

Youth Partnership

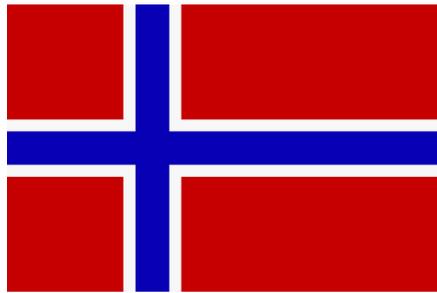
Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



Information sheet

BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH

Norway



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Promotion and support of youth research	2
2. Legal basis for an evidence-based approach to youth policy	2
3. Structures and actors that play a role in gaining a better knowledge of young people.....	2
3.1. Departments in universities gathering knowledge on youth.....	2
3.2. Major public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth research, public companies included	3
3.3. NGOs gathering knowledge on youth.....	4
3.4. Private companies dealing with youth research.....	5
3.5. Statistical offices that collect statistics on youth	6
3.6. Directory of national youth researchers	6
3.7. National research networks on youth	6
3.8. Transnational networks on youth with relevance for national networks.....	6
3.9. Knowledge networks supporting youth policy.....	7
4. Promotion and support to youth researchers and other actors who work towards a better knowledge of youth	7
5. Publications and accessible data in the youth field/on youth	7
5.1. Data collections which provide updated statistics on youth (public and private).....	7
5.2. Regular youth reports	8
5.3. National journals and reviews on youth research.....	9
5.4. According to publications and recent data collections: what are priority themes in the field of youth research in your country	9
6. IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field.....	9
6.1. Web-Portals and online databases on a better understanding of youth	9
6.2. Other	10
7. Good practice related to fostering a better knowledge of youth	10

1. Promotion and support of youth research

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

In 2011, all 12 ministries in the Norwegian government published a collective investment plan titled

"Investing in Children and Youth: The goal and investment priorities of the government budget 2011"

http://www.regjeringen.no/pages/2354308/Satsing_paa_barn_og_ungdom_2011_web.pdf , which lists the first priority as research and knowledge development on children and youth (in Norwegian only).

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?

N.A.

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

- **University of Oslo:** Faculty of Medicine (Det medisinske fakultet) www.med.uio.no, Department of Psychology (Psykologisk institutt) and Department of Sociology and Human Geography (Institutt for sosiologi og samfunnsgeografi) at Faculty of Social Sciences www.sv.uio.no, Faculty of Educational Sciences (Det utdanningsvitenskapelige fakultet) www.uv.uio.no .
- **University of Tromsø:** Department of Education (Institutt for pedagogikk og lærerutdanning) <http://en.uit.no/inenglish> .
- **University College of Oslo and Akershus** (Høgskolen i Oslo og Akershus) www.hioa.no
- **Volda University College** (Høgskolen i Volda) www.hivolda.no
- **Lillehammer University College** (Høgskolen i Lillehammer): BUK - Research Centre for Children' and Youth's Capacity Development (Forskningscenter for barns og unges kompetanseutvikling) www.hil.no/hil/buk
- **Telemark University College** (Høgskolen i Telemark) www.hit.no
- **Vestfold University College** (Høgskolen i Vestfold) www.hive.no
- **Agder University College** (Høgskolen i Agder) www.hia.no
- **University of Trondheim** (NTNU, NOSEB - Norsk senter for barneforskning) www.ntnu.no/barneforskning

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

The Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion (www.regjeringen.no) is the ministry responsible for youth, which often commissions research on early development and living conditions of children and youth, the social and political participation of children and young people, Norwegian implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children.

Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Barne-, ungdoms og familiedirektorat) www.bufetat.no, which conducts or commissions research on child welfare policies and practices, social and psychological development and wellbeing of young people.

NOVA – Norwegian Social Research (www.nova.no) is one of the largest social policy research institutes in Norway, which was established in 1996 under the auspices of the *Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research*. The aim of the institute is to develop knowledge and understanding of social conditions and processes of change. NOVA's *Strategic Plan 2010-2013* defines the institute's prioritised research area to be *Ageing and life courses, comparative welfare, child protection, youth and international migration and transnationality*. NOVA has a highly qualified and multidisciplinary staff of nearly 90 researchers; more than 140 research projects are currently in progress, of which a substantial number are in cooperation with international partners. The *Youth Research Section* at NOVA is to be the central environment of youth research in Norway which includes over 20 researchers with a background of sociology, psychology and anthropology. The main themes of NOVA's youth research include schools, sports, sexuality, violence, problematic behaviours, psychological health, democratic participation, youth culture and media, minority, social inequality, and NEET youth. NOVA has been conducting national and regional youth surveys both cross-sectionally and longitudinally since the early 1990s and has been coordinating UNGDATA (a local community youth survey all over Norway since early 1980s) and the Norwegian Network of Youth Researchers. NOVA also publishes several Norwegian social research journals including the *Norwegian Journal for Youth Research* (Tidsskrift for ungdomsforskning).

Institute for Social Research (ISF) <http://www.samfunnsforskning.no> was established in 1950 as an independent foundation in Oslo. The focus of research includes: working life, gender equality, migration, civil society and democracy.

Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU) www.nifu.no is an independent social science research institute, organised as a non-profit foundation which among others, conduct research on primary and secondary education with main focus on school transition and completion in secondary education.

Fafo (Institute for Labour and Social Research and Institute for Applied International Studies) www.fafo.no was founded by the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions in 1982 and is an independent and multidisciplinary research foundation focusing on social welfare and trade policy, labour and living conditions, public health, migration and integration, and transnational security and development issues. Youth free-time activities, youth culture and migrant youth have been one of the focuses of Fafo's research in recent years.

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) www.fhi.no is a national centre of excellence in the areas of epidemiology, mental health, control of infectious diseases, environmental medicine, forensic toxicology and drug abuse. NIPH manages Norhealth (Norgesshelsa) which collects data from several national health registers and surveys and presents key statistics on health, the prevalence of diseases and risk factors in the Norwegian population both at national and community levels.

http://www.fhi.no/eway/default.aspx?pid=238&trq=MainArea_5811&MainArea_5811=5976:0:15,5012:1:0:0:::0:0 .

The Norwegian Institute for Alcohol and Drug Research (SIRUS) www.sirus.no is since 2001, an independent research institute and an administrative government body under the Ministry of Health and Care Services. SIRUS is responsible for maintaining the statistics database RusStat (updated statistics on alcohol, drugs and tobacco in Norway including information about youth from the age of 15 and above. The institute is the Norwegian focal point for the EU drugs surveillance centre at Lisbon, EMCDDA.

3.3. NGOs gathering knowledge on youth

The Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU) www.lnu.no is an umbrella organisation uniting more than 90 nationwide non-governmental organisations for children and youth. The LNU represents youth in relation with authorities and other significant institutions by working closely with the Norwegian government to promote the interests of member organisations. The LNU works on issues such as improving economic conditions for children and youth organisations, simplifying and 'de-bureaucratising' interactions between the state and the child and youth domain, promoting rights and decision power of young people and improving living conditions of children and young people in Norway and internationally. Besides publishing an annual report of youth organisations in Norway

<http://www.lnu.no/sitefiles/1/dokumenter/rapporter/2012/Resultatrapport2012.pdf> , LNU also publishes reports on different issues that are relevant to its work, for example, a report on the annual delegation visit of LNU to the United Nations published in 2012 titled "Addressing the world" (På verdas talarstol)

[http://www.lnu.no/sitefiles/1/dokumenter/rapporter/2012/Addressingtheworld\(english\).pdf](http://www.lnu.no/sitefiles/1/dokumenter/rapporter/2012/Addressingtheworld(english).pdf) to argue for the rights of youth in influencing issues that concern them, a report on youth participation in regional and

national parliament elections and trial voting of 16 years olds in regional election in 2011 titled “My vote” (Min stemme) <http://www.lnu.no/sitefiles/1/dokumenter/rapporter/2011/MinstemmeLNUrapport.pdf> .

The national youth club organisation: Ungdom & Fritid (Youth & Free-time) www.ungogfri.no is a national, non-profit organisation which has over 600 youth clubs, 50 000 youth clubs. The organisation arranges seminars and courses within the field of youth work – both for young people as well as for professionals and volunteers. The organisation aims to produce relevant literature and to coordinate and upgrade education for professional youth workers in order to increase both the quality and status of their profession. Publications of the organisation include, for example, ‘Club survey 2008 – facts on clubs’ http://www.ungogfri.no/filestore/skiemaer_og_andre_pdfer/Faktaomklubb_ungdomomfritid_web.pdf reporting on conditions of free-time clubs in Norway.

Norwegian Federation of Youth Organisations of Disabled People (Unge funksjonshemmede) www.ungefunksjonshemmede.no is a coalition of youth organisations for disabled people in Norway founded in 1980. It currently has 32 member organisations with approximately 25 000 members. With the aim to ensure participation and social equality for young people with disabilities and chronic illness, the organisation works to influence policy makers in the society at large and decision makers in educational institutions and working places. The organisation organises annual conference and thematic conferences relevant to disabled youth. Publications include, for example, disabled young people’s vision of health services adapted to young users in 2012 titled “Youth Health 2020” (Ung Helse 2020) <http://translate.google.com/translate?prev=hp&hl=no&u=www.ungefunksjonshemmede.no&sl=no&tl=en> , a report of results of a survey on housing issues for disabled youth in 2012 titled “Disabled living report” (Bolig funksjonshemmede rapport) <http://translate.google.com/translate?prev=hp&hl=no&u=www.ungefunksjonshemmede.no&sl=no&tl=en> , and films of “Reverse discriminations” (Omvendt diskriminering) <http://translate.google.com/translate?prev=hp&hl=no&u=www.ungefunksjonshemmede.no&sl=no&tl=en> .

3.4. Private companies dealing with youth research

As it is not possible to have an overview of private companies dealing with youth research in Norway, here is just an example:

Aleris Group (www.aleris.no) is the largest private health care companies in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Closely collaborate with the public sector, Aleris has operations in hospitals, medical centers, mental health, child welfare and care for elderly and disabled. Cooperating with University in Bergen, Aleris in Norway has currently research projects under Ungplan & BOI on children and youth on trauma and posttrauma under institutional care, music as therapy for children under institutional care, and children born with alcohol damages.

General Electric (G.E.) Healthcare <http://www.genorge.no> finances a two year research project of 'Young people and political extremism in Norway' <http://www.nova.no/id/25379.0> , conducted by Youth Research Section at NOVA.

3.5. Statistical offices that collect statistics on youth

Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå) www.ssb.no collects data every year about living conditions in the general population. The sample includes youth from the age of 16 and above. Topics that are covered include household income, health, relations with friends, leisure activities and the use of alcohol.

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) www.fhi.no collects data from several national health registers and surveys and presents key statistics on health, the prevalence of diseases and risk factors in the Norwegian population both at national and community levels.

http://www.fhi.no/eway/default.aspx?pid=238&trg=MainArea_5811&MainArea_5811=5976:0:15,5012:1:0:0:::0:0 .

The Norwegian Institute for Alcohol and Drug Research (SIRUS) www.sirus.no is responsible for maintaining the statistics database RusStat (updated statistics on alcohol, drugs and tobacco in Norway including information about youth from the age of 15 and above. The institute is the Norwegian focal point for the EU drugs surveillance centre at Lisbon, EMCDDA.

3.6. Directory of national youth researchers

Youth Research Section at NOVA – *Norwegian Social Research* organises the Network of Youth Researchers (Nettverk for ungdomsforskning). See the list of youth researchers in Norway at: http://www.nova.no/asset/6281/1/6281_1.pdf . The contact person at NOVA is Dr. Kristinn Hegna (Email: khe@nova.no).

3.7. National research networks on youth

The Network of Youth Researchers consists of people from various universities, university colleges and research institutes. Most of them are either located at the Youth Research Section at NOVA or closely collaborate with youth researchers at NOVA. They communicate both formally and informally several times a year in different groups or on different themes.

3.8. Transnational networks on youth with relevance for national networks

Norway takes part in Youth in Action Programme <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth> , the European Knowledge Centre of Youth Policy (EKCY) and the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) at 'EU-CoE Youth Partnership', <http://www.youthpartnership.net/youth-partnership/ekcyp/index>

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.

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

To facilitate the communication between research, practice and policy.

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

The Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU) and www.lnu.no is a permanent organisation that arranges annual seminars on issues related to children and youth, usually cooperating with the Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion (the ministry responsible for youth), and the Youth Research Section at NOVA (as the contact point of the Network of Youth Researchers). Such seminars are open for youth policy makers, youth organisations, youth workers, researchers and young people. In addition, having developed to be the major funding source of social research, the Norwegian Research Council only finance projects that include stakeholders (such as practitioners and policy makers) in the disseminations of the research results. This policy has resulted in many youth research projects with practitioners and policy makers on the advisory board during project implementations and in seminars and conferences of results disseminations.

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

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

Statistics Norway (Statistisk Sentralbyrå) provides a webpage with statistics about youth. The website is publicly available and free of charge and contains updated information on a broad range of topics: health, living conditions, schooling, and leisure time activities. The information is available in English and other languages. See www.ssb.no

Ungdata <http://www.ungdata.no/id/22414> is a local community youth monitoring system which conduct youth questionnaire survey among secondary schools (youth ages between 13-19). The core themes of the questionnaire include parents and friends, school and future, free time, physical and psychological health, tobacco and substance abuse, risky behaviour and violence. The *Ungdata* has its secretariat based in *Youth Research Section at NOVA* <http://www.nova.no/id/37.0> collaborating with seven regional competence centres on substance abuse ([KoRus Vest Bergen](#), [KoRus Vest Stavanger](#), [KoRus Midt-Norge](#), [KoRus Øst](#), [KoRus](#)

[Sør](#), [KoRus Nord](#), [KoRus Oslo](#)), and financed by the *Norwegian Health Directorate, Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion, Ministry of Justice and Public Security* ([Helsedirektoratet](#), [Barne-, likestillings-, og inkluderingsdepartementet](#) og [Justis- og beredskapsdepartementet](#)). The national database of all Ungdata surveys, managed by *Youth Research Section at NOVA*, has data collected in 2011 and 2012 from 31,000 young people from 60 communities.

Each year *Ungdata* announce the call for community participants in the youth survey, each year around 30 of the 429 communities in Norway will decide to participate in the survey and the participant communities will have direct access to the data of their communities respectively. Through mapping of the local oppbring situation of young people, *Ungdata* has become a basis for municipal planning and development related to public health, school and risk prevention for young people. Thus *Ungdata* functions also as the platform where research, practice and policy making meet each other and work together on youth issues.

5.2. Regular youth reports

On national level

The Ministry for Children and Equality issues an annual report each January on fiscal budget appropriations to programmes for children and young people (not available in English). For example, "Investing in Children and Youth: The goal and investment priorities of the government budget 2011"

http://www.regjeringen.no/pages/2354308/Satsing_paa_barn_og_ungdom_2011_web.pdf ,

Statistics Norway publishes annually statistics and reports in every aspect of the society including children and youth. <http://www.ssb.no/emner/02/barnogunge> . For example, Rapport 2012/12 reports indicators of children and young people's physical and social environment conditions in Norway in 2011 and factors that can affect children and young people's health. (abstract is in English

http://www.ssb.no/emner/03/01/rapp_201212/rapp_201212.pdf)

In addition, the annual report of the *Norwegian Children and Youth Council* (LNU) www.lnu.no , is also a good source of youth statistics on youth NGOs.

NOVA – Norwegian Social Research always publishes first results of national and/or regional youth surveys as NOVA Rapport and NOVA Notat. For example, NOVA Rapport 10/12 (2012)

<http://nova.no/id/26151.0?language=1> gives an account of following Norwegian adolescents (age 15) who were involving in sports and physical exercise into their adulthood. NOVA Notat 7/12 (2012)

http://nova.no/asset/6066/1/6066_1.pdf reports key statistics of a youth survey in Oslo covering aspects of 13-19 year olds' home, school and free time conditions, activities, habits, health and attitudes.

The Norwegian Journal of Youth Research (Tidsskrift for ungdomsforskning) www.ungdomsforskning.no, two issues each year, has always a section of 'new numbers about youth' (Nye tall om ungdom) which usually presents the newest statistics of youth on various themes from different researchers around the country. For example, newest numbers in issue nr.2-2011 are on gender difference in youth's sports participation and training activities while the newest numbers in issue nr.1-2011 are on youth snow scooting in North of Norway and associated risks and accidents.

On regional level

N.A.

5.3. National journals and reviews on youth research

The Norwegian Journal of Youth Research (Tidsskrift for ungdomsforskning) www.ungdomsforskning.no presents a broad range of youth research. An important aim is to make youth research more accessible to people outside academia. In addition to youth researchers, target groups include people who work with young people, policy makers, researchers, students and the media. All articles are written in a Scandinavian language, occasionally also in English. Contact details: Postboks 3223 Elisenberg, 0208 Oslo. Tel: + 47 22 54 12 00, fax: 22 54 12 01 e-mail: redaksjon@ungdomsforskning.no.

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

In 2011 and 2012, youth research publications are mainly on issues: educational choice and school transition, mental health, self injury behaviours among youth, sports participation and engagement, youth political participation and e-participation, minority youth, drinking and smoking, school dropouts, and NEET youth.

6. IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

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

Besides all the research institutions (see 5.2) and projects and relevant government organisations (see 3.5) have their own webpage to communicate with others of their research results, Ungdata <http://www.ungdata.no/id/22422.0?all=1&id=22422&subid=0> presents various publications since 1997 which use community youth data.

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

6.2. Other

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

There are both formal and informal contacts between youth researchers, government ministries and youth NGOs. Most of these contact are a consequence of research projects initiated by the government. Two examples in 2012:

1. Responding to the policy concerns at European level regarding NEET youth in Europe, the Nordic Children and Youth Committee (NORDUK), the Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion and research institute of NOVA – Norwegian Social Research arrange a Nordic conference on NEET Youth (Ungdom utenfor) in Oslo, October 11-12, 2012. The conference invites policy makers, researchers and youth work practitioners to discuss and exchange practices on the issue. <http://nova.no/id/25561>
2. The Norwegian Youth Council (LNU) invites policy makers and practitioners to a seminar on September 26-27 in Oslo, where researchers will present study results from the Nordic countries on 'Youth, Democracy and Participation in Northern Europe'.
<http://www.lnu.no/aktuelt/nyheter/ungdom-demokrati-og-deltakelse-i-norden>