, child abuse

www.kindengezin.be

Koning Boudewijnstichting.

Themes: poverty, social exclusion, social commitment

<http://www.kbs-frb.be/>

In Petto Jeugddienst

Themes: information and prevention

<http://www.inpetto-jeugddienst.be/>

Steunpunt Jeugd

Themes: youth work, youth policy

<http://www.steunpuntjeugd.be>

VDAB.

Theme: labour, unemployment

www.vdab.be

Vereniging Vlaamse Jeugddiensten en –Consulenten

Themes: (local) youth policy

<http://www.vvj.be>

This is not an exhaustive list.

1.3 NGOs dealing with youth issues (*quote major youth NGO's undertaking research on young people or having practical knowledge on needs and expectations of young people*)

All nationally organised youth work organisations know the needs and expectations of young people.

A list of those associations can be found at the following website:

http://www.steunpuntjeugd.be/informatie/landelijk_jeugdwerk/

1.4 Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth (*give name and precise if they have specific youth statistic tools, what age group they use, and on what types of surveys they regularly undertake*)

The Planning and Statistics Administration of the Flemish Community publishes each year a number of publications, which do not focus on young people in particular but which reveal some elements of the living conditions of youngsters.

- VRIND (Vlaamse Regionale Indicatoren): a survey of demographic, macro-economic and socio-cultural context data
- Profiel Vlaanderen: positioning of Flanders vis-à-vis other European countries on the basis of indicators

The Planning and Statistics Administration also holds a yearly citizens' survey into values, attitudes and behaviour with regard to social and policy-relevant themes. For this survey a face-to-face enquiry is done by random sampling. (1,500 Flemings between 18 and 85). Young people are divided into age groups 18-24 years and 25-34 years. Every two years the scientific analyses of the APS citizens' survey are published in the publication "Vlaanderen gepeild".

1.5 Youth researchers or experts (*give names, details and specific field of competence*)

The partners of the Youth Research Platform in particular can be mentioned here, which is an interdisciplinary and interuniversity partnership of three research groups. The **Welfare Work research**

group (Universiteit Gent, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences) studies educational practice in a broader context of structures and services which aim at social and cultural development and devotes special attention to young people's views. Youth work, youth assistance and youth protection are key research themes. The **Tempus Omnia Revelat research group** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences) focuses attention on the following themes: time use, cultural changes, media, youth culture, the living environment of young people, education, citizenship, participation in education and social life. The **Leuven Institute of Criminology** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Faculty of Law) studies the following key research themes: social vulnerability and juvenile delinquency, school, prevention, urbanization, youth protection and restorative justice.

It is evident that other Flemish universities and colleges of higher education also have expertise in the field of youth research.

1.6 Private companies dealing with youth issues (*give names and type of youth research they undertake*)

In Flanders, there are no private non-funded organisations which focus specifically on youth research. Private companies (e.g. banks, commercial television companies) conduct on a regular basis market research into the habits of young people (e.g. with regard to spending money, use of time, purchasing power, etc.) for commercial purposes.

2. Legal basis

2.1 Legal basis or guidelines promoting/accompanying activities leading to a better knowledge and understanding of youth

The Flemish Parliament Act of 29 March 2002 on Flemish youth policy sets out rules for drawing up a Flemish Youth Policy and the funding of Steunpunt Jeugd (Youth Support Centre) and Vlaamse Jeugdraad (Flemish Youth Council). The Act of 23 December 2005, amending the Act of 14 February 2003 on supporting and stimulating municipal, intermunicipal and provincial youth policy and youth work policy defines among other things that each municipality and province must draw up a policy plan on youth (work). Apart from the planned policy measures, a description of the existing situation and a needs analysis are included. Depending on the local implementation, this can contribute to a better knowledge and understanding of young people. When drafting their policy plan on youth work, local authorities are obliged by virtue of this Flemish Parliament Act to gather figures on the position of young people; as far as data collection is concerned, it is only about collecting information at local level.

2.2 What new developments have taken place this year?

N/A

3. Funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth (*name funding possibilities and approximate amount in euros*)

3.1 International funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth

N/A

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

N/A

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

Specific grants for youth research are only allocated by the Youth and Sports Division of the Flemish government. For 2006 an amount of 287.000€ is concerned.

Other grants of the Federal government, Koning Boudewijnstichting and Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Vlaanderen are allocated to universities, colleges of higher education and support structures for policy relevant research that also deal with youth research. The conditions and size of grants vary according to the research project in question. At <http://www.ewi-vlaanderen.be/> some examples of funded research can be found. The research projects are not always explicitly aimed at young people but they feature in the plan.

4. Paper dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

4.1 Statistics of paper dissemination of knowledge in the youth field (published by who, how regularly, contents: same core topics or different issues)

N/A

4.2 Regular Youth reports (name of report and publisher, how regularly are such reports published, contents: same core topics or different issues)

Youth and Sports Division of the Ministry of the Flemish Community Cijferboek Jeugdwerk (Figure Book Youth Work) 2005-2007. Published every three years.

<http://www.vvj.be/content/leesvoer>

http://www.wvc.vlaanderen.be/jeugdbeleid/publicaties/cijferboek_gemeentelijk_jeugdwerkbeleid/index.htm

Youth and Sports Division of the Ministry of the Flemish Community Zoekboek Jeugdwerk 2005- 2007. Information on local and provincial youth work and youth work policy. Published every three years.

http://www.wvc.vlaanderen.be/jeugdbeleid/publicaties/zoekboek_jeugdwerk/index.htm

VDAB Studie schoolverlaters – Trends & Cijfers. (Survey on early school-leavers.) Annually.

www.vdab.be

'Kind en Gezin' publishes many annual reports. They tackle the following topics: day care for children, out-of-school childcare, vaccinations for children, deprivation data, adoption and child abuse.

www.kindengezin.be

VAD. Annual synthesis report on drugs use among school age youth.

www.vad.be

Kinderrechtencommissariaat. Annual report.

<http://www.kinderrechten.be>

4.3 Other publications that publish youth research: Journals (name of journals, publishers, how regularly are such journals published, contents: same core topics or different issues)

The following **Flemish** magazines and loose-leaf publications cover youth research on a regular basis:

- "KRAX", specialist journal of youth work. Brussel: Steunpunt Jeugd. Three-monthly.
- "Persoon en gemeenschap": magazine about upbringing and education. Antwerpen: persoon en gemeenschap. Ten times a year.
- Sociaal: welzijnsmagazine. Diegem: Kluwer editorial. Ten times a year. Welfare work, youth care, care for the disabled, migrant issues.
- "Tijdschrift voor jeugdrecht en kinderrechten." Gent: Larcier.
- "Tijdschrift voor sociologie". Leuven: Acco.
- "Welwijs. Wisselwerking onderwijs en welzijnswerk." Leuven: Majong. Four times a year.

Moreover Flemish youth research is also covered in the following **Dutch** magazines:

- "Kind en Adolescent", a magazine on pedagogy, psychiatry and psychology. Deventer : Van Loghum Slaterus. Three-monthly.
- "Comenius": wetenschappelijk forum voor opvoeding, onderwijs en cultuur. Nijmegen: SUN. Three-monthly.
- "Pedagogische studiën", magazine about pedagogy and education. Wolters-Kluwer. Six times a year.
- "Jeugd en samenleving". Utrecht: Stichting jeugd en samenleving.
- "Mens en Maatschappij": magazine about social sciences. Deventer: Van Loghum Slaterus. Three-monthly.
- "Pedagogiek": scientific forum on upbringing, education and culture. Assen: Van Gorcum. Three-monthly.

4.4 Reviews on youth research (name of reviews, name of publishers, how regularly are such reviews published, contents: same core topics or different issues)

Vettenburg, N., Elchardus, M. & Walgrave, L. (eds.) (2006) '*Jongeren van nu en straks. Overzicht en synthese van recent jeugdonderzoek in Vlaanderen*'. Leuven: Lannoocampus.

Vettenburg, N., Elchardus, M. & Walgrave, L. (Eds.) (2007). *Jongeren in cijfers en letters. Bevindingen uit de JOP-monitor 1*. Leuven: LannooCampus.

Bouverne-De Bie, M. (1993). *De sociaal-culturele situatie van jongeren vandaag. Een synthese van recent jeugdonderzoek*. Brussel: Koning Boudewijnstichting (+ herwerkte versie '96 in Allegaert P. (red.) Als een lekker taartje. Jongeren in het interesseveld. Acco, Leuven.)

De Witte, H., Hooge, J. & Walgrave, L. (2000). (Red.) *Jongeren in Vlaanderen: gemeten en geteld. 12-tot 18-jarigen over hun leefwereld en toekomst*. Leuven: Universitaire Pers.

5. IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

5.1 Databases (details, links and how regularly are they updated)

The Youth Research Platform has a database in which an inventory is kept of research on Flemish youth (from 2000 onwards). Thus, the official language is Dutch. A file is linked to the reference which contains the core of the research programme: reference, form of publication, abstract, commissioning body, questionnaire and methods of enquiry, outcomes and policy recommendations. The database is updated every three months and is freely available on the website

<http://www.jeugdonderzoeksplatform.be/databank/>

The IWETO database (Inventaris Wetenschappelijk en Technologisch Onderzoek Vlaanderen – Inventory of Scientific and Technological Research in Flanders) is an automated and permanently available system of data on current research undertaken at Flemish universities. In one of the partial databases, i.e. 'Maatschappelijke structuren en relaties' (Social structures and relations), the existing youth research conducted by universities can be found, but 'youth' has no separate heading.

<http://www.luc.ac.be/onderzoek/onderzoeksinformatie/iweto/default.asp>

5.2 Portals (details, links and how regularly are they updated)

Jeugdonderzoekspatform. Theme: youth research

<http://www.jeugdonderzoekspatform.be>

Jeugdbeleid van Vlaamse overheid. Theme: youth and youth (work) policy.

<http://www.jeugdbeleid.be>

Jeugdwerknet. Theme: youth work.

<http://www.jeugdwerknet.be/>

Steunpunt Jeugd. Theme: Flemish, provincial and local youth (work) policy; organisation management, youth tourism, green spaces, diversity, intersectoral, management training

<http://www.steunpuntjeugd.be>

De Vlaamse Jeugdraad. The official advisory body of the Flemish government on all issues related to children and young people.

<http://www.vlaamsejeugdraad.be>

5.3 Statistics, reports, journals, reviews or other publications available on the internet (give links)

Youth and Sports Division of the Ministry of the Flemish Community Cijferboek Gemeentelijk Jeugdwerkbeleid. 2002 – 2004. Published every three years.

<http://www.vvj.be/content/leesvoer>

Youth and Sports Division of the Ministry of the Flemish Community Zoekboek Jeugdwerk 2005- 2007. Information on local and provincial youth work and youth work policy. Published every three years.

www.wvc.vlaanderen.be/jeugdbeleid/zoekboekjeugd

VDAB. Studie schoolverlaters. Annually.

www.vdab.be

Kinderrechtencommissariaat. Annual report.

<http://www.kinderrechten.be>

Burssens, D., De Groof, S., Huysmans, H., Sinnaeve, I., Stevens, F., Van Nuffel, K., Vettenburg, N., Elchardus, M., Walgrave, L. & De Bie, M. (Eds.) (2004). *Jeugdonderzoek belicht. Voorlopig syntheserapport van wetenschappelijk onderzoek naar Vlaamse kinderen en jongeren (2000-2004)*. Unpublished research report, K.U.Leuven, VUB & UGent.

www.jeugdonderzoeksplatform.be

6. Methods and approaches for gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of youth (*If yes tick used and then say how regularly and on what themes in the latest studies*)

6.1. Quantative Methods and approaches for gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of youth:

	used	frequency	themes
European tools (Eurostat, Eurobarometer)	yes	1	drugs
Youth Opinion polls	no	/	/
Comparative studies	yes	8	education, computer use, young people, unaccompanied minors, video games, gender segregation in education, internet, television.
Longitudinal studies	yes	3	early school-leavers, self-appreciation, birth cohorts throughout education.
Questionnaires	yes	7	drugs use, social participation, leisure time, over-education, self-appreciation in early adolescent girls, media
Evaluation research	yes	2	Early school leaving, traffic safety.

6.2 Qualitative methods and approaches for gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of youth:

	used	frequency	themes
Ethnography	no	/	/
Participant observation	no	/	/
Interviews	yes	2	mobility, girls and computer science
Discourse analysis	yes	1	images held by children
Grounded theory	no	/	/
Evaluation research	yes	2	information and communication, extension of the upper limit of compulsory school age
Action research	yes	1	delinquency.
Questionnaires	yes	2	sexuality and handicap, upbringing support.
Comparative studies	yes	2	mobility, independent pupil travel
Longitudinal studies	no	/	/

6.3 The use of combining methods/ Triangulation etc. for gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of youth:

	used	frequency	themes
Action research	no	/	/
Evaluation research	yes	1	runaways.
Questionnaires	no	/	/
Comparative studies	no	/	/
Longitudinal studies	no	/	/

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

When drafting their youth work policy plan, local authorities regularly conduct surveys into young people's wishes with regard to local youth work policy. These surveys are carried out via a wide range of methods, among which the participative survey method. A number of organisations focusing on

Questionnaire on Better Understanding of Youth– Belgium Flanders

youth also undertake regular surveys, e.g. Klasse magazine, VAD (Association for Alcohol and other Drug problems), In Petto, Vlaamse Jeugdraad, etc. Part of this survey is carried out in co-operation with university centres or colleges of higher education, on the basis of contract surveying or in the framework of student papers and work experiences.

6.5 Innovative methods used in the collection of youth knowledge

Participation surveys involving young people themselves are recent and most often small-scale initiatives. Nevertheless, they are an innovative trend in youth research. Furthermore, creative methods such as drawings, games, interview techniques, chat boxes, questionnaires, etc. are also used.

6.6 What new methods have been developed this year?

N/A

7. Methods for keeping knowledge updated and coherent (to avoid gaps, overlaps, waste of resources-highlight if these are new this year)

Little systematic and coordinated efforts have been made in youth research in Flanders, thus showing overlaps and gaps in this broad area. Policy makers as well as practitioners and researchers experience this as an obstacle. In order to overcome these obstacles, the Youth Research Platform (JOP) was created in Spring 2003 at the initiative of the Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Culture, Youth and the Civil Service. One of the tasks of the Youth Research Platform is to make an inventory of all available Flemish youth research and store this in a central and free access database which can be consulted on the following web site : <http://www.jeugdonderzoekplatform.be/databank/index.htm>.

On the basis of this inventory, JOP draws up a synthesis report at regular intervals and tries to find an answer to the next questions: how are children and young people looked at? Which situations are pictured? To which questions do researchers try to find answers? In which way knowledge about children and young people is collected? What do we know about children and young people?

Youth policy contacts were established in the various departments of the Flemish government with a view to ensure that the Flemish youth policy plan is implemented and monitored.

8. Promotion of youth researchers/generational renewal and other bodies active in gaining a better knowledge and understanding of youth

8.1 by facilitating the exchange of experience and practice (ie youth researchers networks - *especially for young researchers - seminars*)

JOP regularly organises workshops, seminars or study days for researchers, practitioners and policy makers to present findings derived from youth surveys. On february 2007, the Youth Research Platform held a study day entitled “Jongeren in cijfers en letters”, at which the results of the JOP-monitor 1 were presented. People with practical experience, people from research as well as decision makers were invited. For a summary of these results in English, see:

www.jeugdonderzoekplatform.be

8.2 by supporting their mobility (For example making use of existing EU programmes?)

N/A

8.3 by improving their skills (language, cultural...)

N/A

8.4 funding for PhD's and support of students in this field

Most research groups include young researchers. The intake of young researchers is strongly supported by specific measures reducing wage costs thus benefiting academic research; for example the status of 'doctoral bursary' is explicitly intended to attract young researchers.

Other support measures for young researchers are scholarships and prizes. For instance: the 'Vlaamse Scriptieprijs' of the Pascal Decroos Fund; return grants for young Belgian researchers working abroad (outside EU); Academische Stichting Leuven;...)

The above-mentioned forms of support are not are specific for youth research.

9. Comparing results

10.1. Methods to exploit and compare results of activities carried out for a better knowledge and understanding of youth (how and for what purpose are results used)

In 2001, the Flemish government accredited for a period of 5 years twelve Policy Research Centres, which are composed of one or more research groups of one or more university institutions. Support centres which sometimes develop youth related activities are: Steunpunt Re-creatief Vlaanderen; Steunpunt Gelijke Kansenbeleid; Steunpunt Loopbanen doorheen Onderwijs naar Arbeidsmarkt; Steunpunt Sport, Beweging en Gezondheid.

Exchange of information about youth (research) between researchers and policy makers mainly takes place via study days and debates (organised by various actors), web sites of research groups and publications in magazines that primarily reach the Flemish youth and welfare sector (Krax, Welwijs, etc.).

The Child Impact Assessment (KER) system legally obliges policy makers to report on the possible effects that each draft Flemish Parliament Act can have on children, if this draft Act involves decisions which have a direct impact on the children's interests.

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

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

Title of seminar or group	Frequency	Date & place of next meeting	Contact person	How to contact them
Nitrox-studiedagen: - 'Competenties in het jeugdwerk. (Skills in youth work) Met de neus op de feiten...' - 'Het nieuwe gemeentedecreet doorgelicht. Participatie van de burger, mogelijkheden en moeilijkheden voor kinderen en jongeren.'	Several times a year	21/06/2007 30/11/2007	Steunpunt Jeugd	info@steunpuntjeugd.be

Nitrox refers to the invitation of stakeholders and experts for debates on tendencies and current youth themes in youth policy and youth research. For 2008, a number of trainings have already been planned. They can be consulted at www.steunpuntjeugd.be.

In the past decade, communication about youth policy in practice was approached from the notion of communicative planning in Flanders. This is a form of government policy in which the different

stakeholders (policy makers, policy implementers, users) jointly develop a policy for a certain period of time. In this way, attempts are being made at using the knowledge potential of practitioners in a more systematic way and make them move on to the policy level.

Different users ask for different communicative approaches. A diversity of working methods is required: both oral communication of knowledge (via consultation platforms, television broadcasts, actions, etc.) and written communication (via reports, web sites, textbooks, folders, actions, etc.); direct or indirect feedback via intermediaries, such as Steunpunt Jeugd and JOP which try to fulfil a bridging function.

10.2 Give names and contacts for permanent national network for a greater knowledge and understanding of youth linking all actors in the field (*policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs*). Give names and contacts

The Youth Research Platform is a national network.

Contact information:

Prof. N. Vettenburg,

Universiteit Gent, vakgroep sociale agogiek

H. Dunantlaan 2,

9000 Gent.

+32 9 264 64 02

jop@jeugdonderzoeksplatform.be

www.jeugdonderzoeksplatform.be

10.2.1 If yes give details on how they work (ie are they based on local networks) and how do you support such a network

The Youth Research Platform (JOP) is an interdisciplinary and interuniversity partnership of three research groups: Tempus Omnia Revelat research group (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences), Department of Welfare Work (Universiteit Gent, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences) and Leuven Institute of Criminology (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Faculty of Law).

JOP must make an inventory of existing Flemish research into youth as well as open it up, analyse and synthesize it; and conduct new research: the development of a youth monitor. JOP has a platform function for policy actors, practitioners and researchers.

10.2.2 If not what is your strategy to set up a permanent national network linking all actors.

Since 2003, a national network, the Youth Research Platform, has been in place in Flanders.

In order to effectively fulfil its remit, a well developed platform is necessary. In the long term:

- JOP wants to be a forum for every actor in this field. It wants to make youth research accessible to researchers, policy makers and practitioners.
- JOP intends to focus the research world's attention on questions formulated by policy makers and practitioners. Several channels are used to this end: the website, publications and study days.

10.3. Other networks in the youth field

10.3.1 Transnational networks

Steunpunt Jeugd intends to contribute to the smooth operation of youth work at all levels and in all its aspects. In other words, Steunpunt Jeugd wants to be a knowledge centre about and for young people, youth workers and (youth) policy. Steunpunt Jeugd wants to actively apply this knowledge to three target groups. It collects and multiplies information, develops methods, gives training and support in the field of participation, has a communicative function, provides services, undertakes research and provides a platform.

The not-for-profit organisation JINT is the co-ordination body for international youth work.

10.3.2 Networks specific to certain actors (University networks on youth issues, researcher's networks on youth issues, policy makers/governments networks on youth issues, NGO's networks on youth issues, other networks in the youth field)

The Jeugdraad (Youth Council) is an official advisory and participative body, on which sit representatives of youth work initiatives, but also young people who are not members of an organisation. We can consider (activities of) youth councils as local/regional networks that may contribute to a better knowledge of young people, although this is not their primary objective. Klets! was a conference organised every six months by the Vlaamse Jeugdraad. Afterwards Klets! was transformed into Kletskes. A Kletske is a moment at which young people and policy makers can enter into a discussion tailored to the theme.

11. Transsectoral dialogue

11.1. Organisation and promotion of transsectoral dialogue for example between university departments or governmental departments (e.g. seminars, working groups, common advisory structures...)

A reflection group was composed for drawing up the new Flemish Youth Policy Plan. Collaborators of other Ministers' Offices, civil servants, academics, authorities, organisations, youth councils and representatives of other sectors are involved in this group.

Also the Youth Research Platform (JOP), that also works across sectors, has composed a reflection group. This reflection group acts as a critic of the tasks accomplished by JOP and consists of a permanent group of people who are familiar with youth themes: its members are practitioners, academics, policy makers.

Merits of Flemish youth research are its multitude, diversity, multidisciplinary character, relative independence from the media and commissioning bodies. A lot of research is being done at various institutions and in various disciplines. Diverse methods are being used, while funding is allocated by different commissioning bodies which often weigh the interests of young people against other social interests.

11.2 new developments planned this year.

N/A