Information sheet

BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH

Luxembourg

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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?

The ministry in charge of youth has been supporting a structure of youth research since the mid-90s, i.e. the youth studies centre CESIJE (*Centre d'études sur la situation des jeunes en Europe*). From the very beginning, according to the youth minister, the main mission of the centre has been to develop a better knowledge on youth and on their living conditions (cf. Jacobs, 2007, p.7). A financial support was granted by the state since 1999, and a first convention (1998) between the ministry in charge of youth and the studies centre has been signed, determining the services to be provided by the studies centre. In 2007, a new cooperation agreement providing funding, was signed by the Ministry of Family and Integration (*Ministère de la Famille et de l’Intégration*) and the University of Luxembourg (*Université du Luxembourg*), establishing a new youth studies centre CESIJE (*Centre d'études sur la situation des jeunes*) at the University of Luxembourg/Research Unit INSIDE (Integrative Research Unit on Social and Individual Development). It says in this cooperation agreement that the services to be provided by the centre at the University are the following:

- gathering documentation on the situation of youth, on youth research and policy and running a documentation centre,
- coordinating and doing youth research, doing scientific accompaniment in the local youth policy planning, being a partner on an international level for youth research projects,
- developing and implementing evaluation models for youth policy and be a partner for all other actors in this domain,
- be a counsellor for all the public and private institutions active in the domains of research, evaluation, policy and work in the domain of youth (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration & Université du Luxembourg, 2007, p.1-2; cf. also Wirtgen, 2007, p.10-13).

The 2007 agreement "institutes a cooperation in the frame of the implementation of a youth policy based on a better knowledge of the situation of young people" (translated from French, Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p.XIII). The underlying concept is structured dialogue, which should promote the linking of youth domain actors. By exchange of these experts a synergetic production of knowledge on youth shall be reached (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p.XIII). In 2013, the structure of the youth studies centre (CESIJE) is abolished, but tasks and objectives remain the same in the frame of youth research in the Research Unit INSIDE (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration & Université du Luxembourg, 2013). According to the annual state budgets, roughly 4,5 million EUR have been invested by the state in youth research, evaluation in the domain of youth and the research infrastructure within these years since the first convention was signed.
Another cooperation agreement exists between the Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (Ministère de l’Éducation nationale et de la Formation professionnelle) and the University of Luxembourg/Research Unit EMACS (Educational Measurement and Applied Cognitive Science) in the domain of educational research (cf. Moinier et al., n.d., p.5).

More generally, the research field of "education and multilingualism" is one of the five focus areas of research of the quite young University of Luxembourg. "Social and individual development", including youth research, is one of the seven additional research fields (University of Luxembourg, 2011). Research policy as well as scientific and technical development of the University are determined by its long-term development plan (Plan pluriannuel de développement) and by the research programmes of the National Research Fund (Fonds national de la recherche Luxembourg, FNR) (2003 University of Luxembourg Act, Art.13(3)). Based on the development plan proposed by the University, a long-term (4 years) institutional development contract (Contrat d’établissement pluriannuel) is negotiated between the state and the University, and the financial contribution granted by the state is defined (2003 University of Luxembourg Act, Art.44(1)).

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 second guidelines for youth policy (2004), elaborated by the ministry in charge of youth, a special emphasis is put on the fact that the priorities have been defined in dialogue with the youth sector actors, on a basis of evaluation of projects and actions, of experience acquired in concrete actions and of research data on the situation of young people (cf. Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Jeunesse, 2004, p.9). One of the priority fields of action, defined in these guidelines, is youth research. The ministry makes a strong statement in favour of "evidence based policy": Firstly, scientific research should deliver useful elements for the orientation of policy making, in respect with scientific autonomy. Secondly, evaluation of youth policy and youth work should guarantee quality of practice (cf. Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Jeunesse, 2004, p.46-47).

The 2008 Youth Act (Loi du 4 juillet 2008 sur la jeunesse) establishes a Body in Charge of Monitoring Youth Issues (Observatoire de la jeunesse). Its mission is to prepare, coordinate and initiate inquiries, notices, analyses, studies and reports on the different aspects of the situation of youth in Luxembourg (2008 Youth Act, Art. 13). Furthermore, the law calls for a National Youth Report (Rapport national sur la situation de la jeunesse au Luxembourg) to be addressed every five years by the minister in charge of youth to the Chamber of Deputies. The national report aims at achieving a global view on the situation of youth in
Luxembourg (2008 Youth Act, Art. 15(1)). A National Action Plan for Youth (Plan d'action national pour la jeunesse), fixing the youth policy orientation, is foreseen as well (2008 Youth Act, Art. 15(2)).

The first National Youth Report (Rapport national sur la situation de la jeunesse au Luxembourg, Nationaler Bericht zur Situation der Jugend in Luxemburg) has become a relevant policy document as well, where the government has described its youth policy for the upcoming years. Actually, the report is twofold: The first part is the governmental statement (policy) and the second part a description of the situation of young people in Luxembourg (research). The description part of the report has been elaborated by the University of Luxembourg. The institutional construction mirrors the political will of "evidence based policy making" and "policy relevant research". On the one hand, the government wishes to base its youth policy on a better knowledge of young people, and on the other, it asks the University of Luxembourg – respecting scientific autonomy – to produce relevant knowledge for the construction of the future, based on a structured dialogue possibly. The National Youth Report is not a final product, but only the first stage in an on-going orientation and consultation process aiming at a participative and knowledge based elaboration of a National Action Plan for Youth (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p.XI-XII). Concerning the process of youth policy development in Luxembourg, three things are considered to be noteworthy: the continuity and consequence of youth policy during a long period, the integration of national policy in the frame of European policy and the structural and thus sustainable interaction between policy and research since the 90s (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p.XV-XVI).

In May 2012, the Minister of Family and Integration presented the Youth Pact (Pacte pour la jeunesse, Jugendpakt), which will guide political action of the government in the field of youth for the years 2012 to 2014. In fact, the Youth Pact is the National Action Plan for Youth (Plan d'action national pour la jeunesse), according to the 2008 Youth Act. The 2012 Youth Pact contains 76 actions in favour of young people, which are grouped into five action fields:

- transition to work,
- start into adult life,
- health and well-being,
- participation in society and

Since 2010, the ministries in charge of education, work, health, family, housing, sports, gender equality, culture and justice have been exchanging in an Interdepartmental Committee for Youth (Comité interministériel) and thus have laid the foundation for the Youth Pact: The political actions have been developed by the different ministries and are based on the results of the National Youth Report (2010). The description part of the National Youth Report, treating the situation of young people in Luxembourg, has been elaborated by the University of Luxembourg. For the elaboration of the Youth Pact a large counselling process also involved young people themselves, the National Assembly of Young People (Assemblée
nationale des jeunes), youth organisations and youth services working with young people or in favour of them. The Interdepartmental Committee for Youth prepares and supervises the implementation of the Youth Pact and its actions (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2012, p.3-6).

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

At the University of Luxembourg, the Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education (FLSHASE) integrates four research units, which treat issues related to youth:

- The Research Unit INSIDE (Integrative Research Unit on Social an Individual Development) deals with issues like: Psychosocial Stress and Health, Generations and Life Span Development (including: Youth Research: Context and Structures of Growing-up), Processes and Systems of Social Regulation.
- The main objectives of the Research Unit EMACS (Educational Measurement and Applied Cognitive Science) are to "find out how learning works across the lifespan" and "to study the cognitive adaptations while learning as well as learning strategies and processes".
- The Research Unit LCMI (Languages, Culture, Media and Identities) focuses on socio-cultural research on learning and development.
- The Research Unit IPSE (Identités, Politiques, Sociétés, Espaces) concerns itself with relevant social issues and developments in a socio-cultural, historical, political, spatial and linguistic perspective.

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

As mentioned above, there is a research domain "Youth Research: Context and Structures of Growing-up" at the University of Luxembourg (Research Unit INSIDE). It is embedded in the larger research domain "Generations and Life Span Development" which includes also "Early Childhood: Education and Care" and "Ageing and Life Span Development". Research focusses on the "construction of developmental contexts in childhood and youth, the importance of training and learning across the life span, family development, living conditions in old age as well as technology and ageing and the solidarity between generations" (cf. http://wwwen.uni.lu/recherche/flshase/inside/research_domains).

The following organisations do not deal mainly with youth research, but their research projects often are related to youth issues:

- Different services of the Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (Ministère de l'Education nationale et de la Formation professionnelle): the Service for Statistics and Analysis
Different units of the Public Health Department of the Public Research Centre for Health (Centre de recherche public de la santé): Centre for Health Studies, Sport Medicine Research Laboratory, National Focal Point of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), which maintains the Luxembourg Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addictions (Réseau luxembourgeois d'information sur les stupéfiants et les toxicomanies, RELIS), Laboratory of Emotional Disorders (Laboratoire des troubles émotionnels, LATE);

- The public research centre of Social Science Research CEPS/INSTEAD, which carries out research on populations and employment, geography and development, business and industrial organisation.

3.3. NGOs gathering knowledge on youth

The following organisations have practical knowledge on needs and expectations of young people or carry out or contribute to research projects:

- 4motion – education for social change, which promotes participation especially of young people in developing a cooperative and inclusive society based on solidarity;
- The Luxembourg Youth Council (Conférence générale de la jeunesse luxembourgeoise, CGJL), which represents the Luxembourgish youth organisations, uses its representative role to defend interests of young people, represents youth organisations at international level and co-ordinates joint projects with youth movements;
- The Centre for Prevention of Drug Addiction (Centre de prévention des toxicomanies, CePT), which develops, promotes and disseminates strategies for healthy living, especially by preventing behaviour which could lead to various forms of addiction;
- The Intercultural and Social Study and Training Centre (Centre d'étude et de formation interculturelles et sociales, cefis), which offers training and carries out statistical, sociological and political studies in the field of immigration and political and social participation of immigrants;
- The European Institute of Research, Development and Action (Institut européen de recherche, de développement et d'action a.s.b.l.), which develops and accompanies innovative projects and fosters an inclusive culture of lifelong learning.

3.4. Private companies dealing with youth research

TNS Ilikes, a market research institute, carries out studies on topics also concerning young people, like media, politics, opinion, IT, finance, consumption and health.
3.5. Statistical offices that collect statistics on youth

The National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg (Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques du Grand-Duché du Luxembourg, STATEC) is the most important statistical office in Luxembourg. Its mission is to deliver a public service of high quality statistical information to public and private decision-makers and citizens, to coordinate the Luxembourgish statistical system and to centralize the available data (cf. http://www.statistiques.public.lu/fr/acteurs/index.html).

Other offices also collect statistics which may concern youth, for instance:

- The government department responsible for social security (Inspection générale de la sécurité sociale, IGSS): Its mission is to collect national and international statistical data from social institutions;
- The Centre for Technologies and Information of the State (Centre des technologies de l'information de l'État, CTIE): The centre is in charge of the National Register of Natural Persons (Registre national des personnes physiques);
- The Agency for Employment Development (Agence pour le développement de l'emploi, ADEM), which establishes for instance statistics of the unemployed population;
- The National Service of Social Action (Service national d'action sociale, SNAS), which manages the Guaranteed Minimum Income (Revenu minimum garanti, RMG) and collects statistical data in relation to the benefits granted to the beneficiaries;
- The Documentation and Information Centre on Higher Education (Centre de documentation et d'information sur l'enseignement supérieur, CEDIES), which manages financial support for higher education studies (cf. also Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p.369-373).

3.6. Directory of national youth researchers

No information

3.7. National research networks on youth

No information

3.8. Transnational networks on youth with relevance for national networks

No information
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)?

The Body in Charge of Monitoring Youth Issues (*Observatoire de la jeunesse*) is conceived to play somewhat the role of a permanent national network. Its mission is to prepare, coordinate and initiate surveys, recommendations, analysis, studies and reports on the different aspects of the situation of young people in Luxembourg (2008 Youth Act, Art. 13). It "is intended to link Ministry representatives, researchers, a representative of the higher youth council, as well as a representative of youth organisations and a representative from the national youth service" (ECORYS, 2011, p.A74).

This monitoring body is composed of 15 members coming from different ministries and public administrations (Youth, Family, Equal opportunities, Immigration, Education and Training, Culture, Justice, Health, Work and Employment, the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and the National Youth Service), from research institutions (the public research centre of Social Science Research CEPS/INSTEAD and the University of Luxembourg) and from the Higher Youth Council and an organisation representing youth (2009 Grand-ducal regulation on youth, Art. 29(1)).

The representatives composing the Body in Charge of Monitoring Youth Issues are the following:

- Ralph Schroeder, for the minister in charge of youth,
- Nico Meisch, for the minister in charge of family,
- Isabelle Wickler, for the minister in charge of equal opportunities,
- Sylvie Prommenschenkel, for the minister in charge of immigration,
- Elizabeth Reisen, for the minister in charge of education and training,
- Tom Gantenbein, for the minister in charge of culture,
- Joëlle Schaack, for the minister in charge of justice,
- Yolande Wagner, for the minister in charge of health,
- Nadine Bastian, for the minister in charge of work and employment,
- Paul Zahlen, for the minister in charge of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg,
- Anne Reinstadler, for the public research centre of Social Science Research CEPS/INSTEAD,
- Helmut Willems, for the University of Luxembourg,
- Georges Metz, for the National Youth Service,
- Thérèse Michaelis, for the Higher Youth Council,
- Luc Klonski, for the organisation representing youth (i.e. *Conférence générale de la jeunesse luxembourgeoise*).
Was such a network set up specifically for some project/purpose?

The above mentioned Body in Charge of Monitoring Youth Issues (Observatoire de la jeunesse) was created by the 2008 Youth Act, and one of the basic principles of the Youth Act is that "youth policy is a transversal policy, based on the knowledge of the situation of young people and on the active consultation with young people on the issues concerning them" (translated from French, 2008 Youth Act, Art. 2(3)). The main objective of this monitoring body is to bring together all the public structures which own data concerning living conditions of young people. A structured pooling of this data should help do give a better overview. In fact, the setting up of this monitoring body corresponds to the implementation of the common objectives of European youth policy for a greater understanding and knowledge of youth (cf. Chambre des députés, 2007, p.18).

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

In general, the 2008 Youth Act introduced or confirmed measures fostering exchange between actors of the youth field. For instance, the Body in Charge of Monitoring Youth Issues (Observatoire de la jeunesse) is a potential ground to facilitate and enhance exchanges between the three groups of practitioners (research, policy and practice) in the youth field.

In fact, the Luxembourg government’s commitment to structured dialogue in the field of youth goes back to the mid-90s: Guidelines (1996) and action plans (1997, 1998, 1999) of youth policy were discussed and adopted in the frame of forums, where all the partners, concerned by youth work, were invited to participate (cf. http://www.gouvernement.lu/salle_presse/actualite/2002/04/13jacobsforum/index.html). When defining the 2004 guidelines of youth policy, several forums and meetings of working groups were organised in order to include all the implicated actors of the youth field (cf. Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Jeunesse, 2004, p.7). When working out the 2012 Youth Pact, again a large counselling process also involved young people themselves, youth organisations and youth services working with young people or in favour of them (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l’Intégration, 2012, p.4). During the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2005, the ministry in charge of youth organised a conference on a better knowledge and understanding of youth (Organising Dialogues Between Youth Field Actors Through Networking and Transsectoral Co-operation). This conference brought together representatives - from Luxembourg and from all the Member States of the European Union - from the three different youth field areas: youth organisations and youth work, youth policy and youth research (cf.
Milmeister, 2006, p.8). Thus, the ministry in charge of youth regularly has organised events in order to promote exchange between the three communities of practice in the youth field.

In a more issue oriented perspective, the National Youth Service (Service national de la jeunesse, SNJ) regularly organises workshops and conferences bringing together the actors of the youth field. Themes of these events are for instance volunteering of young people, violence, young people in the public space, outreach or open youth work, non-formal education. The Centre for Prevention of Drug Addiction (Centre de prévention des toxicomanies, CePT) also organises workshops and training seminars for actors of the youth field, with a focus on prevention of various forms of addiction.

In general, the National Research Fund (Fonds national de la recherche Luxembourg, FNR) supports researchers and promotes scientific quality and culture. Instruments to achieve this are for instance research programmes and PhD and postdoc grant schemes (Aides à la formation-recherche).

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

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

The 2010 National Youth Report (Rapport national sur la situation de la jeunesse au Luxembourg, Nationaler Bericht zur Situation der Jugend in Luxemburg) is probably the most up to date publication giving an overview of all the statistical data available in the youth domain (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010, p.369-373).

5.2. Regular youth reports

On national level

According to the 2008 Youth Act, a National Youth Report is to be achieved every five years to give a global view on the situation of youth in Luxembourg, (2008 Youth Act, Art. 15(1)). A first report was published in 2010 (Rapport national sur la situation de la jeunesse au Luxembourg, Nationaler Bericht zur Situation der Jugend in Luxemburg). The report contains a government's view on youth policy as well as a description of the situation of youth in Luxembourg. Six domains of youth research, which analyse youth in the context of development and transition processes of current society, are treated in depth (see chapter 5.4 below). The appendix provides a list of all available national and international databases concerning youth (Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010). The next youth report is to be expected for 2015.

On regional level

On local and regional level a municipal or intermunicipal Youth Plan (Plan communal ou intercommunal de la jeunesse) is foreseen by the 2008 Youth Act. Financial support from the state to municipalities - for
investing in buildings and equipment in favour of young people - is linked to the implementation of a Youth Plan. The Youth Plan may be implemented by a single municipality or more municipalities may join for an intermunicipal Youth Plan (2008 Youth Act, Art. 17 &19). The Youth Plan presents three main elements: 1) collection of knowledge from persons in contact with young people, 2) data collection in a youth survey, 3) participation of young people in the political decision-making process. The Youth Plan is a working tool developed for local authorities by the Youth Ministry in order to enable youth policy planning. The aim of the study within the Youth Plan is to draw a picture of young people living in the municipality. Merging the data of the youth studies from different municipalities of one region allows to describe youth life for instance in the Northern region (2000: Bettendorf, Diekirch, Erpeldange, Ettelbruck) or the Eastern region (2007-2008: Betzdorf, Niederanven; 2008-2009: Sandweiler, Contern) of Luxembourg.


5.3. National journals and reviews on youth research

No information

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

The probably most important recent publication in the field of youth research is the 2010 National Youth Report. Themes treated in the report are the following:

- learning in curricular and extracurricular settings,
- transition into work,
- integration and participation of young people with a migration background,
- poverty and social exclusion of children and young people,
- teenage health and well-being,
- participation and volunteering (Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2010).

The 2012 Youth Pact, which will guide political action of the government in the field of youth for the coming years, defines four domains of youth research for 2013:

- young people with difficult transition to work (NEETs: Not in Education, Employment, or Training),
- successful integration processes of young people with migrant background,
- well-being of adolescents and exploitation of HBSC data (Health Behaviour in School-aged Children),
• risk factors and circumstances which lead young people to traumatic experiences (violence, accidents and suicide) (cf. Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2012, p.54-55).

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 are several websites dedicated to publications in the domain of youth and educational research:

• Ministry of Family and Integration (Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration): http://www.mfi.public.lu/publications/index.html
• National Youth Service (Service national de la jeunesse, SNJ): http://www.snj.public.lu/publications/index.html
• Centre for Prevention of Drug Addiction (Centre de prévention des toxicomanies, CePT): http://cept.lu/fr/publications
• University of Luxembourg, mainly publications from the research units EMACS, INSIDE and LCMI: http://publications.uni.lu/
• Exchange group "Lifelong learning in the field of socio-educational care for children and young people", composed of representatives of four services (Agence Dageselteren, Entente des Foyers de jours, Unité de formation et d'éducation permanente de l'APEMH, Service national de la jeunesse), providing lifelong learning in this field: http://www.enfancejeunesse.lu/

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

• The Statistics Portal (Le portail des statistiques) of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg (Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques du Grand-Duché du Luxembourg, STATEC) offers free access to data concerning issues like health, unemployment and immigration.
• The National Service of Social Action (Service national d'action sociale, SNAS) displays statistical data in relation to the benefits (Guaranteed Minimum Income) granted to the beneficiaries.
• The Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé) displays statistical data on health on its website (http://www.ms.public.lu/fr/activites/analyse-statistique/index.html).

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6.2. Other
No information

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.

Most initiatives, fostering better knowledge of youth, have already been mentioned several times. In a more general way, the following methods are those applied - and often financially supported - by the Luxembourg government:

- workshops, forums and conferences on youth issues with the participation of the different youth domain actors,
- research and exchange structures, assuring a structural and thus sustainable interaction between policy and research, formalized either by law or by agreements,
- websites with free access to publications or databases,
- access to statistical databases (administrative data, survey data, ...),
- basic and applied youth research and evaluation in the domain of youth,
- a documentation centre on youth.
References and sources:


Loi du 12 août 2003 portant création de l'Université du Luxembourg (2003 University of Luxembourg Act)

Loi du 4 juillet 2008 sur la jeunesse (2008 Youth Act)


Règlement grand-ducal du 9 janvier 2009 sur la jeunesse (2009 Grand-ducal regulation on youth)

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