

## Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION



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# Information sheet

## BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH

### Poland



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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 is not such programme nor strategy for promoting youth research.

In the Polish Youth Strategy for the years 2003-2012, prepared by the Ministry of National Education and Sport and adopted by the Council of Ministers on 19 August 2003, in the 5th strategic objective (Building a system of youth information), one of the methods to realise the objective was creating a strong centre for youth research and solving youth problems. Among the actions, "preparing the concept of creating the National Plan for Youth Studies (until 2013)" was listed.

The main initiative for the promotion of the evidence-based policy on youth matters was the report [Youth 2011](#) (Młodzi 2011). The report Youth 2011 on the one hand classifies and collects the state of knowledge on the young generation, on the other hand, it presents recommendations concerning actions related to this age group. In broader perspective the document is an element of a long-term strategy „POLAND 2030. THE THIRD WAVE OF MODERNITY“ (<http://zds.kprm.gov.pl/dlugookresowa-strategia-rozwoju-kraju>)

## 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?**

In the introduction to the Report 'Youth 2011', the emphasis is put on the importance of evidence-based approach to policies. The report is supposed to be an example of the policy recommendations based on research results.

## 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

**Department of Sociology of Education and Youth** (Zakład Socjologii Edukacji i Młodzieży), Institute of Sociology, Nicolaus Copernicus University (NCU) in Torun

- Director: Prof. dr hab. Krystyna Szafraniec
- Themes: youth, education, rural youth, generations and intergenerational relations, alsomin the department of Cultural Research: consumption, relationships, sexuality
- Website: <http://www.soc.umk.pl/o-instytucie/struktura-instytutu/zaklad-socjologii-edukacji-i-modziezy>

**Center on Youth Research of Warsaw University** (Ośrodek Badań Młodzieży Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego), Warsaw University

- Director: Prof. dr hab. Barbara Fatyga
- Themes: life styles, entrance to adulthood, youth cultures, youth subcultures, rural youth, activism
- Website: <http://obm.isns.uw.edu.pl/forum/>

**Center of Youth Research** (Centrum Badań nad Młodzieżą), The East European State Higher School in Przemyśl

- Director: dr Piotr Długosz
- Themes: social inequalities, education and situation of youth from Podkarpacie region
- Website: <http://www.pwsw.pl/centrum-badan-nad-mlodzieza>

**The Department of Social Psychology and Youth Research** (Zakład Psychologii Społecznej i Badań nad Młodzieżą), the Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz

- Director: dr hab. Hanna Liberska, Profesor
- Themes: youth identity, family life, disabled youth, intimate relationships
- Website: [http://www.ukw.edu.pl/jednostka/zaklad\\_psychologii\\_spolecznej](http://www.ukw.edu.pl/jednostka/zaklad_psychologii_spolecznej)

Other centers dealing with research on young people and themes connected to youth:

- Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Institute of Sociology (Instytut Socjologii), themes: education, new media, internet, families formation and demographic trends, youth research, labour market, rural youth, website: <http://www.sociologia.uj.edu.pl/index.php/eng/>
- University of Łódź, Institute of Sociology, social inequalities and poverty, education, educational system, labour market, website: <http://www.eksoc.uni.lodz.pl/is/kse.html>
- Department of Sociology of Religion, The John Paul II, Catholic University of Lublin, themes: values and religiosity, Director: Prof. Janusz Mariański, website: <http://www.kul.pl/2682.html>
- Institute of Sociology, The University of Zielona Góra, themes: youth, generations, education, the youth of Polish-German borders, labour market, free time activities  
Director: dr hab. Maria Zielińska, prof. UZ, website: <http://www.is.uz.zgora.pl>
- Institute of Mother and Child in Warsaw, Research Center on Youth Health, themes: health and life style of young people, prophylactics and public health role, measuring young people health  
Director: dr n. med. Joanna Mazur, website: <http://www.imid.med.pl/klient1/view-content/190/Pracownia-Badan-nad-Zdrowiem-Mlodziezy-.html>

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

Polish National Agency of Youth in Action Programme, <http://www.mlodziej.org.pl/mlodziej-w-badaniach>

### **3.3. NGOs gathering knowledge on youth (examples)**

- **The Unit for Social Innovation and Research – Shipyard** (Stocznia) themes: volunteering, activism, participation education, rural youth (<http://stocznia.org.pl/www/about-us>);
- **Institute of Public Affairs (Instytut Spraw Publicznych)** - an independent centre for policy research and analysis, main areas of study include European policy, social policy, civil society, migration and development policy as well as law and democratic institutions. Deals with youth topics such as employment, political participation and non-governmental organisations. (<http://www.isp.org.pl/>);
- **Klon Jawor** – information on volunteering (<http://klon.org.pl>);
- **The Civic Institute (Instytut Obywatelski)** a political think-tank, reports concerning education and youth in Visegrad countries (<http://www.instytutobywatelski.pl/about-us>);
- **The Campaign Against Homophobia (Kampania Przeciw Homofobii)** - a nationwide public-benefit nongovernmental organization working for the equal rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Reports and publications concern the rights of LGBT people, discrimination, also in schools. Reports available here: <http://world.kph.org.pl/index.php?lang=en&doc=page&id=9&title=publications>
- **Foundation Mama** (Fundacja Mama) – an organisation working with issues of motherhood, women on the labour market, unpaid work, public space; reports on situation of women and mothers in Poland available at: <http://fundacjamama.pl/index.php?mnu=10>

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

Public Opinion Research Center (CBOS – Centrum Badania Opinii Publicznej) – foundation, gathering public opinion statistics, every few years publishes a report on youth (Młodzież 2003, Młodzież 2008, Młodzież 2010- just in Polish) [http://www.cbos.pl/EN/home\\_en/cbos\\_en.php](http://www.cbos.pl/EN/home_en/cbos_en.php)

SMG/KRC (<http://www.smgkrc.pl>) research on youth and consumption trends in Poland (Młodzież)

AXA – research on motherhood: <http://www.axa-polska.pl/oferta-indywidualna/biuro-prasowe/aktualnosci/art.123.raport-axa-ciemna-strona-macierzynstwa-o-niepokojach-wspolczesnych-matek.html>

### **3.5. Statistical offices that collect statistics on youth**

GUS – Główny Urząd Statystyczny (Central Statistical Office)– gathering all public statistics, including statistics on education, higher education, sport, health, culture, quality of life, demographics, labour market; there are published sometimes special reports concerning youth e.g. youth on the labour market. [http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/index\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/index_ENG_HTML.htm)

### **3.6. Directory of national youth researchers**

Not available

### **3.7. National research networks on youth**

There exists a network of sociologists within Polish Sociological Association gathered within a Network of Youth and Education (Sekcja Socjologii Młodzieży i Edukacji PTS). The Network exchanges knowledge in the relevant field and organizes conferences on the topics of youth and education. <http://www.pts.org.pl/strona/pl/104/spis-sekcji-tematycznych-pts>

#### **3.7b National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?**

There is no permanently existing network for knowledge on youth linking different actors in the field.

### **3.8. Transnational networks on youth with relevance for national networks**

European Sociological Association - Research Network Youth & Generation (RN30) <http://www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn30-youth-and-generation.html>

The International Sociological Association (ISA) - Research Committee on Sociology of Youth (RC34) <http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc34.htm>

### **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)?**

No, but a network was set up temporarily for the creation of the report Youth 2011 (see below).

**Was such a network set up specifically for some project/purpose?**

For the creation of the Youth 2011 Report, a multidisciplinary team was involved, composed of experts in numerous fields, several ministries, central offices, and communities working with and for young people; the team used to meet in 2010 and 2011 at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister under Minister Michał Boni's chairmanship.

## **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

Not applicable

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

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

GUS – Główny Urząd Statystyczny (Central Statistical Office)– gathering all public statistics, including statistics on education, higher education, sport, health, culture, quality of life, demographics, labor market; there are published sometimes special reports concerning youth e.g. youth on the labor market.

[www.stat.gov.pl](http://www.stat.gov.pl)

SIO (System of education information) – statistics on educational system in Poland

<http://www.sio.edu.pl/>

### **5.2. Regular youth reports**

#### **On national level**

Public Opinion Research Center (CBOS – Centrum Badania Opinii Publicznej) – foundation, gathering public opinion statistics, every few years publishes a report on youth (recently Młodzież 2003, Młodzież 2008, Młodzież 2010- only in Polish)

[http://www.cbos.pl/EN/home\\_en/cbos\\_en.php](http://www.cbos.pl/EN/home_en/cbos_en.php)

#### **On regional level**

Not existing

### **5.3. National journals and reviews on youth research**

There is no journal in Poland explicitly dealing with youth issues. Most articles on youth are published in sociological, psychological and educational journals such as Culture and Education quarterly

(<http://kulturaiedukacja.prv.pl/>) or Annals of Family Sociology

([http://www.socjologia.amu.edu.pl/isoc/articles.php?article\\_id=2038&](http://www.socjologia.amu.edu.pl/isoc/articles.php?article_id=2038&)).

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

Education (educational choices, linkages between education and labour market)

Labour market entrance and youth people situation on the labour market

Political engagement and activism, volunteering

Gender roles

Family formation and fertility choices, new forms of family life

New media and internet

Consumerism, new life styles

Rural youth

Poverty and social inequality

## 6. IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

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

If yes, please explain.

There is no central website gathering research on youth, still, every research institution or organisation promotes their own research results online by providing reports and statistics to viewers. Similarly, GUS national statistical office, provides wide access to public statistics on their website [www.stat.gov.pl](http://www.stat.gov.pl) (also in English).

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

- [www.mlodziej.org.pl](http://www.mlodziej.org.pl) (participation in youth in action programme, non-formal education, intercultural education, volunteering)
- [www.men.gov.pl](http://www.men.gov.pl) (policies, programmes, projects)

#### 6.2. Other

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

Please describe methods and approaches for gaining a better understanding and knowledge of youth and for keeping it up to date.

### Report Youth 2011

Youth 2011 report was an example of report created on the basis of research and policy expertise. In creation of the Youth 2011 Report, a multidisciplinary team was involved, composed of experts in numerous fields, several ministries, central offices, and communities working with and for young people; the team used to meet in 2010 and 2011 at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister under Minister Michał Boni's chairmanship. As described in the introduction of the report: "We met at an unconventional seminar. An exchange of ideas between experts, enthusiasts, analysts and animators of civic activities was taking place at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. We were all interested in what could turn this intuitive picture of the young generation into reliable knowledge." The final outcome of the meetings was a report written by Prof. Krystyna Szafraniec, sociologist. "We started with an intuition, but it had to find an outlet in knowledge which would be multidimensional, take into consideration both sociological features of the young generation as well as their educational and health situation, their opinion on family life and on building one's own position on the job market. (...) we have gone through the following stages: from an intuitive sense, through knowledge, up to the practical solutions applicable in the policies for a young generation, every young generation." While the report initiated a heated debate on the youth issues, it did not turn out yet to a strategic document nor impacted the actually binding youth strategy in Poland. Also, youth organisations could have been more involved in the process of document creation as well as in monitoring the usage of the results.

Read the report in English: [http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/documents/EKCYP/Youth\\_Policy/docs/Better\\_understanding/Research/Poland\\_youth\\_2011.pdf](http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/documents/EKCYP/Youth_Policy/docs/Better_understanding/Research/Poland_youth_2011.pdf)

### RAY network

Polish National Agency of Youth in Action is a member of RAY network. [Ray network](#) aim is to "produce reliable evidence to better understand processes and outcomes in youth work and non-formal education". It is an interesting project which gathers research institutes and Youth in Action agencies from 12 countries, and therefore allows comparative, transnational approach in analysing research results.