

## Youth Partnership

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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 Netherlands



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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?

If yes, please explain.

### *Research in the field of youth*

Research in the field of youth in the Netherlands within the context of this information sheet should be approached as development, enrichment, validation and dissemination of knowledge (evidence based practice or practice based evidence) by connecting and linking research, policy and practice. This knowledge based approach focuses on the whole continuum in the youth field; from generalist youth (work) guidance for all, support in frontline (preventive) services for those who need special attention (vulnerable youth) towards specialized and targeted care for children and young people in crisis situations.

The government is involved in supporting and promoting youth research, via the (financial) support of public programmes like ZonMw (see 1.1) and by collecting data via the i.a. Youth Monitor at national level.

### *Public bodies that are supported by the government*

1. **ZonMw**. The Netherlands Organisation for Health, Research and Development ZonMw funds health research and stimulates use of the knowledge developed to help improve health and healthcare in the Netherlands. ZonMw's main commissioning organisations are the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research.

With a range of grant programmes, ZonMw stimulates the entire innovation cycle, from fundamental research to the implementation of new treatments, preventive interventions and improvements to the structure of healthcare. In selecting grant proposals, ZonMw always looks for a combination of innovation and quality, since this is the only way to deal with the complex challenges we face in society today, and they ensure that clients receive affordable care of a high standard. ZonMw always strives for the best result

2. **NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research)** funds top researchers at universities and institutes by means of subsidies and research programmes. NWO is partly financed by the government.

3. **The NJI (Netherlands Youth Institute)** is partly financed by the government and supports the development of evidence based and practice based knowledge in the field of youth. It develops and distributes knowledge and evidence-based programmes. More detailed information on the Netherlands Youth Institute can be found in Chapter 3.2.

### *Collecting data by the government*

The government has its own bodies for collecting data, which are the following:

1. **Youth monitor**. A summary of information on the situation of young people in the Netherlands on the areas health and welfare, education, justice and labor. The Youth monitor is supported by almost all of the ministries (see also Netherlands Country Sheet 2012). More detailed information on the Youth Monitor can be found in Chapter 5.

2. **CBS (Statistics Netherlands)**. The main organization for the collection of statistics in general and on youth in particular.

3. **SCP (National Support Bureau for Social and Cultural Studies)**. Implements various studies relevant for youth policies e.g. forecasts in the field of youth care issues.

## **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?**

**If yes, please explain.**

### *National legislation*

There is no overall youth research law or regulation in the Netherlands that ensures an evidence-based approach to youth policy. Although there are various laws and guidelines to support evidence based approaches in the youth field. At this moment a large transition in the youth field is in preparation. (see also the Netherlands Country Information sheet). In the years to come the Dutch youth care system will be decentralised and transformed. From 2015 on the municipalities will be responsible for all youth care services. The new youth care system should be more efficient, coherent and cost-effective. A focus on prevention, youth's and parents' own capacities, support at an earlier stage, care made to measure and a better cooperation between professionals must decrease the use of the specialised services. According to the Dutch government the Dutch youth care system should be more coherent, more transparent, more efficiently and less expensive. The pressure on the specialised services should be reduced. Therefore there is a strong focus on developing monitoring systems to measure the effectiveness of the programmes in the youth field. Benchmarking via positive (well being) indicators are now in development for local municipalities to measure outcomes for the overall municipal (social and educational) policies and practice.

The Youth Care Act (2005) is the legal framework of youth care services for youth at risk and their families. It aims:

- to ensure that high-quality care is available to young people and their parents;
- to strengthen the position of young people and their parents.

According to this law, children that received an admission to care from a Youth Care Agency can claim their right to actually receive youth care.

The Social Support Act (2007) holds municipalities responsible for setting up social support.

The aim is participation of all citizens in all facets of society, if necessary with help from friends, family or acquaintances. The local authorities have a high degree of freedom regarding the implementation of the law's nine so-called 'performance areas'. Regarding preventive development for children and parenting, support for parents all municipalities must:

- offer information and advice;
- identify possible problems;
- give guidance to help;
- offer pedagogical help;
- coordinate care.

Some other laws relevant to the youth field; The Public Health Law states that every four years the municipalities need to collect and analyze data on the health situation of their citizens. This includes collecting data on the health situation of children and young people.

### *Policy strategies*

The Youth Knowledge Agenda (Kennisagenda Jeugd) is a governmental policy document. In this document the government sets its main goals in developing the youth field by i.a. gathering knowledge on youth. The Youth Knowledge Agenda is expected to be published in March 2013.

The Dutch government supports ZonMW by co-financing a large funding programme on "Effectiveness in the youth field" with four strands: Child and family, Practitioner, Devices and Organisations. This has started to operate from 2012 until 2019 with an overall budget of € 21.149.000. The strands are all related to further develop evidence based methods to support children and young people with the view to the transfer of responsibilities from the regional to the local levels in the youth field as described above. Apart from these strands, budgets are reserved to conflate and spread the knowledge generated by this programme and for the development of knowledge concerning current (policy) questions within the programme. Moreover the section "Support and evaluation of a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse" will be financed by this programme.

## **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**

#### *Universities*

There are thirteen 'regular' universities in the Netherlands. Eight of them play a role in gaining a better knowledge about young people in specific areas of research. Every university with departments of psychology, pedagogy, sociology, health science, criminology and economy deals with youth. The most important universities in the area of youth research are the universities of: Amsterdam, Groningen, Leiden, Nijmegen, Tilburg, Utrecht and Rotterdam.

There are two Masters in Utrecht which focus on youth in particular:

- Master Youth studies, which focuses on youth issues like sexuality, alcohol and drugs, relations with peers and parents and ethics and behavior.
- Master Education, Socialization and Youth Policies, which focuses on educational issues in society.

#### *Research at universities*

In research regarding youth, attention is given to: integration of the (problematic) development of youth in social systems; diversity and multiculturalism; transition to the labor market (e.g. life-long learning); criminality, child rearing, drugs and youth health. Traditionally a lot of research is done on so called youth-at-risk. Increasingly, research is done on the effectiveness of interventions and programs in the youth field.

### *Interuniversity networks in the academic sphere*

In the academic sphere, various interuniversity networks exist. The Institute for the Study of Education and Human Development (ISED) is one of them. The ISED unites research on children and adolescents by researchers in Psychology and/or Education departments of the universities of Groningen, Nijmegen, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Leiden.

### *Public bodies*

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) established the Research program Youth and Families in 2008, which is currently still running. The aim of this program is to improve connections between scientific research at universities and the priority areas in policy in the field of parenting, youth culture and participation of youth.

The Netherlands Research Database (NOD) contains information on research, researchers and research Institutes (including English abstracts):  
[www.onderzoekinformatie.nl/nl/oi/nod](http://www.onderzoekinformatie.nl/nl/oi/nod).

The Netherlands Youth Institute has set up a database containing finished and on-going research in the youth field; the information on this website is in Dutch: [www.nji.nl/onderzoek](http://www.nji.nl/onderzoek). This database gives an overview of all research on youth and their upbringing.

### *Polytechnics*

Research is also done at so-called 'Polytechnics'. These institutes for higher vocational training prepare students to work in for example social work or youth institutions. These institutes have quite a number of "knowledge centres" and lectorships regarding youth topic. Only recently a professorship on 'Youth work' has started to operate at the Amsterdam Polytechnic 'Hogeschool van Amsterdam' – Youth Spot, which is a joint process by the educational field, the Amsterdam stakeholders in the youth field and the Local Administration.

At the website of the Ministry of Education more information can be found on higher education in the Netherlands, including contact addresses for the universities:  
<http://www.government.nl/ministries/ocw>. Moreover at the website of Nuffic, the Dutch organisation for international collaboration in higher education, more information can be found on higher education and research in the Netherlands: <http://www.nuffic.nl/en>.

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

Within the Dutch youth research there is a distinction between knowledge centres for the policy area and those for the field of practice.

The most important knowledge centres for the field of practice are: The Netherlands Youth Institute, ZonMw and RIVM. They cooperate in the Youth Knowledge Program from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. The goal of this program is to provide professionals in the field of youth care with knowledge of guidelines, instruments and interventions.

### *Knowledge centres for the field of practice*

- **NJI**- The Netherlands Youth Institute is the Dutch national institute for

compiling, verifying and disseminating knowledge on children and youth matters, such as youth care, parenting support and child education. The Netherlands Youth Institute's main aim is to improve the physical, cognitive, mental and social development of children and young people by improving the quality and effectiveness of the services rendered to them and to their parents or caretakers. As an expert centre, the Netherlands Youth Institute connects scientific research to the practitioners' need for knowledge. It supports the youth sector by advising on policy, programmes and implementation, and by training professionals in evidence based methods. One of the Netherlands Youth Institute's key issues is promoting evidence based interventions by 'translating' scientific results into practical advice and support. The Netherlands Youth Institute also helps to implement these interventions. In this capacity, it works closely together with other Dutch governmental and non-governmental organizations in the youth field.

Themes of research this year: cognitive behavioural therapy for youth, working with youth, depression and youth at risk.

More information can be found at: <http://www.youthpolicy.nl/>

- **RIVM - The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment** hosts the knowledge centre on youth health. At the RIVM the Centre for Children and Youth' Health is formed in 2006. This centre is responsible for the improvement of health of young people in the Netherlands. The centre supports the youth healthcare sector and its professionals in the field. Local governments are responsible for the implementation of youth health care in their communities.

More information can be found at: <http://www.rivm.nl/English>

- **ZonMw** is the Netherlands Organization for health research and development. ZonMw's key challenge is to facilitate innovation and inspiration among the various stakeholders along a single 'knowledge continuum': from basic, strategic and applied research to daily health care services. ZonMw acts as an intermediary between policy, research and practice. Evidence-based medicine, relevance based science, information-based policy - it is ZonMw's firm belief that only the active exchange of ideas, knowledge and experience can allow the innovation cycle to flourish and help to create a cutting-edge society.

Themes of research this year: lifestyle of youth, youth health care, sport.

More information can be found at: <http://www.zonmw.nl/en/>.

- **MOVISIE** is the Netherlands centre for social development. They develop projects and collect knowledge regarding voluntary activities, also on young people.

More information can be found at: <http://www.movisie.nl/eCache/ENG/1/15/032.html>

- **Trimbos Institute** is the National Institute of Mental Health and Addiction in the Netherlands. It is an independent foundation operating under Dutch law. As a leading centre of excellence, the institute contributes to the synthesis, enrichment, implementation and dissemination of knowledge with regard to mental health and addiction problems.

Themes of research this year: ADHD, depression, addiction.

More information can be found at: <http://www.trimbos.org/>

### *Knowledge centres for the policy area*

- **SCP – National Support Bureau for Social and Cultural Studies** (see Chapter 1).

- The ministries have their own research bodies, like **WODC** (Scientific Research and Documentation Centre) for the Ministry of Justice and diverse institutes for the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences. More information can be found at: [www.wodc.nl](http://www.wodc.nl), information in Dutch.

- Furthermore there are advisory councils which (also) perform research on youth issues, like the **RMO** (Council for Society developments), the **Education Council** and other councils in the area of health, urban and regional planning.

### 3.3. NGOs gathering knowledge on youth

There are several NGO's that collect or assign research regarding certain aspects of youth culture and youth issues:

- **Kinderen in Tel (Kids Count)** is a major initiative on collecting data on youth issues – used for advocacy – by NGO's. For over three years a group of NGO's has on a yearly basis produced data on ten indicators (e.g. child abuse, public space for playing) and ranked the provinces and municipalities. The project is hosted by the **Verwey Jonker institute**, a research organisation that studies current, public and societal problems (information in Dutch at: [www.verwey-jonker.nl](http://www.verwey-jonker.nl)). More information on 'Kinderen in Tel' can be found at: [www.kinderenintel.nl](http://www.kinderenintel.nl), information in Dutch.

- **National Youth Council** studies youth culture, by the use of an internet youth panel. More information can be found at <http://www.njr.nl/>, information in Dutch.

- **MO-groep** is the national branch for Wellbeing and Social services. More information can be found at: <http://www.mogroep.nl/>, information in Dutch

- **Stichting Alexander** is a non-profit research and advise office on youth participation that implements projects for those already working with or interested in working with youth. More information can be found at: [http://www.st-alexander.nl/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=159&Itemid=128](http://www.st-alexander.nl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=159&Itemid=128).

### 3.4. Private companies dealing with youth research

Applied research on youth issues in the Netherlands is often carried out by private companies and consultancy agencies. There are more private companies doing youth research than public bodies, NGO's or universities doing this kind of research. Assignments for research often have to be opened up to tender. This has opened up a lot of possibilities for funding for private companies and consultancy agencies.

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

- **DSP groep** is a national agency for research, advise and management. This agency focuses on themes like youth and education, and care and wellbeing. More information can be found at: <http://www.dsp-groep.nl/>, information in Dutch.

- **Regioplan** supplies research and advise for policy. Regioplan focuses on themes like labour, education, criminality and unemployment.

More information can be found at: <http://www.regioplan.nl/>, information in Dutch.

- **RadarAdvies** is an advise and research agency for social issues. RadarAdvies focuses on themes like labour, participation of youth, teen pregnancy and youth at risk.

More information can be found at: <http://www.radaradvies.nl/>, information in Dutch.

- **Panteia** offers a full range of services in policy research & consultancy and marketing research. Panteia focuses on themes like care for youth and education.

More information can be found at <http://www.panteia.nl/nl/English-Page.aspx>.

- **BMC** (Business Management Consultance) contributes to the public sector, by doing research and giving advice. BMC focuses on themes like education, youth care, labour market and participation.

More information can be found at <http://www.bmc.nl/>, information in Dutch.

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

There are several statistical offices in the Netherlands that collect statistics on youth:

- **CBS (Statistics Netherlands)** is the main organization for the collection of statistics in general and on youth in particular.

- **National Youth monitor** is a summary of information, available in print and on the Internet, about the situation of young people in the Netherlands. The purpose of the monitor is to inform policymakers, researchers and other interested parties about the situation of the youth in the Netherlands today. The monitor is compiled on the basis of existing reports and datasets and presents a picture of how the population aged 0-24 years in the Netherlands is doing. To this end, a number of indicators have been selected in the following domains: health and welfare, education, justice and labour. Each domain contains indicators that give a statistical insight into the situation of young people, and developments therein. More information can be found at: <http://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/en-GB/menu/home/default.htm>.

- **GGD (National Mental Services)** is the organisation responsible for youth care and provides at local level information through local youth health monitors.

### 3.6. Directory of national youth researchers

A single directory of national youth researchers is not available, but if the Netherlands Youth Insitute is contacted they can provide information on most relevant research and respective researchers or professorships in the children- and youth field. Please check at [www.youthpolicy.nl](http://www.youthpolicy.nl) to contact the international support officers of the Netherlands Youth Institute.

Two databases are relevant:

NOD – National Research Database or NARCIS <http://www.narcis.nl/?Language=en>

is the gateway to scholarly information in the Netherlands. This is a database consisting of scientific research from Universities only. Only a small part of the research on youth issues is however being placed here. Therefore a more direct complementary access to national and regional research on youth issues is

NOJO- the Netherlands Youth Institute database on Research and Studies in the field of Youth and upbringing. (Nederlands Onderzoek Jeugd en Opvoeding) for researchers, policy makers and others who professionally work with or for children and young people. It is online accessible in Dutch <http://www.nji.nl/eCache/DEF/50/376.html>

This database covers Dutch information about current research and short description of reports (summaries) of published research and studies. A variety of subjects are covered; youth health care, pedagogical approaches in the youth (welfare) field, education, parenting support, specialized youth care issues, active (youth) citizenship and others. The main focus is on research of risk factors, effective interventions, instruments and all other aspects that involve (further) professionalization of those working with and for children and young people and their families.

This database is being kept up-to-date in close collaboration with the work done on the database of Effective Interventions in the Youth Field (see also Chapter 7)

<http://www.youthpolicy.nl/yp/Youth-Policy/Youth-Policy-subjects/Netherlands-Youth-Institute-Effective-youth-interventions>

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

None. The abovementioned databases in 3.6. realize access to the most relevant researches and studies in the children- and youth field in the Netherlands and include the most relevant researchers to contact.

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

- **PEYR – Pool Experts Youth Research** is an international research network on the area of youth.

- **Eurochild** is not a research network per se, but Eurochild does work with researchers in an European context.

### **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 Netherlands Youth Institute, described in Chapter 3.2, is a permanent national network for knowledge that links all actors in the field. It is an expert centre that connects scientific research to the practitioners' need for knowledge and that works closely together with Dutch governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Netherlands Youth Institute can be contacted by the following form:

<http://www.youthpolicy.nl/yp/Youth-Policy/About-us/Netherlands-Youth-Institute-Contact-us-Contact-us>. The Netherlands Youth Institute is responsible for providing the knowledge for this information sheet.

## **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:**

There is no measure undertaken that we are aware of. Sometimes the Youth in Action Programme can facilitate some funding if this is relevant and concretely linked to the goals and activities within the programme.

## **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 earlier described CBS (Statistics Netherlands) and Youth monitor both provide updated statistics on youth (see chapter 3.5).

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

#### **On national level**

The CBS produced the annual report of the Youth Monitor in 2012. In this report statistics on youth from 0 to 25 are shown on the following five areas: youth and family, health and wellbeing, education, labor market and safety and justice. More information on this report can be found at: <http://www.cbs.nl/nl-NL/menu/themas/arbeid-sociale-zekerheid/publicaties/publicaties/archief/2012/2012-g93-pub.htm>, information in Dutch.

#### **On regional level**

None

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

There are a number of journals and youth research reviews published, such as:

Name: Jeugdbeleid

Publishers: Yulma Perk and Bohn Stafleu van Loghum

Published: Each season

Contents: Youth policy, local youth policy and youth care, international developments on youth policy.

Name: Zorg en welzijn

Publishers: Ben Konings

Published: Each month

Contents: Zorg en welzijn is a magazine for professionals working in the social field. Zorg en welzijn can be translated as care and wellness.

Name: Jeugd en co

Publishers: Bohn Stafleu van Loghum

Published: six times a year

Contents: Protection of youth, youth care, research in the field of youth

Name: Jeugdkennis (digital magazine)

Publishers: Netherlands Youth Institute

Published: regularly articles, columns, interviews and rubrics on the youth sector are published on [www.jeugdkennis.nl](http://www.jeugdkennis.nl), information in Dutch.

Contents: knowledge that is relevant for practice in the youth sector

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

The priority themes in the field of youth research are: youth with behavioral problems, vulnerable youth, youth who drop out, depression among youth, youth participation, youth at the labour market and education.

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

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

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

Name: National Youth Monitor (see Chapter 3.5)

Language of the database content and interface: Dutch and English

Type of content: information on the situation of young people in the Netherlands on the areas health and welfare, education, justice and labor.

Accessibility: the database is freely accessible

Provider: Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Update: each year

Link: <http://jeugdmonitor.cbs.nl/en-GB/menu/home/default.htm>

Name: Narcis (National Academic Research and Collaborations Information System)

Language of the database content and interface: Dutch and English

Type of content: publications, theses, data sets, research, people, organisations and enhanced publications.

Accessibility: the database is freely accessible

Provider: DANS (Data Archiving Networked Services)

Update: on a daily base

Link: [www.narcis.nl](http://www.narcis.nl), information in Dutch

Name: DEI (Database Effective Interventions)

Language of the database content and interface: Dutch

Type of content: evidence-based interventions on education and growing up

Accessibility: the database is freely accessible

Provider: NJI

Update: each three months

Link: <http://www.nji.nl/jeugdinterventies>

Name: Netherlands Youth Institute Database on youth research and youth studies

Language of the database and interface: Dutch

Type of content: research on youth and education

Accessibility: the database is freely accessible

Provider: NJI commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Update: new studies are added continuously, and each 1,5 year it is checked if the studies in the database are completed.

Link: [www.nji.nl/onderzoek](http://www.nji.nl/onderzoek)

## **6.2. Other**

None

## **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.

### *Youth Monitor*

The Youth Monitor is an instrument to keep track of relevant policy areas in the field of youth at national and local level. Within the Youth Monitor there is unity in language and figures. The Youth Monitor reports therefore offers necessary in-depth visibility on the situation of young people in the Netherlands and the opportunity to recognize new developments in the situation of young people.

### *Database of Effective Youth Interventions*

The Database of Effective Youth Interventions is developed by the Netherlands Youth Institute. When introducing new methods the database supports in choosing on what works and what does not, based on evidence based practices. The interventions are focused on vulnerable youth. The intention of the database is to help youth care services and there professionals to improve the quality and effectiveness of their work. The database gives professionals, policy makers, researchers and financiers information on effective youth interventions carried out in the Netherlands. All interventions in the database have been assessed by the national Youth Intervention Admissions Committee using stringent criteria and have been acknowledged as effective interventions. The database holds information on interventions whose effectiveness has either been demonstrated by effect studies in the Netherlands, or for which this effectiveness can be assumed on solid theoretical grounds. This also applies to interventions developed outside the Netherlands which have proved to be effective over there. The database is publicly accessible on the website [www.nji.nl/jeugdinterventies](http://www.nji.nl/jeugdinterventies) - the information in the database is in Dutch.