



YouthPartnership

# ***QUESTIONNAIRE***

## ***“BETTER***

### ***UNDERSTANDING OF***

#### ***YOUTH”***

##### ***THE NETHERLANDS***



**YouthPartnership**  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



  
Education and Culture DG



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# **1. Structures and actors that play a role in gaining a better understanding and knowledge of young people**

## **1.1. Specific youth departments in universities dealing with youth issues**

There are thirteen 'regular' universities in the Netherlands. Besides these, there are 43 colleges offering 200 different programmes for a variety of professions in a range of social areas.

Every university with departments of psychology, pedagogies, sociology, health science, criminology, labour and economics etc. deals with youth. The most important universities for youth research are: Amsterdam, Groningen, Leiden, Nijmegen, Tilburg and Utrecht (and Rotterdam on youth criminology issues). 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. Traditionally a lot of research is done on so called youth-at-risk. Increasingly, research is done into the effectiveness of interventions and programmes in the youth field for this target group.

The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) starts the Research program Youth and Families in 2008. The aim is to improve the connection between fundamental scientific research at Universities and the priority areas in policy in the field of parenting, youth culture and participation of youth etc.

The Netherlands research database (NOD) contains information on research, researchers and research Institutes (including English abstracts):

[www.onderzoekinformatie.nl/nl/oi/nod](http://www.onderzoekinformatie.nl/nl/oi/nod). The Ministry of Youth and Families has asked the Netherlands Youth Institute to set up a database containing finished and ongoing research in the youth field: [www.nji.nl/onderzoek](http://www.nji.nl/onderzoek). This database gives an overview of all research on youth and their upbringing.

Research is also done at so-called 'Polytechnics'. These institutes for higher vocational training prepare students to work in for example social work or youth institutions. These institutes have quite a number of "knowledge centres" and lectorships regarding youth topics.

At the website of the Ministry of Education more information can be found on higher education in the Netherlands, including contact addresses for the universities:

[www.minocw.nl](http://www.minocw.nl)

### **1.2. Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth (give names of the offices, their website addresses)**

The main organisation for collection statistics in general and on youth in particular is Netherlands Statistics ([www.cbs.nl](http://www.cbs.nl)). In 2007 the Youth Monitor was introduced. This is an initiative of the Ministry for Youth and Families and a collaboration with other ministries and the municipalities. Netherlands Statistics is responsible for the website and the data. The monitor gives information on the situation of children and young people (0 – 24 years of age) concerning important policy areas as health, diversity, justice, lifestyles, education, unemployment etc.

The youth monitor is made up of 7 indicators that give a general overview of the state of youth. In total there are over 60 indicators on the situation of youth:

<http://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/nl-NL/menu/home/default.htm>. Moreover there is a public database on youth.

The youth monitor is the main source of statistical information on youth. At local level the organisation responsible for youth health care (GGD) provides statistical information through local youth health monitors. An interesting example is the *Jeugdmonitor Rotterdam*, in which the local health service monitors the physical and mental health of children and young people in the age of 0 -19

([www.jeugdmonitorrotterdam.nl/](http://www.jeugdmonitorrotterdam.nl/)).

### **1.3. Major public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth research, public companies included**

Within the Dutch youth research there is a distinction between knowledge centres for the policy area and those for the field of practice (implementation).

Knowledge in practice: In 2007 the Ministry of Health and Welfare stimulated the Knowledge Programme Youth. Three national knowledge institutes (Netherlands Youth Institute, Zon-Mw and RIVM co-operate within this programme. They are relevant for the 'Better Knowledge on Youth' agenda.

- **NJI- The Netherlands Youth Institute** is the Dutch national institute for compiling, verifying and disseminating knowledge on children and youth matters,

such as youth care, parenting support and child education. The Netherlands Youth Institute's main aim is to improve the physical, cognitive, mental and social development of children and young people by improving the quality and effectiveness of the services rendered to them and to their parents or caretakers. As an expert centre, the Netherlands Youth Institute connects scientific research to the practitioners' need for knowledge. It supports the youth sector by advising on policy, programmes and implementation, and by training professionals in evidence based methods. One of the Netherlands Youth Institute's key issues is promoting evidence based interventions by 'translating' scientific results into practical advice and support. The Netherlands Youth Institute also helps to implement these interventions. In this capacity, it works closely together with other Dutch governmental and non-governmental organizations in the youth field.

[www.nji.nl](http://www.nji.nl)

- **RIVM - The Netherlands Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)** hosts the knowledge centre on youth health. At the RIVM the Centre for Children and Youth' Health is formed in 2006. This centre is responsible for the improvement of health of young people in the Netherlands. The centre supports the youth healthcare sector and its professionals in the field. Local governments are responsible for the implementation of youth health care in their communities.

See also: <http://www.rivm.nl/jeugdgezondheid>

- **ZonMw** (see 3.3. for more information)

The Netherlands Organization for health research and development. ZonMw's key challenge is to facilitate innovation and inspiration among the various stakeholders along a single 'knowledge continuum': from basic, strategic and applied research to daily health care services. ZonMw acts as an intermediary between policy, research and practice. Evidence-based medicine, relevance-based science, information-based policy - it is ZonMw's firm belief that only the active exchange of ideas, knowledge and experience can allow the innovation cycle to flourish and help create a cutting-edge society.

Next to that there are several other knowledge centres for the field of practice like:

- **MOVISIE** is the Netherlands centre for social development. They develop projects and collect knowledge regarding voluntary activities, also of young people. [www.movisie.nl](http://www.movisie.nl)

- **Trimbos Institute**

The Trimbos Institute is the National Institute of Mental Health and Addiction in the Netherlands. It is an independent foundation operating under Dutch law. As a leading centre of excellence, the institute contributes to the synthesis, enrichment, implementation and dissemination of knowledge with regard to mental health and addiction problems. [www.trimbos.nl](http://www.trimbos.nl)

Knowledge centres specifically for the policy area:

- The SCP – Socio Cultural Planning Office implements various researches relevant for youth policies e.g. forecasts in the field of youth care issues.
- The ministries have their own research bodies, like WODC [www.wodc.nl](http://www.wodc.nl) for the ministry of Justice and diverse institutes for the ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences
- Furthermore there are advisory councils which (also) perform research about youth issues, like the RMO (Council for Society developments), the Education Council and other councils in the area of health and urban and regional planning.

#### **1.4. NGOs dealing with youth issues**

There are several NGO's that will collect or assign research regarding certain aspects of youth culture and youth issues:

A major initiative on collecting data on youth issues – used for advocacy – by NGO's has been the *Kinderen in Tel* (Kid's Count) database project. For over three years a group of NGO's has on a yearly basis produced data on ten indicators (e.g. child abuse, public space for playing) and ranking the provinces and municipalities. The project is hosted by the Verwey Jonker institute, a research organisation ([www.verwey-jonker.nl](http://www.verwey-jonker.nl)). The information on Kinderen in Tel can be found at: [www.kinderenintel.nl](http://www.kinderenintel.nl)

- *Defence for Children International the Netherlands (DCI-NL)*: [www.defenceforchildren.nl](http://www.defenceforchildren.nl), Advocacy research on children's rights issues.
- *Institute for Public and Politics (IPP)*: [www.publiek-politiek.nl](http://www.publiek-politiek.nl),

Research on active citizenship and political participation of young people.

*Jantje Beton* ([www.jantjebeton.nl](http://www.jantjebeton.nl)) and *Stichting Kinderpostzegels* ([www.kinderpostzegels.nl](http://www.kinderpostzegels.nl)), funding for children and youth projects.

- *National Youth Council*: [www.jeugdraad.nl](http://www.jeugdraad.nl),

Research on e.g. youth culture, using an internet youth panel. The National Youth Council is partly financed by the ministry for Youth and Families.

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

There is a long list of youth researchers or experts on youth in the Netherlands. It is not possible to give a complete list. If you are interested in contacting a youth researcher in the Netherlands, you are advised to research the website of the Youth Partnership of the Council of Europe and the European Commission [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net) of the youth knowledge centre or to contact the correspondent of the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy.

### **1.6. Private companies dealing with youth research**

Applied research on youth issues in the Netherlands is very often carried out by private companies and consultancy agencies. There are more private companies doing youth research than that there are public bodies, NGO's or universities doing this kind of research. Assignments for research often have to be opened up to tender. This has opened up a lot of possibilities for funding for private companies and consultancy agencies.

Just one out of many examples on these type of agencies, who mostly work at local or regional levels; RADAR advisegroup in Amsterdam.

RADAR advise and research agency for social issues is already active since the eighties. De advisors and researchers of this agency are usually having a background in the various sectors in the social field for which RADAR now operates.. Research is done by request from local, provincial, national and even international clients. Local authorities are the most important clients. Radar however also conducts research as results from tenders of the ministries of Justice, Internal affairs, Social Affairs and the ministry of Education.

One research as an example; RADAR conducted a research for a local government of a city of 100.000 inhabitants about the current youth provisions and youth problems in one of the difficult areas in the city. By interviewing youth workers, the policy, the welfare organisations and many young people and their parents.

Another example is that RadarAdvies made an analysis of the actual national, regional and local developments in the field of youth policies in the Netherlands for a client (local government of a city of more than 100.000 inhabitants. On the basis of this analysis the agency has described in which fields this local government should

focus more and it formulated a number of concrete actions to be taken and to describe in a policy paper.

Many of these type of agencies exist. They usually do not publicize the results of their research widely as this is up to their clients to decide. Mostly the research also has a local or regional impact and does not reflect national trends or developments.

### **1.7. Other actors**

Some independent consultancy organisations have found a niche in the youth research market and their expertise is quite valued. An interesting example is the Alexander foundation that has developed a lot of knowledge and expertise on peer-to-peer research, training young people to conduct interviews with their peers on many different issues, but a specific focus on young people in care. ([www.st-alexander.nl](http://www.st-alexander.nl)).

## **2. Legal basis or guidelines for activities leading to a better knowledge and understanding of youth**

There are various provisions with regard to information gathered by the departments involved in youth policy. The further development and implementation of the Youth Monitor is part of the program of the Minister for Youth and Families laid down in its policy 'All chances for all the children'. Various other policy memoranda have been produced to cover Major City Policy, education (cohorts), safety, prevention activities etc. The larger institutes such as the Statistics Netherlands (CBS, [www.cbs.nl](http://www.cbs.nl)) and Netherlands Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM, [www.rivm.nl](http://www.rivm.nl)) and the NWO (Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research) are based upon specifically targeted laws.

## **3 Funding for research on youth**

### **3.1. International funding for carrying out activities aimed at youth research**

Information not available

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

There is no information available on this question. Several organizations are involved in research funded through the EU, for example the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme.



### **3.3. Public and private national funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth**

The Main funding organisation for research in the Netherlands is the Netherlands Organisation for scientific research (NWO, [www.nwo.nl](http://www.nwo.nl)). NWO stimulates and finances research in every conceivable scientific discipline and facilitates innovations. It also strives to cultivate enthusiasm for scientific research and its results and to communicate this to a broad public. In close co-operation with the ministry for youth and families, the NWO has started in 2008 the research program on youth issues. Themes are youth culture, youth participation and parenting.

The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw, [www.zonmw.nl](http://www.zonmw.nl)) is an important organization in the field of research funding in relation to health and care. They receive the money and assignment from Ministries and NWO. Organisations and researchers can apply for grants to carry out research. The Ministry for Youth and Families has granted over 40 million Euro for the research programme Care for the young (Zorg voor Jeugd) which started in 2007. The objective of this programme is to develop, implement and consolidate knowledge for professionals in the youth field to enhance the healthy and positive development of children and young people. Healthy development contains components of physical, psychological and social aspects as it has been defined by the World Health Organization, including emotional well-being.

<http://www.zonmw.nl/nl/programma-s/alle-programma-s/zorg-voor-jeugd/programma-zorg-voor-jeugd/>

See also point 1.2. (Youth Monitor) and 1.3. (RIVM, SCP, WODC etc)

### **3.4. Actor(s)/structure(s) mainly receiving funding**

Researchers and research institutes (not only universities) can apply for funding. Also other organisations or local and regional governments dealing with implementation of practice in the field can apply – quite often in cooperation with research institutes – if they deal with e.g. development of interventions.

## **4 Paper publications on the youth field**

### **4.1. Statistics of books published on the youth field for the current year**

There are many publications in the youth field. The main statistical information is provided by the National Youth Monitor four times a year in factsheets.

### **4.2. Regular youth reports**

The Central Bureau for Statistics will produce the first annual report of the Youth Monitor in 2008. Every year an in-depth study will be done on the basis of the trends that become visible out of the Youth Monitor. Every four years an extensive in-depth youth report will be published.

### **4.3. Journals and reviews on youth research**

There are a number of journals and youth research reviews published. The Netherlands Youth Institute publishes 4 times a year a journal on knowledge in the youth field. This journal is part of a monthly magazine on youth (care) issues.

[www.jeugdenco.nl](http://www.jeugdenco.nl) Next to that there are specific periodicals for the field of youth healthcare, childcare, youth care etc.

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

### **5.1. Web-Portals and online databases on a better understanding of youth**

National Youth Monitor - <http://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/nl-NL/menu/home/default.htm>

The Netherlands research database (NOD) - [www.onderzoekinformatie.nl/nl/oi/nod](http://www.onderzoekinformatie.nl/nl/oi/nod)

The Netherlands Institute Database on youth research – [www.nji.nl/onderzoek](http://www.nji.nl/onderzoek)

## **6. Methods and approaches for gaining a better understanding and knowledge of youth and for keeping it up to date.**

The Youth Monitor is a good instrument to keep track on relevant policy areas in the field of youth at national level but in a later stage also on local levels. There is unity in language and figures. The Youth Monitor reports therefore offer necessary in-depth visibility on the situation of young people in the Netherlands and the opportunity to recognize new developments in the situation of young people.

Next to that there is also a Database of Effective Youth Interventions developed by the Netherlands Youth institute / NJi. When introducing new methods the database

supports in choosing about what works and what does not work based on evidence based practices. The intention of the database is that it helps the youth care services and there carers to improve the quality and effectiveness of their work. The database gives professionals, policy makers, researchers and financiers information on effective youth interventions carried out in the Netherlands. All interventions in the database have been assessed by the national Youth Intervention Admissions Committee using stringent criteria and have been acknowledged as effective interventions. The database holds information on interventions whose effectiveness has either been demonstrated by effect studies in the Netherlands, or for which this effectiveness can be assumed on solid theoretical grounds. This also applies to interventions developed outside the Netherlands which have proved to be effective over there. The database is publicly accessible via the website [www.nji.nl/jeugdinterventies](http://www.nji.nl/jeugdinterventies) - the information held in the database is in Dutch.

## **7. Quality assurance strategies and tools regarding knowledge in the field of youth used in the country**

A ministerial project group safeguards i.a. the quality of the Youth Monitor. Also the Central Bureau for Statistics regularly checks the quality of its data. If studies are concerned there will also be guidance committees installed to safeguard the quality of the research. There is also a Committee for the safeguarding of the quality of the effective interventions.

The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research installed an 'orientation committee' to safeguard the quality of the new Youth and Families Research programme.

## **8. Promotion and support to youth researchers and other actors, who work towards a better knowledge of youth, and their generational renewal**

See answers on question 7. Also the universities and for example NWO provide grants for PhD's.

## **9. Networking and support of networking**

There are several meetings, for example the knowledge platforms on specific themes through the 'Knowledge on Youth' programme of ZonMw. Also on behalf of the Ministry for Youth and Families, the Netherlands Youth Institute organizes a conference on research on children and youth on a yearly basis.

### **9.1. Is there a permanent national network for a greater knowledge and understanding of youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organizations, NGOs)?**

No. The Dutch government however organises theme oriented consultations with researchers, politicians and professionals in the field e.g. when new policies need to be designed. Also the National Youth Council is consulted at a regular basis when new policies on youth issues are to be designed.

### **9.2. Networks on youth issues specific to certain actors**

Information not available. The scientific researchers most often have their own (international) networks. In point 1.1. ISED (Interuniversity Interdisciplinary National Research School) is mentioned.

### **9.3. What transnational networks with relevance for national networks are there (if any)?**

Information not available (see 9.3)

### **9.4 Describe the organisation and the ways of promoting interdisciplinary dialogue on youth issues**

The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) aims to structure its research programmes in an interdisciplinary format. Also the policy consultation are done interdisciplinary wherever possible.