

Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN FINLAND



Last updated: 22/04/2016

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1. Context and principles of national youth policy

1.1 Context of national youth policy

The current Youth Act is the first national act covering both youth work and youth policy . The objectives and values of youth work and youth policy are specified by the Youth Act. In accordance with the Youth Act, the purpose of youth policy is to improve the conditions in which young Finns live. (The Youth Act 72/2006

http://www.minedu.fi/export/sites/default/OPM/Nuoriso/lait_ja_saaedokset/Youth_act_Nuorisolaki_amend_2010_en 3.10.2016).

Currently, Finland's economic situation has weakened, and this affects also young people. Transition to the labour market has become more challenging for many young people. According to the Finnish public authority specifically established for statistics, the Statistics Finland, young people's economic situation measured by income has weakened most, compared to other age groups in the past years (2010–2014).

The Government Programme (2015-) and proposed reductions to State budget have raised a lot of public as well as academic debate. For instance, the Finnish Youth Research society has published a series of academic writings (*'Näkökulma – Nuoruus hallitusohjelmassa'*) concerning youth in the Government programme. 31 researches representing various disciplines participated, and discussed several themes, including education and employment policy, security perspectives and policy impacts on young people's participation and leisure time. There are four main observations. At first, researchers emphasize that the selection of the youth agendas that are highlighted or ignored is based on political prioritization and values. Secondly, the common theme throughout the articles is generation politics: researchers discuss if the intergenerational relationships and the future prospects of young people taken into account by the Government. Thirdly, researchers agree that instead of one Finland there are several versions of Finland within the national state, and political and public debate demonstrate this fact. According to *'Nuoruus hallitusohjelmassa'*, it is extremely important that any radical changes in intergenerational relationships are based on rights, and young people are entitled to all fundamental rights as adults, except the right to vote. (Pekkarinen, Elina & Aapola-Kari, Sinikka. *Nuoruus hallitusohjelmassa*. Finnish Youth Research Network / Finnish Youth Research Society. 2016.)

It is still unclear what these changes mean in practice. However, the government's economic austerity policy will have in the long run several far-reaching consequences for young people and the context of youth policy is changing.

For more information:

The Statistic Finland http://www.stat.fi/index_en.html

The Youth Act (72/2006)
http://www.minedu.fi/export/sites/default/OPM/Nuoriso/lait_ja_saaedoekset/Youth_act_Nuorisolaki_amend_2010_en. 3.10.2016.

Finland, a land of solutions. Strategic Programme of Prime Minister Juha Sipilä's Government.

http://valtioneuvosto.fi/documents/10184/1427398/Ratkaisujen+Suomi_EN_YHDISTETTY_netti.pdf/8d2e1a66-e24a-4073-8303-ee3127bfccac. 3.10.2016.

Pekkarinen, Elina & Aapola-Kari, Sinikka. *Nuoruus hallitusohjelmassa*. Finnish Youth Research Network / Finnish Youth Research Society. 2016. (in Finnish).
<http://www.nuorisotutkimusseura.fi/ajankohtaista/nakokulma>.

1.2. Principles of national youth policy

As mentioned above, the Youth Act specifies the objectives and values of youth policy. According to the Act, the goal of youth policy and youth work is to:

- support young people's growth and independence
- promote young people's active citizenship and social empowerment
- improve young people's growth and living conditions

The implementation of the Act is based on communality, solidarity, equity and equality, multiculturalism and internationalism, healthy life styles and respect of life and the environment.

According to the Youth Act young people in Finland are those under 29 years of age. Each actor operating in the youth field can flexibly target action within this age group. At the same time several specific legislative documents are based on different definitions on youth showing flexibility of the concept. For example, in the Child Welfare Act anyone under 18 years of age is considered to be a child and those aged 18–20 young persons. However, the statutory child benefit is paid only for those under the age of 17.

In addition, several national statistics and programmes target young people but define their target groups in different ways. For instance, youth unemployment usually refers to those aged 15-24. Low-threshold youth service points are supporting and providing personal and individually tailored support for young people under 30 years of age. The Young adults' skills programme administered

by the Ministry for Education and Culture is intended for “young adults” aged 20–29. In the everyday language “young people” are often referred to teenagers.

The Ministry of Education and Culture is the responsible authority for the overall development and coordination of youth policy and youth work at the national level. The government adopts a youth policy development programme every four years. The programme is a cross-sectorial document and its purpose is to strengthen a broad-based child and youth policy. It presents many measures on national, regional and local level. The programme is prepared by the Ministry of Education and Culture in collaboration with other ministries. The most recent programme (2012-) is called Child and Youth Policy Programme (Lapsi ja nuorisopolitiikan kehittämisohjelma).

The Regional State Administrative Agencies are the regional authorities in matters relating to youth work and youth policy. The Ministry of Education and Culture adopts the performance targets for these regional services together with the provincial state office. The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for coordinating youth policy at the national level while the Regional State Administrative Agencies do the same at the regional level. Youth work and youth policy are part of the local authority's responsibilities. The implementation of youth work is the responsibility of local authorities, youth associations and other organisations doing youth work. Youth services may also be produced by local authorities in cooperation.

One of the central ongoing processes in the general field of youth policy is the revision of the Youth Act. In September 2014 the Ministry of Education and Culture set up a working group to prepare a proposal for the revised Youth Act. The working group has left its proposal in November 2015. The proposal of the working group includes updated objectives and several inserts and amendments concerning for instance definition of young people (those aged between 7 and 29) and the duties of state youth-related administrative bodies. The act is to be submitted to the Parliament in 2016 and the aim is that the revised act will enter into force still in 2016.

Revision of the Youth Act has e.g. postponed the preparation of the statutory Youth Development Programme and the implementation of the current programme 2012-2015 has been extended for the year 2016.

For more information:

[*The Youth Act \(72/2006\)*](#)

[*Revision of the Youth Act*](#)

[*Child and Youth Policy Programme*](#)

[*Child Welfare Act 2007/417*](#)

[Good practices of the Young Adults' Skills Programme in Finland \(6.4.2016\)](https://ec.europa.eu/epale/en/blog/good-practices-young-adults-skills-programme-finland)

<https://ec.europa.eu/epale/en/blog/good-practices-young-adults-skills-programme-finland>

Ohjaamo supports and serves young people. Ministry of Employment and the Economy, press release 25.1.2016 http://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/article/-/asset_publisher/ministeri-lindstrom-ohjaamo-tukee-ja-palvelee-nuoria

2. Statistics on young people

According to the Statistics Finland, in the end of December 2015, 982 915 young people aged 15–29 lived in Finland. This is 17,9 percent of the total population (5 487 308). Of these 479 964 were women (8,7 percent of the total population) and 502 951 were men (9,2 percent of the total population).

The population includes 80 325 young people (aged 15–29) who were born outside of Finland (which makes approximately 8.2 percent of the age group). Of these young people, 23 479 were born within the EU (28), which is 29.2 percent of the foreign-born youth population. The number of foreign-born young people in Finland is increasing quite rapidly: in 1990 the number of people in this age group was 19 742 (less than 2 percent of the Finnish youth population). Nevertheless, it must be stressed that this is not the number of young people who have a non-Finnish nationality or a migration background.

Latest data: http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/vaerak/2015/vaerak_2015_2016-04-01_tie_001.fi.html?ad=notify

Source: [Statistics Finland's Web-databases](#)

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

The Ministry in charge of youth affairs is the Ministry of Education and Culture (opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö). Minister of Education and Culture since May 2015 is Ms. Sanni Grahn-Laasonen. The duration of mandate is typically 48 months. <http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/?lang=en>

Youth Department in the Ministry:

- In the Department of Youth and Sport Policy the Division of Youth Work and Youth Policy prepares matters relating to young people, drafts national development plans, and coordinates youth policy in the central government. Chief Director of the Department of Youth and Sport Policy is Mr. Esko Ranto.
- Director responsible for division of Youth Work and Youth Policy is Mr. Georg Henrik Wrede. Number of people working in the division is 11 (2016).
- Contact person in the Division for Youth Work and Youth Policy for European youth policy is Mrs. Seija Astala, Counselor for Cultural Affairs. <http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Nuoriso/?lang=en>

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies:

- The expert bodies assisting the Ministry of Education and Culture in terms of youth affairs are the national Advisory Council for Youth Affairs (NUORA) and the Youth Organisation Subsidy Committee. The former focuses on youth policy, whereas the latter promotes young people's active citizenship by allocating state subsidies to national youth organisations. Secretary General of The Advisory Council for Youth Affairs is Ms. Herttaliisa Tuure (2015-2019), and Secretary General of the Youth Organisation Subsidy Committee (2015-2019) is Sallamaarit Markkanen. Both advisory councils are attached to the Department of Youth and Sport Policy of the Ministry of Education and Culture.
- The Finnish youth policy approach is cross-sectorial, and therefore several ministries are responsible for policy areas concerning young people. These ministries include Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of the Environment
- The Finnish National Board of Education (Opetushallitus) supplies development, evaluation and information services regarding education to owners and managers of schools, teachers, policy makers and working life.

- The Finnish Centre for International Mobility CIMO is an expert and service organization subordinated to the Ministry of Education. It coordinates and manages scholarship and exchange programmes. CIMO is also responsible for implementing nearly all EU education, cultural and youth programmes in Finland.
- The Ombudsman for Children in Finland (Lapsiasiavaltuutettu) monitors the welfare of children and youth and the implementation of their rights. The Ombudsman for Children reports annually to the government on the realization of children's rights and welfare and living conditions of children and youth. It also reports to Parliament every four years. The Office is independent authority in connection to the Ministry of Justice. Ombudsman works through networking with other authorities, organizations and child research. Ombudsman does not handle individual cases, but concentrates on lobbying for children at the strategic policy making level. The work of the Office of the Ombudsman for Children is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children, the Act on the Ombudsman for Children and the Government Decree on the Ombudsman for Children. Ombudsman for Children: <http://lapsiasia.fi/en/>

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues:

- Most often youth issues have been dealt in the Education and Culture Committee (sivistysvaliokunta) of the Finnish Parliament (eduskunta). Chairperson of the Education and Culture Committee is Mr. Tuomo Puumala.
- The Education and Culture Committee deals with matters relating to education, training, science, art, cultural activities, sports, youth work, copyright, and financial aid for students. The work done in committees is of central importance since reports drafted by committees provide the basis on which Parliament takes nearly all of its decisions.

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Six Regional State Administrative Agencies are responsible for the regional implementation and development tasks of the central government, including youth services. The six regional state administrative agencies are: Southern Finland, Eastern Finland, Southwestern Finland, Western and Inland Finland, Northern Finland and Lapland. Youth work and the coordination of youth policies at the regional level are the responsibility of these administrative agencies. The Ministry of Education and Culture exercises management by results and provides resources for regional youth work.

The Regional State Administrative Agencies have the same goals as those quoted by the Ministry (see section 1.1) but at a regional level. Their duties relate to young people's employment (e.g. youth workshops), income, housing, education and training, health and leisure activities. Tasks include also assessing the accessibility of basic services and discretionary government transfers to youth projects.

[Website for the Regional State Administrative Agencies](#)

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

The objectives of youth work are stated in the Youth Act, but the implementation of youth work is the responsibility of local authorities (municipalities), youth associations and other organisations doing youth work. Statutory tasks of the municipalities are supporting the implementation of the horizontal youth policy planning and implementation in the local level. According to the Child Welfare Act (Section 12) municipalities must draw up a plan to promote the wellbeing of children and young people. They must also arrange and develop child welfare services. Also, the Youth Act (Section 7 a) stipulates that the local authorities must have a youth guidance and service network with representation from the local educational, social, health care and youth administrations as well as from the labour and police administration. The network may also include representatives from the defence administration as well as other authorities. The task of the network is to improve interoperability and impact of youth services. (Section 7 a) However, municipalities decide independently on the methods and implementation of youth work. Youth services may also be produced by local authorities in cooperation. They receive a state subsidy from the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The latest Child and Youth Policy Programme, second of its kind, was adopted by the Government in December 2011. It provides the municipalities with guidelines and models on how to implement the programme. Almost half of the municipalities also have their own policy programme for children and youth.

In 2016, there are 313 municipalities in Finland.

3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)

Finnish municipalities are the main providers of the youth welfare services. Municipalities have wide responsibilities and they such provide basic public services as education, social welfare and health care.

The Child and Youth Policy Programme defines the aims, focus areas and practical measures to improve the well-being of children and young people during the current government term. The

collaboration partners in the Programme include regional and local authorities, organisations, industry, children and youth researchers.

One example of such information on youth welfare is the biannual report on youth welfare conducted together with the Finnish Youth Research Network and the National Institute for Health and Welfare. These reports include both statistical analysis as well as articles from leading experts in the field.

3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

3.3.1 Youth Councils

Finnish Youth Co-operation - Allianssi, is a national service and advocacy organisation within the field of youth work and one of the most important actors in the youth field. Allianssi functions as the national youth council of Finland (an umbrella organisation for Finnish youth organisations), and it represents Finnish young people, youth organisations and youth activities abroad. It presents interest of over 120 national youth organisations, including national youth, interest, hobby and political organisations, as well as other youth work partners and professionals. Its purpose is to support the well-being of all young people. Allianssi operates nationally and internationally. It is also one of the members in a development and service centre network appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The organisations are responsible for developing youth work and policy in their areas of expertise. The Ministry of Education and Culture monitors and agrees on guidelines for the work in annually held negotiations.

For more information:

<http://www.alli.fi/english/>

List of member organisations of Allianssi: <http://www.alli.fi/allianssi/jasenjarjestot/>

In addition, local youth councils have been established in a large number of municipalities in accordance with the Youth Act. After the Local Government Act came into effect in the spring 2015 it became mandatory to youth councils in every municipality in Finland. According to the Suomen Nuorisovaltuustojen Liitto ry (The Union of Local Youth Councils Nuva ry) over 70 percent of municipalities have a local youth council. Their task is to represent young people in municipality and make young people's voices heard in their respective municipalities. They co-operate with each other under the umbrella of the Union of Finnish Youth Councils. Chairperson of Nuva ry. is Kimi Uosukainen and Secretary General is Verna Castrén.

Suomen nuorisovaltuustojen liitto – NUVA, www.nuva.fi.

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Youth NGOs play a significant role in Finnish youth work and youth policy. In 2016 the Ministry of Education and Culture supports financially around 124 national youth organisations, youth work service organisations and other organisations doing youth work with about 15 306 000 euros. These organisations include nationwide youth cultural and recreational organisations, political youth and student organisations, youth unions, religious youth organisations, youth work service organisations and other organisation supporting youth work. The Finnish Youth Co-operation - Allianssi unifies the field of youth work and youth organisations. It also provides expert information and produces services for youth organisations, youth workers and the youth.

The Youth Organisation Subsidy Committee (Nuorisojärjestöjen arviointi- ja avustustoimikunta), whose members are nominated by youth organisations, submits annually a proposal to the Ministry of Education and Culture for state subsidies to be allocated to national youth organisations. It also evaluates and develops the subsidy system.

Some of the biggest NGOs are:

- In terms of membership, the largest youth organisations are various student organisations, and schoolchildren's organisations.

- The Mannerheim League for Child Welfare (Mannerheimin Lastensuojeluliitto) is an NGO promoting the wellbeing of children and of families with children, and seeing that children's views are taken into account in public decision-making. It is the largest child welfare organisation in Finland with 88 780 members and 565 local associations throughout the country.

<http://www.mll.fi/en/>

<http://www.ihmisoikeuskeskus.fi/in-english/human-rights-actors-in-finland/non-governmental-organisations/>

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

The Finnish Youth Research Network (Nuorisotutkimusverkosto), operating as part of the Finnish Youth Research Society, is a research unit founded in 1999. This network is based on the Youth Research 2000 program which began in 1994. The Youth Research Network is a community of researchers working in co-operation with various universities and research institutes both nationally

and internationally. Its operation is multi-disciplinary and both thematically and geographically diverse. The orientation is a combination of academic research and applied research relevant to youth policy.

The Finnish Youth Research Society, in conjunction with the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs, collects an annual Youth Barometer, and publishes its results. The Advisory Council for Youth Affairs has published the Youth Barometer studying Finnish youth's values and attitudes since 1994. The Finnish Youth Research Network has participated in making the Youth Barometer since 2004.

For more information:

The Finnish EKCYP correspondent Mr. Sami Myllyniemi works as a statistical researcher of The Finnish Youth Research Network. sami.myllyniemi@youthresearch.fi

The Youth Barometer 2015. On Everyday Life.
<https://tietoanuorista.fi/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/YouthBarometerHQ.pdf>

Finnish Youth Research Network & Society: <http://www.youthresearch.fi/>

4. Legislation

Please explain the legal foundations of national youth policy / actions concerning youth.

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

Section 14 - Electoral and participatory rights: *A young person aged 18 is legally an adult and has the right to vote and stand in national and local elections. A young person aged 18 who is an immigrant residing permanently in Finland has the right to vote in local elections and local referendums.*

Section 6 – equality: Children shall be treated equally and as individuals and they shall be allowed to influence matters pertaining to themselves to a degree corresponding to their level of development.

National legislation on youth

The Youth Act came into force on 1st March 2006. Youth Act is complemented by the Government Decree on Youth Work and Policy. In addition, several other laws refer to youth issues and address the rights and obligations of young people. Examples of these acts are the Child Welfare Act (Lastensuojelulaki) and the Basic Education Act (Perusopetuslaki).

The Act also lays down provisions on national and local level youth work and youth policy. As a part of the national youth work and youth policy the Act defines tasks and roles of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Regional State Administrative Agencies, the Advisory Council for Youth Affairs and the Evaluation and subsidy committee. It also includes provisions on Government's youth policy development programme. Also it lays down provisions on Government transfers and state subsidies on youth field.

Regional and local legislation on youth

As a part of the local youth work and youth policy the Youth Act defines the roles and responsibilities of the local authorities, youth associations and other organisations doing youth work. These include for instance provisions on the cross-sectoral cooperation and outreach youth work.

Part 3 of the Youth Act concerning local youth work and youth policy states that “Youth work and youth policy are part of the local authority's responsibilities. The implementation of youth work shall be the responsibility of local authorities, youth associations and other organisations doing youth work. Youth services may also be produced by local authorities in cooperation.”

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

The Child and Youth Policy Programme

According to the Youth Act (Section 4) the Government shall adopt a youth policy development programme every four years. The current programme, adopted by the Government on 8th December 2011, is called Lapsi ja nuorisopolitiikan kehittämissuunnitelma (Child and Youth Policy Programme for 2012–2015). The programme is a cross-sectorial administrative document. Due to revision process of the Youth Act the implementation of the youth policy development programme 2012-2015 has been prolonged for the year 2016.

The focus of the Child and Youth Policy Programme is specified as follows:

- to enhance participation and social inclusion,
- to promote non-discrimination and
- to support everyday life management of children and young people

To address these three key focuses, the programme has nine strategic goals – active citizens, equal opportunities, employment, non-discrimination, gender and equal rights, independent living, quality education, health, competence and collaboration – and a set of measures and guidelines on national, regional and local level. It also describes how the follow-up and evaluation of the programme is implemented. In addition, programme includes description on the situation of young people based on the statistical data and research on children and young people.

The objective of the programme is to strengthen a broad-based child and youth policy. The programme aims to develop new depth and insight into child and youth policy, follow up and supervise the municipal actors and branches of state administration, and strengthen the collaboration between administrative sectors.

The programme has a strong ethos on the equality of all children and young people. As the programme is based on the Youth Act it concerns all young people under the age of 29. Measures in the programme are targeted at the different genders and age groups (0-6, 7-12, 13-17, 18-24, 25-29). Also some strategic goals include support for equality and non-discrimination of special groups who represent minorities among children and young people. These target groups include immigrants, the Roma people, the Sami indigenous people, disabled children and young people, children of rainbow families and children belonging to sexual and gender minorities.

For more information:

<http://www.okm.fi/export/sites/default/OPM/Julkaisut/2012/liitteet/OKM8.pdf?lang=en>

Youth Guarantee

National implementation of the Youth Guarantee since 2013, has proven to be an efficient measure for enhancing cross-sectorial cooperation. The Youth Guarantee is one of the Government's key projects and it focuses on cross-sectorial cooperation between the branches of the administration.

The key ministries responsible for the Youth Guarantee are the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Ministry of Finance. The Youth Guarantee is based on the Public-Private-People Partnership approach and is funded from the state budget.

The objective is to support young people's life management skills, learning paths and employability. Additionally, cooperation in the efforts to assist young people will be intensified and the best practices disseminated across the country. Measures are specified as follows:

- Upgrade the youth guarantee to provide a model where responsibility for a young person in need of support is assumed by a single party and youth outreach efforts intensified. Cooperation between public, private and third-sector actors will be increased. Full use will be made of the best practices and projects of the youth guarantee by incorporating these elements into nationwide programmes.
- Guarantee all comprehensive school graduates a place of study.
- Improve social, healthcare and mental health services for young people and guarantee access to rehabilitation.
- Intensify job search activities and develop pay subsidies for young people as well as the Sanssi card in order to provide added incentives for employment.

(References: Heinonen, Anu. *Youth Wiki. Chapter 1: Youth Policy Governance*. 2016.)

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level

Of the central administration, most funding for youth field is awarded by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Government funding for youth field is around EUR 73.5 million in the state's budget for 2016. Majority of this budget (EUR 53.1 million) is allocated from the Veikkaus (Finnish Lottery) profits and the rest from the state's ordinary budget. Corresponding figures in 2015 were EUR 74 million, of which EUR 53 million were from the Lottery funds.

Special budget line of EUR 10 million has been allocated by the government for the development of Youth Guarantee for 2016-2018. This is allocated for three ministries – the Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Employment and the Economy and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. According to the Government Programme, the Youth Guarantee is one of the Government's key projects. However, the funding for the Youth Guarantee is much smaller compared to previous government's term of office. Currently, it is hard to estimate what are the impacts of budget cuts on the Youth Guarantee. (Lähteenmaa, Jaana. Nuorten yhteisötakuun kompuroivat alkumetreit ja laahaavat jatkoaskeleet. *Näkökulma – Nuoruus hallitusohjelmassa*. (In Finnish) Finnish Youth Research Network & Finnish Youth Research Society. 2016).

Other administrative branches, especially in the areas of education, social welfare and employment, include appropriations for policy initiatives influencing young people. These include for instance government's appropriations for general and vocational education and employment appropriations for young people.

The Ministry of Education and Culture allocates annually government transfers to the national youth organisations, municipal youth work, statutory bodies and other actors operating in the youth field. The Ministry has also appropriations for measures that address topical issues, such as young people's social empowerment, international projects and new forms of youth work and youth culture. In 2016 funding is allocated in the following way:

National youth organisations (EUR 15.5 million)

- There are around 140 national youth organizations, youth work service organisations and other organisations doing youth work. These organisations include e.g. political youth associations, youth leisure time and culture associations, religious youth associations, child associations and youth work service and development centers. These organizations receive funding from other sources as well.

National service and development centres for youth work (EUR 6 million)

- There are 13 actors belonging to the network of national service and development centres for youth work appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture

National youth centres (EUR 5.3 million)

- There are 10 youth centres located in different parts of the country and fulfilling the criteria described in the Government Decree on Youth Work and Youth Policy.

Implementation of the Government's child and youth policy, development, innovations, research (4.2 million)

Statutory agents, projects and other priorities (4.6 million)

- Advisory Council for Youth Affairs, Subsidy and Evaluation Committee
- Strategic priority in the Government Programme: Youth guarantee
- International cooperation
- Sámi cultural and language activity

Regional level

The Ministry of Education and Culture has delegated decision making of discretionary Government transfers concerning youth workshops, outreach youth work, local hobby activity of children and young people as well as funding for local and regional projects to the Regional State Administrative Agencies.

Local authorities (EUR 8 million)

- The Ministry allocates government transfers to local authorities for youth work based on the number of young residents under 29 years of age. In 2015 the state subsidy was EUR 15 per each young inhabitant under 29-years-old in the municipality. It should be mentioned that the local authorities spend annually about 225 million euro to youth work and the state subsidies cover only around 4 percent of this amount. Thus, municipal youth work is mainly funded from municipal tax revenues.

Local and regional youth work (5.1 million)

- e.g. hobby activity of children and young people, online youth work

Outreach youth work (EUR 11.6 million)

- Local authority may organize outreach youth work. In 2015 97 % of municipalities (291) organized outreach youth work with around 500 youth work professionals. Outreach youth work is one of the priorities of the current Government. The main objective of outreach youth work is to reach those young people under 29 who are in need of support and direct them to the sphere of

such services or other forms of support that promote their growth and independence as well as their access to education and work.

Youth workshop activities (EUR 13 million)

- Youth workshop activities have been implemented in several municipalities since 1980s. In 2015 almost 230 organisers were organizing youth workshop activities in 90 % of the municipalities (281). The youth workshop activities are targeted at young people who are inactive and who need support. The target group also includes unemployed young people and young adults without vocational or professional qualifications or work experience, career-changers, job-seekers with disabilities or a diminished ability to work, people recovering from substance abuse or mental health problems, long-term unemployed, people unable to work full time, and immigrants who need assistance in entering the Finnish labour market.

(References: Heinonen, Anu. *Youth Wiki. Chapter 1: Youth Policy Governance*. 2016.)

7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1 Council of Europe.

The recommendations of the Council of Europe are integrated in Finland's national youth policy strategies and documents which provide guidelines for regional and local youth policy programmes and activities. According to the Youth Act of 2006, a youth policy development programme will be adopted by the Government every four years (for the government term). The current youth policy programme was informed by the resolution on the youth policy of the Council of Europe adopted by the Committee of Ministers in November 2008. Finland contributes to the European Youth Foundation.

7.2 European Union.

7.2.1 Implementation of the Youth in Action programme

The National Agency for the European Union Youth Programme in Finland is Centre for International Mobility CIMO. CIMO is also also the national Coordinator of Eurodesk and the National Agency of the EU Erasmus+ Programme in the field of youth in Finland.

CIMO belongs to the administrative sector of the Ministry of Education and Culture, although it operates as an independent governmental organisation. In 2017 CIMO and Finnish National Board of Education are going to merge. The aim is to create a new agency, which is based on strengths of both.

CIMO together with several other Erasmus+ Youth in Action National Agencies and research partners participates to transnational, on-going research-based analysis and monitoring on the Youth in Action Programme.

Centre for International Mobility CIMO <http://www.cimo.fi/english>

7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level

The current youth policy programme is based on the renewed framework of EU cooperation in the field of youth.

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Finland

The Ministry of Education and Culture <http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Nuoriso/?lang=en>

The Child and Youth Policy Programme
<http://www.minedu.fi/export/sites/default/OPM/Julkaisut/2012/liitteet/OKM8.pdf?lang=en>

The Advisory Council for Youth Affairs <https://tietoanuorista.fi/in-english/>

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