

## 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 SWEDEN



Last updated: 8th of January 2013  
By: Sofie Kindahl

## Table of Contents

<b>1. Promotion and support of youth research .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Legal basis for an evidence-based approach to youth policy .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Structures and actors that play a role in gaining a better knowledge of young people ..</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.1. Departments in universities gathering knowledge on youth .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.2. Major public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth research, public companies included .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.3. NGOs gathering knowledge on youth .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.4. Private companies dealing with youth research .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.5. Statistical offices that collect statistics on youth .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.6. Directory of national youth researchers .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.7. National research networks on youth .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.8. Transnational networks on youth with relevance for national networks .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.9. Knowledge networks supporting youth policy .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4. Promotion and support to youth researchers and other actors who work towards a better knowledge of youth .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. Publications and accessible data in the youth field/on youth .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5.1. Data collections which provide updated statistics on youth (public and private) .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5.2. Regular youth reports .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5.3. National journals and reviews on youth research .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5.4. According to publications and recent data collections: what are priority themes in the field of youth research in your country .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6. IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6.1. Web-Portals and online databases on a better understanding of youth .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6.2. Other .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>7. Good practice related to fostering a better knowledge of youth .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## 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 Government has given the commission to promote the accumulation of knowledge and coordinate research on children and youth (including child and adolescent health) to the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (FAS - [Forskningsrådet för arbetsliv och socialvetenskap](#)). The Council was established in 2001 through a merger of the Swedish Council for Social Research and the Swedish Council for Work Life Research.

The Council works to promote and support basic and applied research, identify important research needs, keep a dialogue and dissemination of information and transfer of knowledge and promote a cooperation between researchers both nationally and internationally, particularly in EU programmes.

The Council's support for research takes various forms. The main one is grants for projects. Proposals are submitted by researchers and their scientific merit and societal relevance are assessed through a peer review process. To stimulate research within specific areas the Council may award longer period grants to research programmes at academic departments of excellence. The council also creates research positions at Swedish universities and provides grants for visiting researchers as well as scholarships for post-doc studies abroad.

## 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?

There is no separate law or regulation within national legislation that regulates this evidence-based approach. Although the National Board for Youth Affairs ([Ungdomsstyrelsen](#)) are responsible for the follow-up and analysis of young people's life situation within the main areas of the Youth Policy. The policy is followed-up by two annual published reports *Focus* and *Youth today*, as well as a recurring attitude and value survey *Young people with attitude*. For more information see section 5.2.

*The Swedish national Youth Policy is set by the Government and the Parliament (Riksdag) and the mission of the policy is to create prerequisites for young people (13-25 years) to live good lives. The two main goals are that all young people are to have genuine access to welfare and genuine access to influence, chiefly in the five areas education and training, work and self-support, health and vulnerability, influence and representation and culture and leisure-time*

### 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

Youth research is a cross-disciplinary area, meaning that youth related research might take place at a number of universities. This does however not necessarily mean that the universities and researchers classify their research as “youth research”.

On the webpage of [Swedish National Agency for Higher Education](#) all Swedish universities and research institutes are listed. Some examples of universities with youth departments are:

##### **Örebro University ([Örebro universitet](#))**

**Department:** [Youth & Society - YeS](#), Faculty of Social Science

**Coordinator of steering group:** [Erik Amnå](#), Professor in Political Science

*YeS is a multidisciplinary research unit for the study of young people's development in social and societal context. The unit is composed of two major centers and other affiliated researchers. The two centers are CDR, the Center for Developmental Research, which largely comprises developmental psychologists, and CIVIC, the Center for Studies of Civic Engagement, which largely comprises political scientists and researchers in media and communication.*

##### **[The Academy on the Rights of the Child](#)**

*The Academy on the Rights of the Child was initiated by Örebro University (with financial support from the Ministry of Social Affairs during the start up years 2007-2009) with a mission to offer academic courses and in-service training on children's rights and the implementation and monitoring of the UNCRC.*

##### **Malmö University ([Malmö högskola](#))**

**Department:** [Barn-unga-samhälle \(BUS\) / Children-youth-society](#), Faculty of Learning and Society

**Director of department:** prefect [Jonas Qvarsebo](#)

*The department of Barn-unga-samhälle (BUS) carries out education, research and cooperation focused on childhood and learning.*

##### **Göteborg University ([Göteborgs universitet](#))**

**Department:** Cross-disciplinary [Youth research](#), mainly at the Department of Social Work

**Most publications by:** senior lecturer [Torbjörn Forkby](#), Dept of Social Work

##### **Stockholm University ([Stockholms universitet](#))**

**Department:** [Department of Child and Youth Science](#), Faculty of Social Sciences

**Head of Department:** professor [Ann-Christin Cederborg](#)

*The department comprises of the following four units:*

- 1) Centre for the Studies of Children's Culture
- 2) Child and Youth Studies (BUVA)
- 3) Early Childhood Education (FDID)
- 4) Education, informal learning, school-age educare and leisure (FRIA)

##### **Uppsala University ([Uppsala Universitet](#))**

**Department:** [Child and Youth studies, Department of Education](#)

**Scientific leader:** professor [Peter Waara](#)

*Research at Child and Youth Studies at the Department of Education are conducted within educational and sociological perspectives where we build upon theoretical and methodological traditions in ethnography, statistics and historical perspectives.*

**Linnaeus University ([Linneuniversitetet](#))**

**Department:** [The Centre for Cultural Sociology \(CCS\)](#)

**Co-director of research at CCS:** [Mats Trondman](#), professor in cultural sociology at the Department of Pedagogy, Psychology and Sport Science

*The Centre for Cultural Sociology aims to uncover the living conditions of children and young people of today. Their individual and shared feelings and experiences are related to larger social processes.*

**Linköping University ([Linköpings Universitet](#))**

**Department:** [Department of Thematics Studies - Child Studies](#)

**Department manager:** [Bengt Sandin](#), Professor at the University of Linköping

*Founded in 1988, the Department of Child Studies is an interdisciplinary research unit at the Linköping University in Sweden. The main focus of research is on children and childhood. The faculty, as well as all doctoral students have been recruited on a nationwide basis from history, anthropology, psychology, linguistics, social work, and related fields.*

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

**The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs ([Ungdomsstyrelsen](#))**

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs is a government agency that works to ensure that young people have access to influence and welfare.

**Research and Development (Forskning och Utveckling, FoU)**

FoU:s are regional meeting points or departments for research and practice within organizations. The purpose is to create learning regions and organizations and to strengthen the development of knowledge within the welfare area by making experiences and existing knowledge visible, by developing new knowledge and by exposing good practices.

**FoU West (FoU i Väst):**

[FoU-reports on children, youth and family](#)

[FoU-papers on children, youth and family](#)

**For more FoU units, see:**

[www.researchweb.org](http://www.researchweb.org)

**Institute for Future Studies ([Institutet för Framtidsstudier](#))**

The Institute for Futures Studies is an independent research foundation. The Institute for Futures Studies conducts advanced research within the social sciences. The Institute's task is to promote a future-oriented perspective in Swedish research, and to use and develop appropriate theories and methods.

**The Ombudsman for Children ([Barnombudsmannen](#))**

The Ombudsman for Children in Sweden disseminates information and educational materials on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its implementation (the publications are only available for downloading). There are plenty of [reports](#) to download.

### **National authorities**

National authorities with statistics on certain fields (each of them reporting indicators concerning youth to the annual study *Youth Today* presented by the National Board for Youth Affairs);

**The Swedish National Agency for Education (*Skolverket*)**

Website: [www.skolverket.se](http://www.skolverket.se)

**Swedish Public Employment Service (*Arbetsförmedlingen*).**

Website: [www.arbetsformedlingen.se](http://www.arbetsformedlingen.se)

**The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (*Brottsförebyggande rådet, BRÅ*)**

Website: [www.bra.se](http://www.bra.se)

**The Swedish National Institute of Public Health (*Statens folkhälsoinstitut, FHI*)**

Website: [www.fhi.se](http://www.fhi.se)

**National Board of Health and Welfare (*Socialstyrelsen*)**

Website: [www.socialstyrelsen.se](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se)

**The central agency for study grants and loans (*Centrala studiestödsnämnden, CSN*)**

Website: [www.csn.se](http://www.csn.se)

**The social insurance office (*Försäkringskassan*)**

Website: [www.forsakringskassan.se](http://www.forsakringskassan.se)

**Swedish National Agency for Higher Education (*Högskoleverket*)**

Website: [www.hogskoleverket.se](http://www.hogskoleverket.se)

**Swedish Arts Council (*Kulturrådet*)**

Website: <http://www.kulturradet.se>

**Swedish Enforcement Authority (*Kronofogdemyndigheten*)**

Website: [www.kronofogden.se](http://www.kronofogden.se)

### **3.3. NGOs gathering knowledge on youth**

**The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations**

**(*Landsrådet för Sveriges Ungdomsorganisationer, LSU*)**

A coordinating body for 73 Swedish youth organisations. It aims at constituting a forum for matters of common interest in youth organisations and providing a network for national as well as international organisations dealing with youth cooperation.

**Save the Children Sweden (*Rädda barnen Sverige*)**

Save the Children Sweden is a non-governmental organization, which fights for children's rights by gathering and disseminating knowledge. They publish an annual report on [Child poverty](#) and in 2011 they also published the report *Young Voice 2011* ([Ung Röst 2011](#)) based on a survey with 25 000 pupils in 6th, 8th and 10th grade with questions related to the critic that Sweden was given by the United Nations committee on the Rights of the Child.

**The Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs**

**(*Centralförbundet för alkohol- och narkotikaupplysning, CAN*)**

CAN is a non-governmental organization whose main tasks are to follow the drug trends in Sweden and to inform the public and educate professionals on alcohol and other drugs. They publish national reports and surveys, run web sites for different target groups, publish a periodical magazine, arrange trainings and conferences.

CAN conducts a yearly nation-wide school survey on alcohol and other drugs among students in year nine and eleven. The results from the survey are published in a report called *Alcohol and Drug Use Among Students* (*Skolelevers drogvanor*).

CAN also conducts regional and local school surveys upon requests from municipalities and regions.

CAN is also the coordinator of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD), a study with data on more than 100 000 students. The survey is conducted every four years. The most recent report is on 35 countries in 2007.

### 3.4. Private companies dealing with youth research

There are two companies that conduct yearly surveys, mainly in the field of youth attitudes. They present the results in a number of yearly reports on different topics relating to youth;

#### **The Youth Barometer ([Ungdomsbarometern](#))**

Ungdomsbarometern is a Swedish consultancy specializing in Nordic youth behavior, delivering insights that impact strategic decision-making.

#### **[Kairos Future](#)**

Kairos Future is an international consulting and research company that helps companies and business leaders to understand and shape their futures. They work as consultants for strategic futures, providing trend analysis and scenario planning, strategy and innovation, strategic change and capability development.

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

#### **Statistics Sweden ([Statistiska centralbyrån](#))**

The central government authority for official statistics and other government statistics

#### **The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs ([Ungdomsstyrelsen](#))**

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs is a government agency that works to ensure that young people have access to influence and welfare. The board presents the annual report Youth Today collecting statistics and indicators from a number of other government agencies.

#### **The Ombudsman for Children ([Barnombudsmannen](#))**

The Ombudsman for Children has a web-based follow-up system called [Max18](#), that displays statistics and information that makes it possible to follow up the implementation of the CRC in Sweden. Max18 was developed on commission from the government in December 2009. The statistics shown on Max18 are produced by several different agencies. Statistics Sweden, SCB, collects and delivers all the published statistics.

### 3.6. Directory of national youth researchers

#### **FAS - The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research ([Forskningsrådet för arbetsliv och socialvetenskap](#))**

Responsible for coordinating Swedish child and youth research and to stimulate communication and cooperation between different actors in the field. Please refer to the [FAS grants database](#) on research projects in the youth field. Research secretary: [Ulla Kihlblom](#)

#### **Publications and reports:**

[Youth research in Sweden, 2000-2008](#) (FAS 2009). Author: Prof. Peter Waara, Uppsala University and Stefan Ekenberg, Luleå University of Technology (available from FAS on request)

[Youth research in Sweden, 1995-2001. An evaluation report](#). (FAS 2003) Authors: Jan O. Jonsson, Helena Helve, Lars Wichström

[Summary of the support to child and youth research in 2009](#) (in Swedish)

### 3.7. National research networks on youth

See previous, 3.6.

For more information on names of smaller networks refer to Bilaga 4 in *Outline and analysis of the need for knowledge exchange between youth researchers and practicians* ([Kartläggning och analys av behovet av kunskapsutbyte mellan ungdomsforskare och praktiker](#) - report in Swedish).

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

#### Nordic Youth Research Information (NYRI) network

A nordic network for youth researchers publishing *Young* - a unique scholarly journal for youth research and forms part of the Nordic Youth Research Information (NYRI) network. Since 1987 the network also arranges the bi-annual [Nordic Youth Research Symposiums \(NYRIS\)](#) - the leading youth research conference within the Nordic countries.

NYRIS conferences have had a crucial role both in the formation of the multidisciplinary field of youth research and in the theoretical and methodological development. In 2006 23 percent of the presented papers had Swedish addresses in 2008 the share was 14 percent.

### 3.9. Knowledge networks supporting youth policy

#### Is there a permanent national network for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field?

No there is no permanent official network of this sort. However there are many informal networks linking research, policy and practice both on national, regional and local level. An example of a more formal network is described below:

#### KiD – Knowledge Development in Dialogue

KiD is a partnership for connecting research and practice in Youth Work and meeting places for young people. Main objectives of the partnership are development of methods and competence, policy and quality work and the needs of young people. The partners are the national representatives of authorities, education and research in youth work and the civil society; Association of schools of leisure work, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Universities, FoU i Väst/GR, The Swedish Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres and associated member is The National Board of Youth Affairs.

Contact: [hans-martin.hansen@folkbildning.net](mailto:hans-martin.hansen@folkbildning.net)

## 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

See 3.6.

The National Board for Youth Affairs ([Ungdomsstyrelsen](#)) organises an annual national youth policy conference, Rikskonferensen, where policy makers, youth workers/practitioners and researchers meet to discuss and learn about different aspects of youth policy. The conference gathers almost 900

participants and the theme of the conference in 2012 (Stockholm, 28-29 November ) was the living conditions of young people with disabilities. Contact person: [Anna Bohman](#)

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

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

See 3.5.

### 5.2. Regular youth reports

#### On national level

As a part of the follow up of the national youth policy The National Board for Youth Affairs ([Ungdomsstyrelsen](#)) produces two yearly reports; *Youth Today* and *Focus*.

#### **Youth today (Ung i dag)**

Presenting statistics and analysis of results relevant for the youth policy. Based on indicators received from 12-15 different government agencies.

#### **Focus (Fokus)**

An in-depth study focusing on one specific youth policy field such as health, labour market, youth with disabilities, housing, gender equality etc.

#### **Young people with attitude (Attityd- och värderingsstudien)**

A recurring attitude and value survey carried out by the National Board on Youth Affairs around every five years. The latest survey was done in 2007 and focused on 6 000 persons in the age-range of 16-29 years and 1 500 in the age-range of 35-74 years. An upto date report will be presented in 2013.

#### **The Ombudsman for Children ([Barnombudsmannen](#))**

The Ombudsman for Children in Sweden disseminates information and educational materials on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its implementation. Every year the Ombudsman writes a report to the Government with analyzes and recommendations on improvements for children and youth. The Ombudsman also presents updated [statistics](#) on children and youth and produces yearly [publications](#) on different topics concerning young people.

#### **Living Conditions Surveys, ULF/SILC ([Undersökningarna av levnadsförhållanden](#))**

The Swedish Living Conditions Surveys (produced by Statistics Sweden) give you information on living conditions among different groups in Swedish society. The areas covered include housing, income, health, leisure, civic activities, social relationships, employment and security.

Because a number of the questions are the same as those in surveys of other EU countries, it is possible to make comparisons with other countries within the EU. The information for the Living Conditions Survey is collected via telephone interviews with a sample of the Swedish population aged 16 and older.

#### **Living Conditions Survey of Children, Barn-ULF ([Undersökningarna av barns levnadsförhållanden](#))**

The Living Conditions Survey of Children (produced by Statistics Sweden) provides a picture of the everyday life of children. The children who we interview are 10–18 years old and have been chosen because one of the parents in the household has been interviewed in the Living Conditions Survey.

The children are asked how they feel, their situation in school, what they do in their spare time and about their relationships with friends, parents, teachers and other adults. The answers can then be

linked to the information submitted by the adults in the household, such as the parents' occupations, education and living conditions.

### **The BRIS Report ([BRIS-rapporten](#))**

The BRIS Report is the Children's Rights in Society annual report on calls, chats and e-mails to the Children's Helpline, the BRIS-mail and the BRIS-chat. Being BRIS' main advocating tool in the work for Children's rights in Sweden, the BRIS Report aims to mediate children's voices by presenting the major trends from the last year's contacts. The content is covered through figures and analyses, as well as by short examples from calls and mails. Common and focal areas are identified and outlined as a platform for BRIS' activities in the coming year, in 2012 Mental illness being the main theme.

### **On regional level**

N/A

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

### **[LOCUS](#)**

LOCUS is a multi-disciplinary periodical for current research on children and youth. The periodical consists of articles from researchers, reviews and presentations of new literature and dissertations, debate and conference tips. LOCUS is published four times a year, but will no longer be published by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2013. Old issues are available at the website. Publisher is the Department of Child and Youth Studies at Stockholm University.

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

The governmental commissions to the National Board for Youth Affairs has over the last few years focused on e.g LGBT youth, youth with disabilities, sexual exploitation, gender equality and young men, masculinity and violence.

According to the report [Youth research in Sweden, 2000-2008](#) (available from FAS on request) the dominant subjects are behavioral patterns, help structures and health related problems. Academic youth research has among other fields focused on e.g migration, school and education, living conditions of youth in e.g suburbs or rural areas, drug use, identity and the construction of the self image, sexual risk taking etc.

The dominant disciplines in Social Science are Pedagogy, Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, but there is also plenty of youth research in the field of Medicine (the dominant actor is [Karolinska Institutet](#)).

### **For examples of research and researchers, see:**

[Mats Trondman](#), professor in Sociology, Linneaus University

[Elza Dunkels](#), university lecturer at the Dept of Interactive Media and Learning, Umeå University

[Nihad Bunar](#), professor at the Department of Child and Youth Studies, Stockholm University

[Torbjörn Forkby](#), senior lecturer at the department of Social Work, Göteborg University

[Erling Bjurström](#), professor of cultural research, Linköping University

[Anna Angelin](#), ph.D. in Social Work, Lund University

[Peter Waara](#), professor at Department of Education, Uppsala University

[Fanny Ambjörnsson](#), researcher at the Dept of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender studies, Stockholm University

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

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

See 6.1. and 6.2. For further explanations on the web-portals mentioned please refer to previous sections of this document.

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

##### **The National Board of Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*)**

Website: <http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se>

##### **The Ombudsman for Children (*Barnombudsmannen*)**

Website: [www.barnombudsmannen.se/max18](http://www.barnombudsmannen.se/max18)

##### **Statistics Sweden (SCB, *Statistiska centralbyrån*)**

Website: <http://www.scb.se>

##### **Swedish Council for Working life and Social research (FAS, *Forskningsrådet för arbetsliv och socialvetenskap*)**

Website: <http://www.fas.se>

#### **Influential national sites with young people as their target group:**

##### **[UMO.se](http://UMO.se)**

UMO is a national web-based youth friendly clinic for young people aged 13 to 25 years. The purpose of the site is to make it easier for young people to find relevant, current and quality assured information about sex, health and relationships. UMO is dedicated to increase and enhance empowerment and equality in young people's lives. The development of UMO has been financed by the Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality and the operation of the site is financed by the county councils and municipalities. UMO is developed in co-operation with young people in Sweden, youth clinics, school health services, NGOs and professionals working with young people.

##### **[tjejjouren.se](http://tjejjouren.se)**

Tjejjouren.se is a gateway for all young women's empowerment centers in Sweden. Here you can find your nearest center or search among the information texts in the fact database *Girls Guide*. People that identify themselves as young girls can also post questions that will be answered within 48 hours and the site has a blog where young girls get the chance to publish their own contributions.

##### **[LSU.se](http://LSU.se)**

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations is a coordinating body for 73 Swedish youth organisations. It aims at constituting a forum for matters of common interest in youth organisations and providing a network for national as well as international organisations dealing with youth cooperation.

##### **[BRIS.se](http://BRIS.se)**

BRIS (Children's Rights in Society) is an NGO with no party political or religious affiliations that supports children in distress and is a link between children, adults and the community. The goal of BRIS' support services is to strengthen the rights of children and young people and improve their living conditions, which is done with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as a guide. BRIS' shall support vulnerable children and young people in particular, and provide opportunities for children and young people to conduct a dialogue with adults.

## 6.2. Other

All dissertations from Swedish Universities are published with an abstract and searchable on the website <http://www.dissertations.se/>. About half of the serachable disserations are published in their whole as pdf:s on the site.

## 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.

### Lupp - Local follow-up of youth policy

A first step in the process of developing municipal youth policy is to gain knowledge about the situation of young people. Lupp is a method that municipalities in Sweden can use for developing their local youth policy. Carrying out the Lupp survey is a process that takes several months and support for this work among the politicians and officials concerned is therefore essential. The survey is adapted for three different age groups: 13–15 years, 16–18 years and 19–25 years.

Each municipality is responsible for processing the data and analyzing the survey results. The municipality may either do this work internally or hire an external researcher (often in practice attached to a local college or university). The views of various associations, organisations, student councils, youth councils and other youth groups may need to be taken into account when analyzing the material.

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs stores all data and publishes the survey results in a web-based application called WLupp. Here, municipalities, schools, students and other young people can themselves access and analyse the material. The municipality is responsible for producing the final report or a summary and make it available to all those who completed the questionnaire as well as to political decision-makers and municipal administrators, and disseminated through seminars and the local media.