



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF YOUTH”

FINLAND



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

[Research area of Youth research and youth work in the Department of Social Work Research at the University of Tampere](#),

[Turku Institute for Child and Youth Research](#) is a joint endeavour of the seven institutions of higher education operating in Southwest Finland,

[YUNET](#) - Finnish University Network for Youth Research. YUNET organizes the nationwide education of youth research,

1.2 Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth

- [Statistics Finland \(Tilastokeskus\)](#),
- [National Institute for Health and Welfare \(THL\)](#),

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

The Youth unit of the Ministry of Education supports research on applied youth work, youth activity and youth policy. In practice this research is carried out within the youth research network of the Youth Research Association. Youth research is done in various universities and research centres, <http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Nuoriso/nuorisotutkimus/?lang=en>

[Finnish Youth Research Society](#), [Finnish Youth Research Network](#),

[Kommentti](#) is an internet-based channel for youth research,

[Youth information library](#),

[Advisory Council for Youth Affairs \(Nuora\)](#) is an expert body attached to the Ministry of Education,

1.4 NGOs dealing with youth issues

Finnish Youth Co-operation [Allianssi ry](#) (a national youth council, umbrella organisation),

1.5 Youth researchers or experts

Internet database of Finnish youth researchers, the Registry is in Finnish, but it also has a key word search in English, http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/tutkijarekisteri/en_rekisteri2.php

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University of Helsinki: Department of Sociology, Prof. Riitta Jallinoja, cultural studies on transition to adulthood; Department of Education, Prof. Elina Lahelma, youth, gender and citizenships; Department of Social Science History, Assistant Prof. Mikko Salasuo. Department of Economics and Management, University Lecturer Minna Autio, consumer economics. **University of Tampere:** Department of Social Work research, Prof. Tarja Poso, youth institutions; Department of Social Research, Atte Oksanen, childhood, youth, identity, masculinity, violence, body. Faculty of Education, Prof. Juha Suoranta. **University of Turku:** Faculty of Humanities, School of Art, literature and music, Prof. Jukka Sihvonen, historical connections between audiovisions and technology. Department of Education, Prof. Risto Rinne, youth and education; Tero Jarvinen, youth, education, work, unemployment, social exclusion. **University of Jyväskylä:** Department of Sociology, Prof. Martti Siisiainen, Social Movements, Voluntary Associations and Networks; Research Centre for Contemporary Culture, Prof. Erkki Vainikkala, Media Research; Sirkku Kotilainen, civic participation, communication technology, media education, youth; Department of Psychology, Prof. Lea Pulkkinen, Longitudinal Study of Health and Behavior in Twin Children. **University of Kuopio:** Department of Social Policy and Social Psychology, Vesa Puuronen. **University of Joensuu:** Department of Sociology, Prof. Leena Koski, Multiculturalism and Citizenships; Lecturer Päivi Harinen. **University of Oulu:** Department of Education, Veli-Pekka Ulvinen, Youth and Marginalization. **University of Lapland:** Department of Social Studies, Prof. Asko Suikkanen, Evaluational Studies. Department of Social Work, DSocSc. Anneli Pohjola, Maternity and Work in the Northern Periphery.

D.Soc.Sc. (Docent) Tommi Hoikkala, Research Director of Finnish Youth Research Network, sociology of generation, narrative research. Ph.D. Terhi-Anna Wilska, Chair of Finnish Youth Research Society, young people, consumption, consumer cultures, information society, technology, mobile services, sustainable development. Ph.D. Helena Helve, Associated Professor (Docent) in sociology and comparative religion at the University of Helsinki. longitudinal study, values, gender, ideology, socialization. D.Soc.Sc. Tarja Tolonen, transitions, space and spatiality, gender, social class, social and cultural capitals. Lis.Soc.Sc. Petri Paju, Director of Lasten Kesa, youth in welfare state, youth policy, generations. M.Soc.Sc. Helena Laaksonen, Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD), young adults in

changing welfare societies, long transition to adulthood and citizenship in Finland, Sweden and Germany M.Sos.Sc, Pia Lundbom, Civic activism, animal rights activism, anti-globalization activism, youth and political participation, social movements. D.Soc.Sc. Petri Hautaniemi, transnationalism, ethnicity. D.Soc.Sc. Jaana Lähteenmaa, girl studies. D.Soc.Sc. Päivi Honkatukia.

1.6 Private companies dealing with youth research

[15/30 -research](#) is a Finnish research company that specializes exclusively in youth markets. Their main focus is on 15-30 year-olds. Their studies concentrate on values, consumer behaviour, brand attitudes and preferences, media usage, youth cultures and trends. They conduct quantitative and qualitative research on an ongoing basis .

1.7 Other actors (if any)

[Academy of Finland also carries out research that concerns the youth,](#)
[Youth Department, City of Helsinki,](#)
[The Finnish Network for Childhood Studies,](#)
[Children, young people and their growth environments, a multidisciplinary research cluster in University of Jyväskylä,](#)

There are university departments of educative and pedagogical sciences in universities of Helsinki, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Oulu, Tampere, Turku, university of Lapland and in Åbo Akademi.

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

- [Youth Act \(72/2006\)](#): The Government shall adopt a youth policy development programme every four years. The development programme shall contain the national objectives for youth policy and provide guidelines for youth policy programme work at provincial and local levels. The development programme shall be revised according to need. An effective follow-up system is also needed.
- [Child and Youth Policy Programme is a development programme](#) prepared in accordance the Youth Act.

- [Government policy programme for the well-being of children, youth and families handles also issues concerning the youth.](#)

Funding for youth research is not specifically written down in legislation.

3. Funding for research on youth

3.1 International funding for carrying out activities aimed at youth research

[Nordic Council of Ministers](#)

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

INTERFACE (Immigrants and National integration strategies: developing a Trans-European Framework for Analysing Cultural and Employment-related integration, realized in 2007-2008) was a EU-funded research project that aimed to investigate the integration of immigrants as a multi-dimensional phenomenon. Immigrant families were in focus in the research.

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

[Ministry of Education/ Youth Division,](#)

[The Academy of Finland](#) is a funding agency for basic research in Finland. The Academy operates within the administrative sector of the Ministry of Education.

[The Finnish National Fund for Research and Development \(Sitra\)](#) is an independent public foundation under the supervision of the Finnish Parliament.

[The Government Institute for Economic Research \(VATT\)](#) is an independent applied economic research institute that operates under the authority of the Ministry of Finance in Helsinki, Finland.

[The Finnish Cultural Foundation](#) is a private trust dedicated to promote arts, science and other fields of intellectual and cultural endeavour in Finland.

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

- [Finnish Youth Research Network.](#)
- [The universities in Finland,](#)
- [National Institute for Health and Welfare,](#)

- [LIKES – Foundation for Sport and Health Sciences](#),

4. Paper publications on the youth field

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

The Finnish Youth Research Society publishes a series of publications, which are both academic and polemic. This publication series includes research reports and position statements concerning contemporary youth as well as doctoral dissertations. Most of this publication series is in Finnish but the list also includes a few titles in English and Swedish. The yearly number of publications is approximately 10.

http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=83

4.2 Regular youth reports

Youth Living Conditions are published (yearly 2001-2007, every two years since 2008) by the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs (Nuora), the Youth Research Network and the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). It has a new topic each year. In 2008 the topic was “Polarized youth?”.

Youth Barometer is published yearly (since 1994) by the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs (Nuora) and the Youth Research Network. It is based on phone interviews, and it reflects young people’s attitudes and values. Each year there are both changing topics and repetitive questions enabling the study of long-term attitude changes. In 2008 the main topic included themes of involvement, participation, belonging and the state of young people’s lives.

Leisure Time Survey of the young people is a survey based study published every three years by the Ministry of Education, the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs and Youth Research Network.

Synthesis reports on basic public services are provided yearly by different ministries and, state provincial offices and municipalities. The report for 2008 was published, only in Finnish, by the Ministry of Finance and prepared by the state provincial office of Oulu.

4.3 Journals and reviews on youth research

The Finnish Youth Research Society produces the journal Nuorisotutkimus (Youth Research), which is published quarterly by the Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi. The magazine

includes English summaries of articles, which can be found here

http://www.alli.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=271.

Young (Nordic Journal of Youth Research) quarterly publishes articles, reviews and scholarly comment which develop and qualify international youth research.. <http://you.sagepub.com/>

The Finnish Youth Research Network has launched an Internet magazine

(www.kommentti.fi). It includes youth research related topics, e.g. blogs of youth researchers, discussion forum, news, columns etc.

5. IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

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

- http://www.alli.fi/index.php?lk_id=18, Portal of Allianssi, which is an umbrella organisation for Finnish youth organisations. It is constantly updated. Some of the material is also in English.
- http://www.stat.fi/index_en.html, Statistics Finland.
- <http://www.stakes.fi/EN/tilastot/sotkanet/sotkanet.htm>, SOTKANet online service of the National Institute for Health and Welfare.

Youth Act of 2006 necessitates the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Education to “produce up-to-date information about young people and their living conditions.” The indicators and standards for information about young people are under consideration at the moment.

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

Internet publications of Finnish Youth Research Network

- http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=85 (in Finnish)
- http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=153 (in English)

The Ministry of Education produces various series of publications. Part of the publications are in English. <http://www.minedu.fi/minedu/publications/index.html>

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

Youth Barometer (phone survey), Youth Living Conditions Year book, Leisure Time Survey of the young people. All published by Advisory Council for Youth Affairs (Nuora) and Youth Research Network. (for details see above question 4.2)

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

As for youth research, there is no other quality assurance strategy than the academic, self-correcting scientific debate and criticism. Youth Research Association publishes the academic Nuorisotutkimus (Youth Research)-magazine, which has a standard of referee-evaluation.

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

Many researchers of Finnish Youth Research Network are PhD students and its publication series includes their doctoral dissertations.

The Youth Research Network also provides training opportunities for university students.

9. Networking and support of networking

9.1 Seminars and working groups for a better knowledge and understanding of youth

The Youth Research Association organizes the yearly Youth Research Days. It is a two-day seminar that is being organized around a different topic every year. In 2008 the title of the seminar was “Generations in flux- International interdisciplinary conference on ethnicity, integration and family ties”. Youth research Days addresses all the scholars, students and professionals of youth affairs. http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=170 (only in Finnish)

NYRIS (Nordic Youth Research Symposium) is a Nordic seminar on youth research organized every two years in some of the Nordic countries. They have taken place since 1987. Today The NYRIS-seminar brings together researchers, students and experts on youth affairs from all over the world. The aim of the conference is to examine topical phenomena relating to youth and the youth in a global context.

9.2 Is there a permanent national network for a greater knowledge and understanding of youth linking all actors in the field?

- [Finnish Youth Research Network](#),
- [YUNET](#) is a universal network for youth research that organizes the nationwide education of youth research.
- [Allianssi](#) is an umbrella organisation for Finnish youth organisations.

9.3 Networks on youth issues specific to certain actors

- [Finnish Youth Research Network](#),
- [Allianssi](#) – the Finnish youth co-operation is the national youth council and an umbrella organisation for Finnish youth organisations,
- [Turku Institute for Child and Youth Research](#),
- [The Finnish Network for Childhood Studies](#)
- [YUNET](#) - Finnish University Network for Youth Research, which organizes the nationwide education of youth research.

9.4 What transnational networks with relevance for national networks are there?

[Nordic Youth Research Information Symposia \(NYRIS\)](#)

[The Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi](#) is member of the European Youth Forum

9.5 Describe the organisation and the ways of promoting interdisciplinary dialogue on youth issues.

Finnish Youth Research Network organizes research seminars, study circles, annual youth research conferences, courses etc., http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/index.php?lk_id=4

The purpose of the Finnish Youth Research Society is to promote multi-disciplinary youth research in Finland. To this end it organizes national and international seminars, maintains a registry of youth researchers etc. Every second year the National Youth Work Conference brings together policy makers, youth researchers and professionals of youth work from all of Finland.

Exchange between actors of youth field in Finland is made relatively easy, since many of them (e.g. Finnish Youth Research Network, National Youth Council, Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi) are located under the same roof in Allianssi-talo in Helsinki.