

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



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Information sheet

BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA



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1. Promotion and support of youth research

Is there a government strategy or programme for promoting and supporting research in the field of youth?

There isn't any long-term strategy or programme for promoting and supporting research in the field of youth but in the main strategic document of the Ministry of Youth and sport – National youth strategy - it is stated that: "All strategic concepts, principles and activities that refer to young people are based on firm and relevant data and on the results of the studies on youth."

Also, in Law on Youth, section 5: Financing of programs and projects of public interest in the youth sector, article 20, it is stated that the funds for funding programs and projects of public interest in the youth sector shall be earmarked in the budget of the Republic of Serbia and such funds shall be used for (point 9): "conducting research on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia".

That being said, every year Ministry of Youth and Sport conduct researches that are related to the current position and quality of life of young people in Serbia. Ministry is obliged to conduct these researches because they are foreseen for every year of Action Plan for the implementation of National Youth Strategy, the most important strategy related to youth in Serbia. Researches are based on the main objectives of the strategy and after analyzing the results of the research Ministry adjusts its further activities.

Other than ministry there is no other governmental institution that can take out some kind of programs or researches related to youth. Currently existing institutions within universities in Serbia and diverse NGO's conduct surveys regarding youth issues, but those surveys are non systematic, they are not conducted regularly (every year, six months, etc.) and their results do not lead us to some kind of comprehensive knowledge system, nor they have impact on the solutions of youth issue in Serbia. Mostly because their aims and methodology is not very well determined and they are inconsistent with the official statistical methods (age range of youth, focus groups, etc.). Therefore, ministry's only reference for its activities and acute needs of young people in Serbia are its own researches.

2. Legal basis for an evidence-based approach to youth policy

Is there a reference to better knowledge on youth ensuring an evidence-based approach to youth policy in national legislation or policy strategies?

- *National Youth Strategy and the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Youth Strategy for the period 2009 – 2014* – Strategy and its Action Plan (one of the main principles of the Strategy is stated in the answer on the previous question). It is based on general approach to youth policy and it is evaluated every year. Basically, policy makers recommended and emphasized evidence – based approach through this document to all other youth relevant actors (given that one of the main principles of the National Youth Strategy is evidence based principle that states: "All strategic concepts, principles and activities that refer to young people are based on firm and relevant data and on the results of the studies on youth").

3. Structures and actors that play a role in gaining a better knowledge of young people

3.1. Departments in universities gathering knowledge on youth

Within Faculty for Philosophy, University of Belgrade, there are two institutes which gather knowledge on youth: Institute for Psychology and Institute for Sociological Researches. Also, within Faculty for Philosophy of University of Novi Sad, there are two institutes which are dealing with youth issues: Institute of Social Sciences and Institute for Psychology.

University of Belgrade - www.bg.ac.rs/en_index.php

Faculty for Philosophy - www.f.bg.ac.rs/en2

Institute for Psychology - www.f.bg.ac.rs/sr-lat/instituti/IPS/o_institutu

Institute for Sociological Researches - www.f.bg.ac.rs/sr-lat/instituti/ISI/o_institutu
University of Novi Sad - www.uns.ac.rs/en/
Faculty for Philosophy - www.uns.ac.rs/en/fakulteti/filozofski/osnovna.htm

3.2. Major public and semi-public bodies dealing with [youth research](#), public companies included

Institute for Educational Research - independent scientific institution dealing with theoretical and empirical studies in the field of education. One of the current projects is "Schooling of the young for knowledge - based society".

www.ipisr.org.rs

3.3. NGOs gathering knowledge on youth

Institute for political studies - www.ipsbgd.edu.rs/kontakt_e.html
Center for Free Elections and Democracy - www.cesid.org
Belgrade Open School - www.bos.rs/eng/
Group 484 - www.grupa484.org.rs
National Association of Youth Work Practitioners (ser. NAPOR) - www.napor.net
Civic Initiatives - www.gradjanske.org/page/home/en.html
Belgrade Center for Security Policy - www.bezbednost.org/Bezbednost/2001/English.shtml
Group "Process" - grupaprocen.org/?lang=en
Etc.

3.4. Private companies dealing with youth research

There are no private companies dealing with youth research in wider aspect. There are, however, companies which award scholarships or other kind of support to young people, but there are no private companies engaged in youth research which results can provide us with some relevant information and facts.

However, there is one example of good practice regarding researches on specific topics that concerns youth in Serbia. Every year, company Visa International conducts survey related to knowledge on finance issues among young people in Serbia. The results are useful for further broadening of given company business and can give some less or more precise aspect about relation youth people – world of finance, work, etc.

3.5. Statistical offices that collect statistics on youth

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – within the Official Statistic Plan for 2013. research on youth is planned for March 2013 and it should include information about the health of youth, socio-economic and educational statistics, crime statistics, etc.

<http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/>

3.6. Directory of national youth researchers

Unfortunately, that kind of database doesn't exist.

3.7. National research networks on youth

Not applicable.

3.8. Transnational networks on youth with relevance for national networks

Not applicable

3.9. Knowledge networks supporting youth policy

Is there a permanent national network for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?

There isn't any permanent national network for knowledge on youth, but kind of a network was formed when National Strategy of Youth (2008) and Law on Youth (2011) were made.

Then, all relevant actors in youth field participated in making of given documents but after that their cooperation was not institutionalized.

4. Promotion and support to youth researchers and other actors who work towards a better knowledge of youth

Is there any measure undertaken for the:

- facilitation of exchanges between researchers, policy makers and practitioners in the field of youth
- support of mobility and skills improvement of youth researchers

There aren't any institutional measures that allow or support exchanges and mobility of youth researchers, but there are some examples of good practice on knowledge exchanges between expert on EU level and youth researchers from Serbia (for example: guest lecturers from Council of Europe, workshops for youth researchers from Serbia, etc.)

5. Publications and accessible data in the youth field/on youth

5.1. Data collections which provide updated statistics on youth (public and private)

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and annual report regarding implementation process of National Youth Strategy of Ministry of Youth and Sport.

5.2. Regular youth reports

On national level

Annual report regarding implementation process of National Youth Strategy of Ministry of Youth and Sport.

On regional level

Not applicable.

5.3. National journals and reviews on youth research

There are neither journals nor reviews dealing with youth issues explicitly.

5.4. According to publications and recent data collections: what are priority themes in the field of youth research in your country

Youth activism,
Leisure time,
Socio-economic issues (unemployment, etc),
New media,
Information of youth,
Social equality,
Migrations,
Education,
etc.

6. IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

Is there a dissemination of knowledge on youth via dedicated internet portals or online publications?

There isn't any internet portal or online publication that represents comprehensive system regarding knowledge on youth. Every institution presents their own researches on their websites (mentioned above)

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

Not applicable.

6.2. Other

Not applicable.

7. Good practice related to fostering a better knowledge of youth

In November 2012 Serbia participated and became a member of the Expert Group on EU indicators on youth. That is a great base for further widening of cooperation between Serbia and European countries with very well developed system and cooperation within the field of youth research.