

# ***QUESTIONNAIRE***

## ***“BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF YOUTH”***

### ***LATVIA***



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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**

No departments dealing with youth issues in Universities. Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of University of Latvia has research branch under sociology for research of Youth integration in Latvian society, led by Dr.soc. Ritma Rungule.

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

Central Statistical Bureau ([www.csb.gov.lv](http://www.csb.gov.lv)) collects official statistics.

Ministry of Education and Science ([www.izm.gov.lv](http://www.izm.gov.lv)) yearly carry out purchase of data on youth participation and information.

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

There is no information available on themes of research in advance, except State research programme where none is planned in youth field or related. Most of youth research are done project based or on open calls.

[Institute of Philosophy and Sociology](#), University of Latvia, regularly initiate youth research: Youth Participation (2005), Youth in the Labour Market (2007), EKAD study (field work in Riga City in 2006, published in 2007).

[Baltic Institute of Social Sciences](#) initiates youth research: Youth and inter-Ethnic Schools (2005-2007).

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

Major youth NGO's undertaking research and analyse of young people and having practical knowledge and expertise in youth field are [The National Youth Council of Latvia](#), [Jauniešu konsultācijas](#), [NEXT](#); all mentioned has carried out large consultation and survey processes during past years.

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

There is a group of youth researchers (Trapenciēre, Koroleva, Rungule, Snikere, Trapencieris) at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia (Director M.Kūle) that performs youth research on national level. The main areas of research: youth participation, youth in the labour market, leisure time and deviant behaviour, quality of youth life. There are other researchers who has done youth research or youth related research – Brigita Zepa, Inta Mieriņa, Aleksandrs Aleksandrovs, Jānis Briedis, Dace Jansone, Inese Vaivare, Ilze Mileiko, Sanita Vanaga, Inese Šūpole, Evija Kļave, Gints Klāsons, Laura Sūna, Klāvs Sedlinieks.

Most of experts on youth field and youth policy are related to youth NGO's or youth policy planning process for past 10 years and are active either on governmental level or NGO's (see Country fiche for further information). For contact information of mentioned experts turn to Ministry of Education and Science Policy Coordination Department Youth Policy Unit ([edgars.bajaruns@izm.gov.lv](mailto:edgars.bajaruns@izm.gov.lv)).

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

Laboratory of Analytical and Strategic Study Ltd: "Study on Youth Social and Political Activities in Latvia" (2007).

[The research centre SKDS](#): "Youth attitude towards participation in youth organizations" (2008)

### **1.7 Other actors**

As mentioned in point 1.3. most of youth research or youth related research are done on occasional base, therefore major knowledge in youth policy is not academically based but fragmented among different youth policy stakeholders, as example ministries, NGO's and public and private research institutes. Important role on knowledge on youth related to different fields (education, labour, culture, etc.) are concentrated among other institutions – [Ministry of Welfare](#) (has created data base on labour and social inclusion research within projects from [ESF](#) and [EQUAL](#)), [Ministry of Education and Science](#) (is coordinating knowledge on education field), [Ministry of Culture](#) (has created [data base on culture related research](#)).

Additionally there is [Commission of Strategic Analysis](#) under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Latvia acting to generate a long-term vision of Latvia's development through interdisciplinary and future-oriented studies, which has carried out youth related research.

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

Youth Law section 3 defines that state administrative institutions implementing policy according to their field of competence shall evaluate the impact of the relevant field policy on youth.

Youth policy guidelines for years 2009 – 2018 defines youth research and better knowledge in context of youth policy as one of core elements of youth policy coordination. In long term there are planned 3 main elements to ensure better knowledge – regular monitoring of situation, which is carried out on yearly base, research of youth life quality every two years according to youth indicator and regular analyse of local youth work according to Overall indicators for local youth work.

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

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

No information on institutions (NGO's, research institutions) that are receiving international funding for carrying out activities aimed at youth research, although there are several possibilities.

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

No estimation available on EU resources spent within structural programmes – ESF, ERAF or EQUAL for youth related research.

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

On yearly base there is open call for monitoring of situation on youth participation and information within yearly State youth policy programme. Local municipalities provide funding

for local youth centres and Ministry of Children, Family and Integration Affairs sustains youth information system (see questioner on information).

Private company “Sweedbank” organize project call “Youth trends” during year 2009 involving youth research.

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

No regular funding available and there are no long term contract on youth research.

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

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

Statistical yearbook (Central Statistical Bureau), published yearly.

“Children in Latvia” (Central Statistical Bureau), published yearly.

### **4.2 Regular youth reports**

Survey on “Youth attitude towards participation in youth organizations” (Ministry of Education and Science) which is published yearly.

In future regular research on young people life quality is planned (Ministry of Education and Science), first publication in year 2010.

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

No journals and reviews on youth research.

## **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)**

There is one national youth information portal – [www.jaunatneslietas.lv](http://www.jaunatneslietas.lv) (youth affairs) that is a unified information system to provide young people and youth policy stakeholders with quality, timely, comprehensive, holistic, free and their interests and needs relevant information. The portal contains every day updated information on current events in youth policy, youth policy matters, different projects, youth organization and youth affairs coordinator data base, links to research and policy planning document data bases and links to statistics. Portal [www.jaunatneslietas.lv](http://www.jaunatneslietas.lv) serves as guide where on one spot wide range information is available

regarding youth policy, besides there are gathered information and links to access necessary and interested information on different themes such as employment, education, participation, culture, sport, etc. Additionally there is created youth organization data base with communication possibilities and different innovations for ensuring easy usage. (For more information see questioner on information). Most of information in portal is available only in Latvian.

<http://petijumi.mk.gov.lv/ui/default.aspxo> provides data base on the main studies in Latvia, part of the published reports are accessible on this page (in Latvian). Provider of the data base - Cabinet of Ministers. Database is freely accessible, the information is updated regularly.

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

Most of available research and publications related to youth field are published on youth information portal [www.jaunatneslietas.lv](http://www.jaunatneslietas.lv). No other e-journals and reviews on youth research are published online. Several articles and information regarding youth research and better knowledge on youth is published on monthly e-magazine of Ministry of Education and Science Youth Policy Unit for youth affairs specialists and youth workers.

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

There is Youth Advisory Council (before Youth Policy Coordination Council, for further information see Country fiche) consisting of representatives from relevant state and municipal institutions, youth organizations and youth field experts who meet on regular base. One of tasks of council is to draft regular report on situation and carry out analyse of situation in youth field. Based on councils decision Ministry of Education and Science regularly initiates request of information from state institutions related to young people. Additionally there is Youth Organization Consultative Council which consists of representatives from youth organizations who regularly meets to analyse and discuss youth policy and youth organization related questions. (for further information see Country fiche)

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

“Overall indicators for evaluation of local youth work” with an aim to facilitate youth policy implementation, which is harmonized with state youth policy and based on good practise from other municipalities, European Union and Council of Europe Member states. Those indicators are permissive to municipalities. Indicators in general includes qualitative and statistical indicators – questions on local youth policy regarding institutional system for youth work, local youth policy planning documents, municipal budget for youth work, youth information, youth participation and leisure time activities, support for voluntary work and nonformal education, youth social protection, safety, public order, youth employment, and promotion of healthy lifestyle.

Part of youth information includes 12 questions on how municipality is ensuring accessibility of youth information, supports youth information services and ensure better knowledge on youth.

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

Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with universities has developed support programme for students to facilitate youth research. Ministry of Education and Science has developed list of possible themes for BA, MA and PHD thesis and supports interested students with information and expertise. Additionally universities are asked to inform about term papers on youth field.

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

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

There are two main working groups to ensure better knowledge – Youth Advisory Council and Youth Organization Consultative Commission (for further information see point 6 or Country fiche).

Issues on youth information and better knowledge are included in training programme for youth affairs specialists under Cabinets of Ministers bylaw on youth affairs specialist training. Each youth affairs specialist according to Youth Law has to be trained. Training programme



consist of 80 academic hour training, altogether 10 one day seminars. Participants mostly are youth affairs specialists and local youth work coordinators. Follow-up is ensured by regular communication within competence of Ministry of Education and Science.

**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)?**

Youth Policy Coordination Council was established by the decree No 188 of Prime Minister on March 24, 2005 “The personnel of youth policy coordination council” in compliance to the Regulations No. 1001 of the Cabinet of Ministers on November 30, 2004 called “Bylaws of Youth policy coordination council”.

The objective of the Youth Policy Coordination Council was to promote the development and implementation of youth policy in the country and youth involvement in the decision making process. It was an open council, and its main function was to ensure coherent implementation of youth policy in the country, as youth policy is carried out by different organizations. According to Youth Law section 4, since year 2009 Youth Advisory Council is functioning. Youth Advisory Council is advisory institution established by the Cabinet, the objective of which is to promote the development and implementation of the co-ordinated and knowledge based youth policy, as well as the youth participation in decision-making and social life. Delegated representatives of the State administration, local governments and youth organisations are included in the composition of the Youth Advisory Council. According to Cabinets bylaw accepted on 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2008 about YAC it consists of representatives from 6 ministries and [Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments](#), [Latvian Students union](#), [National Youth Council of Latvia](#) and 5 representatives from youth organizations chosen in open tender.

Youth Advisory Council is linking all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure general overview of youth policy. It is chaired and arranged by [Ministry of Education and Science](#) as youth policy coordinating institution.

For more information contact Ministry of Education and Science ([edgars.bajaruns@izm.gov.lv](mailto:edgars.bajaruns@izm.gov.lv)).

### **9.3 Networks on youth issues specific to certain actors**

Youth Organization Consultative Commission is a consulting institution established to ensure the participation of youth organizations in the process of planning, implementing and evaluating youth policy. The main task of the Youth Organization Consultative Commission is the analysis of current situation in youth policy, identification of problems and drafting of proposals for development for the Ministry of Education and Science. 12 leaders of youth organizations are members of the commission, which is chaired by the director of Youth Department of the Ministry. For more information contact Ministry of Education and Science ([edgars.bajaruns@izm.gov.lv](mailto:edgars.bajaruns@izm.gov.lv)).

There are no other university or researchers network.

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

There are no transnational networks with relevance for national networks functioning.

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

Exchange of cross-sectoral knowledge regarding youth is ensured via Youth Advisory Council (for further information see point 9.2.)