



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF YOUTH”

ESTONIA



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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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 no universities, research institutes or departments in universities that exclusively focus on youth issues. Youth related knowledge production appears mostly in university departments that have youth as one of their research themes (refer to section 1.5 for details).

In addition, youth work specialists (not a degree program) are trained in Narva College of the University of Tartu (narva.ut.ee/en), leisure time manager-teacher and leisure time manager in multicultural environment is taught in University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy (www.kultuur.edu.ee/296948), youth work is taught in Tallinn Pedagogical College (www.tps.edu.ee/english/academic-programmes) (not a degree program).

High quality scientific research on youth issues is carried out mostly in two universities – University of Tartu and Tallinn University, and in National Institute for Health Development.

1.2 Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth

Statistics Estonia (www.stat.ee) collects various statistical information on population, and also on young people.

Andmevara (www.andmevara.ee) is a company which collects residence information, information on citizenship and other aspects of people residing in Estonia, also on young people.

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

Research on youth-related issues is concentrated in Universities and related research institutions; refer to section 1.5 for details

Public institutions like ministries or other organisations, usually commission research projects for obtaining information they need in their work for achieving their goals.

1.4 NGOs dealing with youth issues

Field-specific knowledge on needs and expectations of young people is concentrated in respective organisations (e.g. knowledge on leisure time in hobby schools, open youth centres, local governments, schools). Also the same organisations commission research projects for obtaining information necessary for their work, for achieving their goals. Large share of these research projects are carried out by universities or by subcontracted social scientists who are employed in universities.

Non-profit, non-governmental organisation Estonian Youth Institute www.eni.ee supports advancing youth research in Estonia and transferring knowledge to society.

1.5 Youth researchers or experts

Research on themes related to youth is carried out mostly in two universities:

University of Tartu

Faculty of Social Sciences

Faculty of Medicine

Faculty of Exercise and Sports Science

Faculty of Science and Technology

Faculty of Law

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

Tallinn University

Institute of Educational Sciences

Institute of International and Social Sciences

Institute of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Institute of Estonian Language and Culture

Institute of Informatics

Institute of Political Science and Governance

Estonian Institute of Humanities

Researchers

Andu Rämmer, Agnes Alvela, Rein Murakas, University of Tartu – values, youth sociology, youth work

Airi-Alina Allaste, Tallinn University – lifestyles, subcultures, drugs

Judith Strömpl, University of Tartu – school violence, trafficking

Anne Tiko, Tallinn University – deviant behaviour

Anna Markina, University of Tartu – deviant behaviour, juvenile delinquency

Marika Veisson, Tiit Kuurme, Leida Talts, Tallinn University – child research, pre-school child care institutions and elementary school, school and identity, academic achievement

Priit Reiska, Tallinn University – academic achievement, interdisciplinary teaching methods

Ellu Saar, Marge Unt, Rein Vöormann, Jelena Helemäe, Tallinn University – education and labor market, transition from school to work

Väino Rajangu, Tallinn University of Technology – education and labor market, vocational training, transition from school to work

Marti Taru, Anu Toots, Tallinn University – participation and civic education

Mare Ainsaar, University of Tartu – demographics, reproductive behaviour

Avo Trumm, Dagmar Kutsar, University of Tartu – child and youth poverty, young families

Urve Venesaar, Juhan Teder, Tallinn University of Technology – entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship education

Tõnis Mets, Made Torokoff, University of Tartu – entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship education

Veronika Kalmus, Margit Keller, Triin Vihalemm, Andra Siibak, University of Tartu – youth and new media, information society

Eve Kikas, Tiia Tulviste, University of Tartu – developmental psychology, family and peer socialisation, socialisation in elementary school

Toomas Veidebaum, Maarike Harro, University of Tartu, National Institute for Health Development – health behaviour of children and young people

Vahur Ööpik, Toivo Jürimäe University of Tartu – physical activism of youth, training methods of competitive athletes

Jüri Allik, Anu Realo, Helle Pullmann, University of Tartu – intelligence and academic capabilities of children, collectivism-individualism orientations in cross-national perspective

Jaanus Harro, University of Tartu – health behaviour, determinants and background of risk behaviour

Lillia Lõhmus, Aire Trummal, National Institute of Health Development – sexual risk behaviour, HIV/AIDS

Tiina Talvik, Helle Karro, Sulev Haldre, University of Tartu – health and determinants of (chronic) diseases among youth, sexual and reproductive behaviour of youth, substance misuse

Raivo Vetik, Gerli Nimmerfeldt, Tallinn University – ethnic identity, integration of young immigrants in mainstream society, multiculturalism; youth activism and patterns of free time spending

The list includes leaders of research groups; there are many more researchers involved in youth-related research projects.

1.6 Private companies dealing with youth research

Swedbank (<https://www.swedbank.ee/about/contact/start>), which is the largest commercial bank in Estonia, has instituted youth bank and youth debit card (www.npnk.ee). The bank runs a competition of youth projects – Tähed särama – and offers funding to selected projects. The competition was started in 2001 and by the end of 2007, more than 250 projects had received over 383 470 EUR

(6 000 000 EEK); in 2009, 63 912 EUR (1 million kroons) was given to support youth projects. The bank supports also other youth initiatives.

SEB Ühispank (<http://www.seb.ee/index/1301>), the second largest bank, Swedbank and other banks do run intensive student study loan campaigns. Although the banks did not report they carry out research on youth, a look from outside would suggest the contrary; the banks probably do have a good overview and understanding of youth in Estonia, and also good understanding of global youth trends.

Public opinion research companies carry out research projects on commercial basis. Even though they do carry out youth related projects, the companies can not release information about the projects.

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

In general, research on youth is carried out in accordance with requirements stated in legislative acts. National Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013. While this is not a document that would set legally binding guidelines, it sets forth basic goals and guidelines in the field and is recognised by main actors in the youth field. Youth Work Strategy 2006-2013 defines youth research as one of the 10 areas of youth work.

National program “Development the quality of youth work” 2008-2013 foresees development and implementation of national youth monitoring system. The system is being developed but it is not in action yet.

Contract between Ministry of Education and Research and Estonian Youth Institute foresees development of youth researcher network and cooperation between researchers, policy makers and youth work practitioners as separate activities. Both activities have been started.

3 Funding for research on youth

3.1 International funding for carrying out activities aimed at youth research

Data not available.

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

The program “Development of the quality of youth work” is supported by European Social Fund, 85% of finance comes from ESF. The activity of developing national youth monitor had budget of 89 500 EUR for 2009, which means that approximately 76 700 EUR was donated by ESF (estimated).

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

National funding for years 2009 and 2010 is based on the cooperation contract between Ministry of Education and Research and Estonian Youth Institute, financial amount of the contract is 38 300 EUR.

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

Research funding from national budget goes to University of Tartu, Tallinn University and National Institute for Health Development.

Funding to support development of youth researcher network and cooperation between researchers, policy makers and practitioners goes to Estonian Youth Institute.

4 Paper publications on the youth field

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

There were no new books on youth issues published in 2009.

On youth issues, mainly research reports or conference proceedings are published. There is no regularity of publications neither is there certain predetermined selection of themes or issues. Recent publications include:

Sutrop, M.; Valk, P.; Velbaum, K. (eds.) 2009 Väärtused ja väärtuskasvatus: valikud ja võimalused 21. sajandi Eesti ja Soome koolis (Values: choices and opportunities in Estonian and Finnish schools in 21st century), Tartu

Pilli, E. And Valk, A. (eds.) Quo vadis, Eesti kõrgharidus?: uuringuid 2005-2007 (Quo, vadis, Estonian higher education?: research projects 2005-2007), Tartu

Loone Ots (ed.) 2008 School as Developmental Environment and Students' Coping: Aspects of Estonian School Today, Tallinn

Marti Taru (ed.) 2008 Noorte aktiivsus: päri- ja pahupool (Youth Activism: Right Side, Wrong Side), Tallinn

Anna Markina, Beata Sahverdov-Žarkovski 2007 Eesti alaealiste hälbiv käitumine (Delinquent Behavior of Estonian Teenagers), Tallinn

Judit Strömpl, Marju Selg, Kadri Soo, Beata Sahverdov-Žarkovski 2007 Eesti teismeliste vägivaltatõlgendused (Interpretations of violence among Estonian teenagers), Tallinn

Liilia Lõhmus, Aire Trummal 2007 HIV-I temaatikaga seotud teadmised, hoiakud ja käitumine Eesti noorte hulgas (HIV Related knowledge, attitudes and behaviour amongst Estonian youth), Tallinn

Ilona-Evelyn Rannala (ed.) 2007 Noortest ja noorusest täna (Youth and Young Life today), Tallinn

Anu Toots, Tõnu Idnurm, Maria Seveljova 2006 Noorte kodanikukultuur muutuvus ühiskonnas (Youth Civic Culture in a Changing Society), Tallinn

4.2 Regular youth reports

No regular youth reports have been published.

4.3 Journals and reviews on youth research

No journals or reviews on youth are published

Articles on youth research are published in various journals and newspapers ranging from field-specific publications at community and national level to top peer-reviewed (social) scientific journals with international spread.

5 IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

5.1 Web-Portals and online databases on a better understanding of youth (for portals on youth information see the questionnaire on Information 1.6)

Database of youth researchers and youth research projects

The database contains description of youth research projects

Language: Estonian

Content: research reports, researchers, contact details

Accessibility: freely accessible

Provider: Estonian Youth Institute

Location: www.eni.ee

Database describing various aspects of youth in Estonia

Language: Estonian

Content: various aspects of young people's life in Estonia, based on quantitative data from various surveys and registers.

Accessibility: freely accessible

Provider: Estonian Youth Institute (until end of 2009)

Location: www.eni.ee/?s=4

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

Reports of applied research projects commonly are made available in homepages of the institutions which commissioned them. Most of the reports are not published on paper, only electronically; those

interested can print the reports. The reports which are printed on paper, are usually available electronically, free of charge.

In last 9 years, more than 120 such reports have been produced and are available on homepages of different organisations, mostly in Estonian.

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

There is no national system in operation that would be contributing to better understanding and knowledge of youth. Knowledge on youth is mostly gained in basic and applied research projects plus through using data in registers. That appears on *ad hoc* basis.

The initiatives of youth research network and cooperation platform between researchers, policy makers and youth work practitioners have been started but these are not in action yet.

Youth monitor was started in 2009 but the system has not been finalised and does not function yet.

Cooperation between researchers takes place within research project networks in institutional, national and international levels, also within professional organisations and networks.

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

The main method for ensuring and assessing quality of knowledge is peer review of youth-related research proposals, interim and final reports within the general system of funding (social-scientific) research. Quality of research is also assessed and improved within networks of collaboration, which bring together researchers from different institutions, within the framework of cross-institutional research projects and activities, seminars with participants from different institutions.

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

There are no specific measures designed for increasing involvement of young researchers in youth research. Supervision of bachelor, master and doctoral papers by experienced researchers and involvement of young researchers in youth related projects are the main, traditional and general methods of pulling new people into youth research.

The Estonian Youth Institute organises competition of youth-focused bachelor, master and doctoral-level research papers.

9. Networking and support of networking

9.1 Seminars and working groups for a better knowledge and understanding of youth – please, list them and give information on who is participating, how often they take place and what is the follow-up?

There are no regular seminars or working groups on youth issues.

9.2 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 organisations, NGOs)?

Such network does not exist. There has been an effort to start Cooperation Platform in the Youth Field and first meeting was held in September 2009 but this initiative is in early stage and does not function yet.

9.3 Networks on youth issues specific to certain actors (university networks, researchers' networks, policy makers'/governmental networks, NGO's networks, other networks in the youth field)

There has been an effort to start youth research network and a meeting was held in August 2009 but no further actions were taken in 2009.

Representatives of youth work organisations, youth policy actors and youth organisations meet regularly in National Youth Policy Council. There is also permanent flow of information between actors in the youth field.

9.4 What transnational networks with relevance for national networks are there (if any)?

Youth field actors participate actively in various networks, according to their speciality: youth policy networks, youth work networks, youth organisations networks. There is also close cooperation with Finnish actors in the youth field. Researchers participate in researchers' networks, like Youth and Generation for example and in other networks according to their research interests.