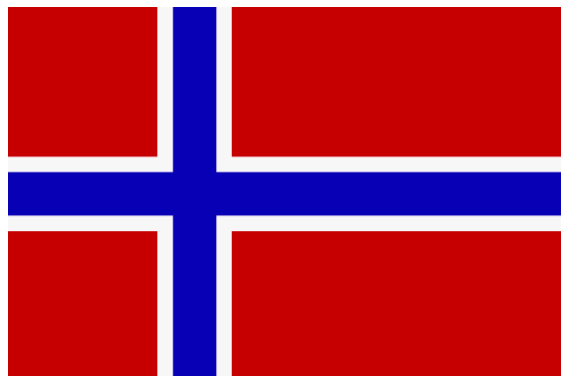


Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN NORWAY



Last updated: 06/04/2017

By Ørjan Bergan

Disclaimer: The content of this document, commissioned by the EU-CoE youth partnership, is the sole responsibility of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of either of the partner institutions (the European Union and the Council of Europe).

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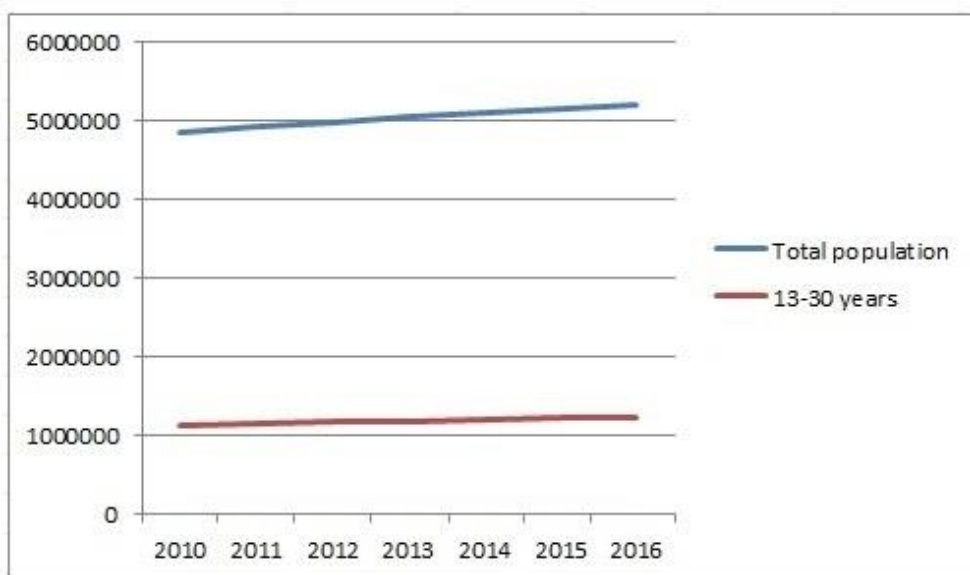
1. Context of national youth policy

Youth work in Norway is traditionally “grass-roots” and “decentralised” to local municipalities which have a high degree of autonomy in youth policy and practice. However, according to the report in 2004 by an international youth policy review team appointed by the Council of Europe, “the overarching conclusion about youth policy in Norway is one that is very positive. There is enormous commitment to young people, a commitment supported by very generous resources” (Wolf, Blomquist, Huq, Kovacs, Williamson and Lauritzen 2004).

2. Statistics on young people

Number and percentage of young people in global population as at 1.1.2016		%
(Source: www.ssb.no): N		
Total population	5 213 985	100
Citizens aged 13-30	1 224 662	23.48

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total population	4858199	4920305	4985870	5051275	5109056	5165802	5213985
13-30 years	1126256	1148708	1168964	1190050	1205724	1218045	1224662
Percent	23,18	23,35	23,45	23,56	23,60	23,58	23,49
Percent change All	-----	1,28	1,33	1,31	1,14	1,11	0,93
Percent change 13-30	-----	1,99	1,76	1,80	1,32	1,02	0,54



Source:
www.ssb.no

3. Actors and structures

3.1. Public authorities

3.1.1. National public authorities

Ministry in charge of youth

The [Ministry of Children and Equality](#) has the main responsibility for co-ordinating the government's work related to children and youth.

The overarching goal of youth policy in Norway is to provide secure living conditions and a safe environment in which children and young people can grow to adulthood:
www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/bld.html?id=298

- Minister: [Ms Solveig Horne](#)
 - Duration of mandate: 2017 (the government is elected for a period of four years)
- Youth Department in the Ministry

Main tasks

The [Department of Childhood, Youth and Family Affairs](#) is responsible for issues relating to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the development of Norwegian child welfare and adoption policies. It is also responsible for developing and co-ordinating the ministry's policies toward children and youth, including subsidy programmes to benefit children's and youth organisations, international youth exchanges and services for children and youth in urban environments.

The department is responsible for child-welfare agency management at the national level and for administering laws and regulations related to children and youth.

- Number of people who work in this ministry in the children and youth department: 50.
- Director General responsible for youth in the Ministry: Mr Inge Ovesen.
- Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy:

Mr Røger Olav, Senior Advisor (responsible for international co-ordination),
Tel: (+47) 22 24 25 57, e-mail: Olav.Roger@bld.dep.no.

Other national public bodies which are directly involved in youth policies

Other ministries

Most of the ministries in Norway work with issues related to welfare and living conditions for children and young people. The following ministries are the most important ones regarding youth policies:

- [Ministry of Culture](#)
- [Ministry of Education and Research](#)
- [Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs](#)
- [Ministry of Health and Care Services](#)
- [Ministry of Justice and Public Security](#)

Directorates

The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir) is the Norwegian governmental office for the welfare and protection of children and families. Its main objective is to provide services of high and accurate quality to children, young people and families in need of assistance and support regardless of where in Norway they live. For more information about Bufdir, see: www.bufdir.no.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training is responsible for the development of primary and secondary education. The Directorate is the executive agency for the Ministry of Education and Research. In this capacity the Directorate has the overall responsibility for supervising education and governance of the education sector, as well as the implementation of Acts of Parliament and regulations. The objective of the Directorate is to ensure that all pupils and apprentices receive the high-quality education they are entitled to. For more information, see: www.uttanningsdirektoratet.no.

Integration and Diversity Directorate (IMDi), established in January 2006, implements integration and diversity policy from the Ministry of Children and Equality. The main tasks of the directorate are to:

- resettle refugees;
- follow the Introductory Act;
- manage financial resources for the work of integration and diversity.

For more information in Norwegian only, see: www.imdi.no.

The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV), established in July 2006, administers one third of the national budget through schemes such as unemployment benefit, rehabilitation, pensions, child benefit and cash benefit, and counts the entire population as its users. At the NAV Administration, the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service, which is the state-owned part of the administration, works together with local authorities and local authority staff. For more information, see: www.nav.no.

Ombudspersons

The Ombudsman for Children in Norway (Barneombudet)

Norway was the first country to establish a commissioner, or ombudsman, empowered by law to protect children and their rights. Since 1981, the Ombudsman for Children in Norway is charged with

promoting the interests of children in both the public and private spheres, and with paying close attention to changes in the conditions of childhood development. The Ombudsman for children (Ms Anne Lindboe, duration 2012-2018) is professionally independent but it is administratively placed under the Ministry of Children and Equality. For more information, see: <http://barneombudet.no/english/>

The Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombudsman

Established in January 2006, the Ombudsman is a law enforcer of the Gender Equality Act, the Anti-Discrimination Act, the Anti-Discrimination and Accessibility Act (DTL), the chapter on equal opportunities in the Working Environment Act, the non-discrimination clauses in the housing legislation, the Tenancy Act, the Housing Association Act, and the Residential Building Association Act. The Ombudsman is professionally independent, but is administratively placed under the Ministry of Children and Equality. The Ombudsman shall oppose discrimination and promote equality regardless of factors such as gender, ethnicity, functional ability, language, religion, sexual orientation and age. For more information, see: www.ldo.no/en/.

The Consumer Ombudsman (Forbrukerombudet)

The Consumer Ombudsman (CO) carries out supervision of the Marketing Control Act as well as with certain parts of the regulatory framework governing advertising in broadcasting. The CO and the Market Council (Forbrukerklagenemnda) have the authority to issue decisions banning unlawful marketing and contract terms and conditions in standard contracts when deemed necessary in the interests of consumers.

Cases involving children and youth are to:

- have a more restrictive interpretation of legislation regulating marketing and advertisement;
- recognise the need for special protection against unreasonable trade and marketing practices (particular focus on cases of “in-app” purchases and online marketing).

For more information, see: www.forbrukerombudet.no/english.

The Ombudsperson for Privacy (the Norwegian Data Protection Authority) ([Personvernombudet \(Datatilsynet\)](#))

The Norwegian Data Protection Authority acts as the Ombudsperson for Privacy in Norway. The Norwegian Data Protection Authority protects the right to privacy and strives to prevent misuse of personal data.

The Norwegian Data Protection Authority offers several practical online resources of particular relevance to children and youth:

- [Personvernbloggen](#) (“Privacy blog”) – general blog on issues regarding privacy;
- [Dubestemmer.no](#) (“You decide”) – particularly for the age groups 9-13 and 13-18. Presents facts, stories, exercises and videos about privacy and digital responsibility;
- [Slettmeget.no](#) (“delete me”) – the aim of the service is to help people who experience privacy violations online;

- ID-tyveri.no (“ID theft”) – providing information for prevention, and assistance to those who have been exposed to ID theft and fraud.

The Ombudspersons for pupils and apprentices (Ombudene for elever og lærlinger)

Each county has an Ombudsperson for pupils and apprentices.

The ombudsperson is responsible for supporting and informing students of upper secondary school and apprentices of their rights. The ombudsperson may assist in cases where a student or apprentice needs guidance or has questions/concerns about their educational situation.

Parliamentary commission in charge of youth issues

- Name: Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs ([Familie- og kulturkomiteen](#))

- Name of president/chair: Mr Svein Harberg

- Role and competence: matters relating to families, children and youth, gender equality, consumer affairs and cultural affairs

The Sami Parliament

The Sami Parliament’s Youth Policy Committee ([Sametingets ungdomspolitiske utvalg \(SUPU\)](#)) seeks to enhance young Samis’ co-determination and influence on Sami parliamentary policies, and help the Sami Parliament to shape its present and future policies relating to young people. One of the main objectives is to plan and host the Sami Parliament’s youth conference. The committee consists of five members, who are appointed for a two-year period. The members are 18-20 years of age, and come from all parts of Norway.

3.1.2. Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Norway has 19 counties. The county councils are autonomous elected bodies.

The main responsibilities of the county (fylket) in the child and youth sector are:

- upper secondary schools
- educational and mental health counselling services
- dental health care
- public transport
- county roads
- culture
- cultural heritage management
- land use planning
- business development.

Norway has 428 municipalities. The local authorities are autonomous in deciding how to work with issues concerning children and youth.

The practical implementation of child and youth policy lies primarily at the municipal level.

The main responsibilities of the municipality (kommunen) in the child and youth sector are:

- providing kindergarten services
- primary education (through 10th grade)
- child and youth “clubs” or activity houses
- regional fund schemes in support of volunteering/organisations
- outpatient health services
- some social services
- zoning (land use planning and regulation)
- economic development
- municipal roads.

Child and youth organisations are important collaborating actors at the municipal level. Important sectors within NGOs and youth organisations are sports, arts, school/education, politics and international exchange.

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

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

Youth older than 18 years are adults in the eyes of the law. This gives them the same rights as all other adults to financial support such as unemployment benefit and social assistance. Youth under the age of 18 are still children in legal terms and receive social assistance from the child welfare services when needed. Assessments are made individually. In some cases the support given can be extended until the recipient reaches the age of 23.

The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir) is the national unit in charge of child and youth welfare services. In addition there are child and youth welfare services in all municipalities: www.bufdir.no/en/English_start_page/.

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

3.3.1. National level

92 out of 155 nationwide youth organisations received government funding in 2015, which have approximately 380 000 members under the age of 26 (LNU Rapport 11, 2015: www.lnu.no/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Resultatrapporten15_web.pdf). Most of them are members of the Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU). At www.lnu.no there is an overview of youth organisations in Norway. The Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU) is an umbrella organisation uniting 97 nationwide non-governmental organisations for children and youth. The LNU organises a children and youth parliament ([Barne- og ungdomstinget, BUT](#)) and nine provincial youth councils (Troms, Nordland, Nord-Trøndelag, Hordaland, Vest-Agder, Vestfold, Østfold, Akershus og Oslo) ([Barne- og ungdomsråd, BUR](#)). LNU represents youth in relation with authorities and other significant institutions.

The national youth club organisation: Ungdom & Fritid (Youth & Free-time) is a national, non-profit organisation which has approximately 600 youth clubs, 50 000 youth club members and 2 500 employees. 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 co-ordinate and upgrade education for professional youth workers in order to increase both the quality and status of their profession. The organisation also offers help and advice to members and employees of youth clubs. This organisation is a member of the Nordic Federation of Societies for Youth and Leisure Clubs (UFN) in the Nordic region and a member of the European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC). There is more information at www.ungogfri.no.

[Unge funksjonshemmede](http://www.ungefunksjonshemmede.no) (the Norwegian Association of Youth with Disabilities) is a coalition of youth organisations for disabled people in Norway founded in 1980. It currently has 35 member organisations with approximately 25 000 members. With the aim of ensuring participation and social equality for young people with disabilities and chronic illness, the organisation works to influence policy makers in society at large and decision makers in educational institutions and working places. There is more information at www.ungefunksjonshemmede.no.

3.3.2. Regional and local level

Youth councils and/or youth advisory boards are mostly found either as an integrated or a separate advisory body in Norwegian municipal or county councils (Fauske m.fl. (2009); Vestby (2003)).

The county-level councils are usually called “youth councils” (ungdomsråd), or “child and youth councils” (Barne-, og ungdomsråd). These youth councils work as a consultative body within the regular county parliament.

Some counties have separate youth county councils (ungdommens fylkesting).

Youth councils and county councils are constituted in 18 of the 19 counties nationwide:

Finnmark	Ungdomspolitisk utvalg (UPU) i Finnmark fylke
Troms	Troms barne- og ungdomsråd
Nordland	Barne- og ungdomsråd (NOBUR) and Ungdommens fylkesting (UFT)
Nord-Trøndelag	Nord-Trøndelag Barne- og Ungdomsråd
Sør-Trøndelag	Ungdommens Fylkesutvalg i Sør-Trøndelag
Møre og Romsdal	Ungdommens fylkesting og Ungdomspanelet i Møre og Romsdal
Sogn og Fjordane	Fylkesting for ungdom i Sogn og Fjordane
Hordaland	Hordaland barne- og ungdomsråd
Vest-Agder	Vest-Agder Barne- og Ungdomsråd
Telemark	Telemark ungdomsråd
Vestfold	Barne- og ungdomsrådet i Vestfold
Oppland	Ungdommens fylkesting i Oppland
Hedmark	Ungdommens Fylkesting i Hedmark
Akershus	Akershus Barne- og Ungdomsråd
Oslo	Barne- og ungdoms- organisasjonene i Oslo (UNGORG)
Østfold	Østfold Barne-og Ungdomsråd

The youth councils and municipal boards are constituted by members between the ages of 12 and 17 on average.

The youth councils have on average nine members, and the youth municipal boards on average 26 members. Councils and youth municipal boards are mostly equally divided between the genders, with a slight overrepresentation of girls.

The most usual form of recruitment is through direct elections in the municipality schools.

Some municipalities have elections of representatives at their local youth houses or clubs. It is also normal practice for smaller municipalities to ask youths directly for their willingness to be a representative.

The Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Children and Equality have sent out a hearing note on a potential change to § 10 of the Act relating to municipalities and county authorities ([Local Government Act](#)). This hearing note suggests that rules and regulations relating to the inclusion and administration of youth councils is included in the legislation.

The hearing note does not recommend, however, that consultative youth councils are made mandatory by law at the municipal or county level.

The hearing note on councils in municipalities and counties for youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities (2016) is currently only available in Norwegian ([Høringsnotat om råd i kommunar og fylkeskommunar for ungdom, eldre, og personar med funksjonsnedsetjing 2016](#)).

For a comprehensive list of all municipal and county youth councils, see: www.ung.no/database (in Norwegian).

3.4. Other structures

There is a youth research section at NOVA – Norwegian Social Research, a public research institute under the auspices of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research. The NOVA youth research section, with approximately 20 researchers, conducts research mainly on and for youth issues in Norway, edits the only journal of youth research in Norwegian (*Tidsskrift for ungdomsforskning*, two issues annually, www.ungdomsforskning.no), and organises the Network of Youth Researchers (*Nettverk for ungdomsforskning*), which has about 80 individual members around the country meeting up twice a year. Find more information at www.hioa.no/eng/About-HiOA/Centre-for-Welfare-and-Labour-Research/NOVA.

4. Legislation

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

There are no specific references to youth in the constitution, but children under the age of majority (18) are mentioned under [the Norwegian Constitution's § 104](#) (Kongeriket Norges Grunnlov). § 104 refers to basic human rights for children.

National legislation on youth

Norway does not have a specific youth law, and there is no legal classification of youth. The statutes regulating the welfare and protection of children and youths do so up to the age of 18 (the age of majority).

There are five central statutes addressing the needs and rights of children and youths (aged 0-17):

- the Child Welfare Act
- the Children Act
- the Guardianship Act
- the Education Act
- the Human Rights Act.

Act of 17 July 1992 No. 100 Relating to Child Welfare Services (the Child Welfare Act)

This Act is concerned with children's need for protection. The purpose of the Act is to:

- ensure that children and young people who live in conditions which may be detrimental to their health and development receive the necessary assistance and care at the right time;
- help to ensure that children and young people are brought up in a secure environment.

The provisions of the Act concerning services and measures apply to all persons present in Norway. Measures provided for by the Act may be applied in respect of children below the age of 18. If the child consents, measures implemented before the child has reached the age of 18 may be maintained or replaced by other measures mentioned in this Act until the child has reached the age of 23. Find out more information about this Act at: www.regjeringen.no/en/doc/Laws/Acts/The-Child-Welfare-Act.html?id=448398.

Act No. 7 of 8 April 1981 relating to Children and Parents (the Children Act)

This Act is concerned with the rights of children and youth under the age of 18 years and regulates parents' duties and functions towards their children, and children's rights in relation to their parents. Find out more information about the Children Act at: www.regjeringen.no/en/doc/Laws/Acts/The-Children-Act.html?id=448389.

Act of 26 March 2010 relating to guardianship for persons who are legally incapable (the Guardianship Act)

The Act describes the legal capacities (rettslig handlingsevne) with reference to the rights, duties, and obligations, of:

- the person under guardianship

- the guardian

Find out more about the Guardianship Act (translation includes section 90 only) at <http://app.uio.no/ub/ujur/oversatte-lover/data/lov-19270422-003-eng.pdf>.

Act relating to Primary and Secondary Education (Education Act)

The Act concerns primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education in publicly maintained schools and training facilities, unless otherwise specifically stated.

Find out more information about this Act at: www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kd/Documents/Legislation/reglement/2000/Act-relating-to-Primary-and-Secondary-Education-Education-Act.html?id=420511.

Act No. 30 of 21 May 1999 relating to the strengthening of the status of Human Rights in Norwegian law (the Human Rights Act)

The purpose of the Act is to strengthen the status of human rights in Norwegian law.

The Act specifies, and makes the following conventions legally binding by Norwegian law:

1. the Convention of 4 November 1950 for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
2. the International Covenant of 16 December 1966 on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
3. the International Covenant of 16 December 1966 on Civil and Political Rights;
4. the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
5. the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Find out more about the Human Rights Act at <http://app.uio.no/ub/ujur/oversatte-lover/data/lov-19990521-030-eng.pdf>.

Norwegian legislation translated into English is available at: www.ub.uio.no/ujur/ulov/english.html.

Regional and local legislation on youth

There is no regional or local legislation concerning youth.

Guidelines or principles concerning youth policy if there is no special legislation on this field

Two foundational reports for Youth Policy after year 2000

Title in English: Report No. 39 to the Storting (2001-2002), Living conditions for children and young people in Norway, Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, Oslo.

Title in Norwegian: St. meld. nr. 39 (2001-2002) [Oppvekst- og levekår for barn og ungdom i Norge](#). Oslo: Barne-, og familiedepartementet.

Type of document: white paper.

Time of introduction and timeframe: 28 June 2002 – in effect.

Title in English: Report No. 40 to the Storting (2001-2002), Child and Youth Protection, Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, Oslo.

Title in Norwegian: St. meld. nr. 40 (2001-2002) [Om barne- og ungdomsvernet](#). Oslo: Barne-, og familiedepartementet.

Type of document: white paper (“stortingsmelding”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 5 July 2002 – in effect.

Annual publication on actions and budget provisions in children and youth policy to promote cross-ministerial co-ordination.

Title in English: Focus on Children and Youths. The Government’s goals and initiatives in the state budget of 2015, Ministry of Children and Equality, Oslo.

Title in Norwegian: [Satsing på barn og ungdom. Regjeringens mål og innsatsområder i statsbudsjettet 2015 Oslo: Barne-, likestillings-, og inkluderingsdepartementet](#).

Type of document: Plan; co-ordination and informational document (“samlet oversikt”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: annually – fiscal year.

Links to earlier publications:

“Satsing på barn og ungdom – Regjeringens mål og innsatsområder i statsbudsjettet”

[2014](#), [2013](#), [2012](#), [2011](#), [2010](#), 2009*, [2008](#), [2007](#), 2006*, [2005](#), [2004](#), [2003](#), 2002*, 2001*, 2000*.

*This publication is not available electronically, but may be ordered through the Government’s Press Department: redaksjonen@dss.dep.no, or by contacting the press agency [Fagbokforlaget](#).

Government’s Report on current and future child and youth policy initiatives 2015 (2013-2017).

Title in English: Safety, participation, and involvement – the Government’s focus on children and youths, Ministry of Children, Equality, and Inclusion, Oslo.

Title in Norwegian: [Trygghet, deltakelse og engasjement – regjeringens arbeid for barn og unge](#). Oslo: Barne-, likestillings-, og inkluderingsdepartementet.

Type of document: Government’s Report on current and future child and youth policy initiatives (“plan”)

Time of introduction and timeframe: December 2015 (2013-2017).

5. National Programmes/Strategy and Action Plans on Youth

Youth Report on Influence and Participation

Title in English: Official Norwegian Report 2011: 20. Youth – Power and Participation.

Title in Norwegian: NOU (Norges Offentlige Utredninger) 2011: 20. [Ungdom, makt og medvirkning](#).

Type of document: Official report to the Ministry of Children, Equality and Inclusion.

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2011 – in effect.

Crime and Violence/Sexual Abuse Prevention

Title in English: A life without violence – action plan against domestic violence 2014-2017.

Title in Norwegian: [Et liv uten vold. Handlingsplan mot vold i nære relasjoner 2014-2017](#).

Type of document: Action Plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2014 (2014-2017).

Title in English: Childhood comes but once. [National strategy to combat violence and sexual abuse against children and youth](#) (2014-2017).

Title in Norwegian: Barndommen kommer ikke i reprise- [Strategi for å bekjempe vold og seksuelle overgrep mot barn og ungdom](#) (2014-2017).

Type of document: Strategy plan (“strategiplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: October 2013 (2014-2017).

Title in English: Action plan to combat violence and sexual abuse of children and youth (2014-2017).

Title in Norwegian: En god barndom varer livet ut. [Tiltaksplan for å bekjempe vold og seksuelle overgrep mot barn og ungdom](#) (2014-2017).

Type of document: Action plan (“tiltaksplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: December 2014 (2014-2017).

Title in English: Action Plan for Crime Prevention (2013-2016).

Title in Norwegian: [Handlingsplan for forebygging av kriminalitet](#) (2013-2016).

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: September 2013 (2013-2016).

Title in English: Action plan in the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism (2014).

Title in Norwegian: [Handlingsplanen for å forebygge radikaliserings og voldelig ekstremisme](#) (2014).

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: June 2014 – in effect.

Poverty, and School Drop-Out Prevention

Title in English: The government’s strategy against child poverty 2015-2017.

Title in Norwegian: Barn som lever i fattigdom. [Regjeringens strategi mot barnefattigdom 2015-2017](#).

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: May 2015 (2015-2017).

Title in English: Co-operation strategy plan on assistance services to youth.

Title in Norwegian: [Ny GIV – Oppfølgingsprosjektet – samarbeid om oppfølging av ungdom.](#)

Type of document: Guide (“eksempelsamling”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: March 2014 – in effect.

Health and Substance Abuse Prevention

Title in English: The Future of the Children – National Strategy for Health and Environment for Children and Youths 2007-2016.

Title in Norwegian: [Barns framtid – Nasjonal strategi for barn og unges miljø og helse 2007-2016.](#)

Type of document: Strategy plan (“strategiplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2007 (2007-2016).

Title in English: Proposition to the Storting (parliament) 2015-2016. Plan to strengthen efforts in drug prevention and rehabilitation (2016-2020).

Title in Norwegian: Prop. 15 S (2015-2016) [Opptrappingsplanen for rusfeltet \(2016-2020\).](#)

Type of document: Proposition to Parliament.

Time of introduction and timeframe: November 2015 (2016-2020).

Title in English: Official Norwegian Report 2015:2. To belong – Efforts towards a safe psychosocial school environment.

Title in Norwegian: [NOU 2015: 2. Å høre til – Virkemidler for et trygt psykososialt skolemiljø.](#)

Type of document: Official report to the Ministry of Education and Research.

Time of introduction and timeframe: March 2015 – in effect.

Title in English: Action plan in prevention of suicide and self harm 2014-2017.

Title in Norwegian: [Handlingsplan for forebygging av selvmord og selvskading 2014-2017.](#)

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: April 2014 (2014-2017).

Title in English: National strategy plan on immigrant health 2013-2017.

Title in Norwegian: Likeverdige helse- og omsorgstjenester – god helse for alle. [Nasjonal strategi om innvandreres helse 2013-2017.](#)

Type of document: Strategy plan (“strategiplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: August 2013 (2013-2017).

Title in English: Action plan for a better diet (2007-2011).

Title in Norwegian: Oppskrift for et sunnere kosthold – [Handlingsplan for bedre kosthold i befolkningen \(2007-2011\).](#)

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2007 (2007-2011).

Title in English: National strategy plan against tobacco 2013-2016.

Title in Norwegian: En Fremtid uten tobakk. [Nasjonal strategi for arbeid mot tobakkskader 2013-2016.](#)

Type of document: Strategy plan (“strategiplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: February 2013 (2013-2016).

“Minority youth”: Refugees and second generation immigrants

Title in English: [Action plan against forced marriage, female genital mutilation and severe restrictions on young people’s freedom \(2013-2016\)](#).

Title in Norwegian: [Handlingsplan mot tvangsekteskap, kjønnslemlestelse og alvorlige begrensninger av unges frihet \(2013-2016\)](#).

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: January 2013 – in effect.

Title in English: Report to Storting No. 6 (2012-2013) A Comprehensive Integration Strategy.

Title in Norwegian: [Meld. St. 6 \(2012-2013\) En helhetlig integreringspolitikk](#).

Type of document: White paper (“Stortingsmelding”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2012 – in effect.

Title in English: National Report No. 7 (2010) Mastering plurality – Multilingual children, youth and adults in the educational system.

Title in Norwegian: [NOU 2010: 7 Mangfold og mestring – Flerspråklige barn, unge og voksne i opplæringssystemet](#).

Type of document: Official report (“Norges offentlige utredninger”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: June 2010 – in effect.

Title in English: [Action plan to promote equality and prevent ethnic discrimination](#).

Title in Norwegian: [Handlingsplan for å fremme likestilling og hindre etnisk diskriminering](#).

Type of document: Action Plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: (2009-2012).

“Minority Youth”: Sami

Title in English: Sami childhood and adolescence – services and facilities (2003).

Title in Norwegian: [Samisk oppvekst – Om tilbudet til samiske barn og ungdom \(2003\)](#).

Type of document: Co-ordination/informational document (“hefte”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2003 – in effect.

Title in English: Action Plan for the Sami Language (2009).

Title in Norwegian: [Handlingsplan for samiske språk \(2009\)](#).

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2009 – in effect.

Title in English: Sami Children and youth’s right to participate (2009).

Title in Norwegian: [Retten til medvirkning for samiske barn og unge \(2009\)](#).

Type of document: Report (“Rapport”) International co-operation between the offices of the Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish Ombudsman for Children and Youth.

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2009 – in effect.

“Minority youth”: LGBTQ

Title in English: [Action plan: Improving quality of life among lesbians, gays, bisexuals and trans persons 2009-2012.](#)

Title in Norwegian: [Handlingsplan: Bedre livskvalitet for lesbiske, homofile, bifile og transpersoner 2009-2012.](#)

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2012 – in effect.

“Minority youth”: Physical and learning disability

Title in English: Universal design 2025. The Government’s action plan for universal design and increased access 2009-2013.

Title in Norwegian: [Norge universelt utformet 2025.](#) Regjeringens handlingsplan for universell utforming og økt tilgjengelighet 2009-2013.

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2009 – in effect.

Title in English: Report No. 18 to Storting (2010-2011). Learning and community/fellowship.

Title in Norwegian: [Meld. St. 18 \(2010–2011\). Læring og fellesskap.](#)

Type of document: White paper (“stortingsmelding”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2010 – in effect.

Title in English: Official Report No. 19 (2009): The right to learn.

Title in Norwegian: [NOU 2009: 18. Rett til læring.](#)

Type of document: Official report (“Norges offentlige utredninger”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2009 – in effect.

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level: Not possible to answer this question.

Regional level: Not possible to answer this question.

Comment: Norway has no separate youth law, and no separate youth strategy. Initiatives and measures directed at youth are thus always integrated as a part of the overall national policy. Or said differently: each policy effort (e.g. education, labour, poverty reduction efforts) will have an integrated child and youth section included. This makes it difficult to report on a separate budget/public expenditure allocated to youth.

The segment below reports the yearly budget of the national youth agency of Norway: the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family Affairs (Bufdir).

6.1. Budget of the Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family Affairs

There has been a steady increase to Bufdir's state budget transfers since 2007 (See Table 1 and 2).

Table 1		BUFDIR	BUFETAT & BSA	TOTAL FISCAL BUDGET
2016		11 134 118 000	9 749 916 000	1 245 600 000 000
% of total budget		0,893875883	0,782748555	100
2015		9 703 677 850	8 422 982 000	1 199 200 000 000
% of total budget		0,809179274	0,702383422	100
2014		8 585 121 000	7 485 800 000	1 114 000 000 000
% of total budget		0,770657181	0,671974865	100
2013		8 555 571 000	7 490 621 000	1 064 900 000 000
% of total budget		0,803415438	0,703410743	100
2012		8 001 601 000	7 186 976 333	1 006 100 000 000
% of total budget		0,795308717	0,714340158	100
2011		7 458 157 000	6 627 029 000	960 100 000 000
% of total budget		0,776810436	0,69024362	100
2010		7 262 791 000	6 265 910 600	907 500 000 000
% of total budget		0,800307548	0,690458468	100
2009		6 597 876 183	5 940 323 300	848 000 000 000
% of total budget		0,778051437	0,700509823	100
2008		5 731 663 282	5 044 896 155	771 404 000 000
% of total budget		0,743017055	0,653988851	100
2007		4 970 387 156	4 394 391 669	712 504 000 000
% of total budget		0,697594281	0,616753263	100

Table 1: Budget for the years 2016-2007 in total for the Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family Affairs (Bufdir), and the distributed means to the regional offices for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufetat), and the Centre for administration and development (BSA) (Bufetat Senter for administrasjon og utvikling (BSA)) % of total budget, is the total national budget of Norway.

Table 2	BUFDIR Numerical in NOK	BUFDIR % of total state budget
2007	4970387156	0,697594281
2008	5731663282	0,743017055
2009	6597876183	0,778051437
2010	7262791000	0,800307548
2011	7458157000	0,776810436
2012	8001601000	0,795308717
2013	8555571000	0,803415438
2014	8585121000	0,770657181
2015	9703677850	0,809179274
2016	11134118000	0,893875883

Responsibilities have remained the same for the Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family Affairs (Bufdir) since the merger in 2004 between the National Office of Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Barne-, ungdoms- og familieforvaltningen (BUFA)).

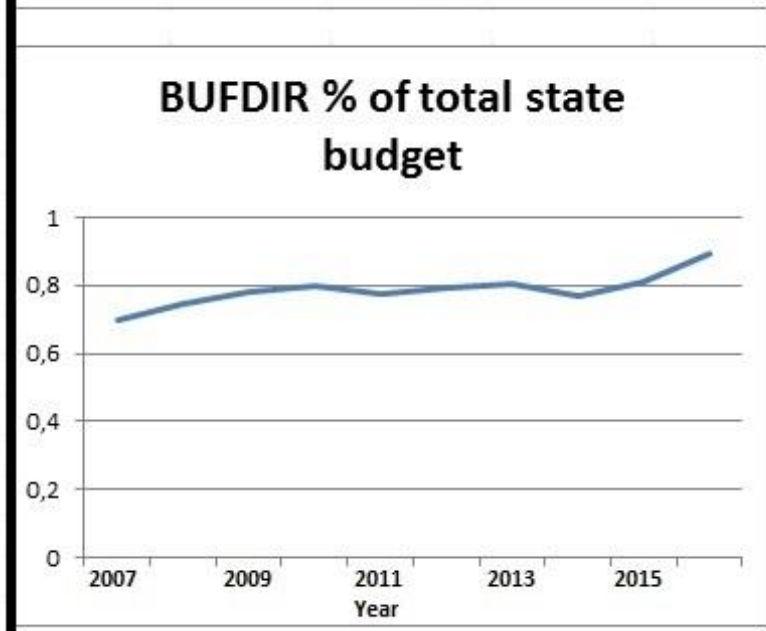
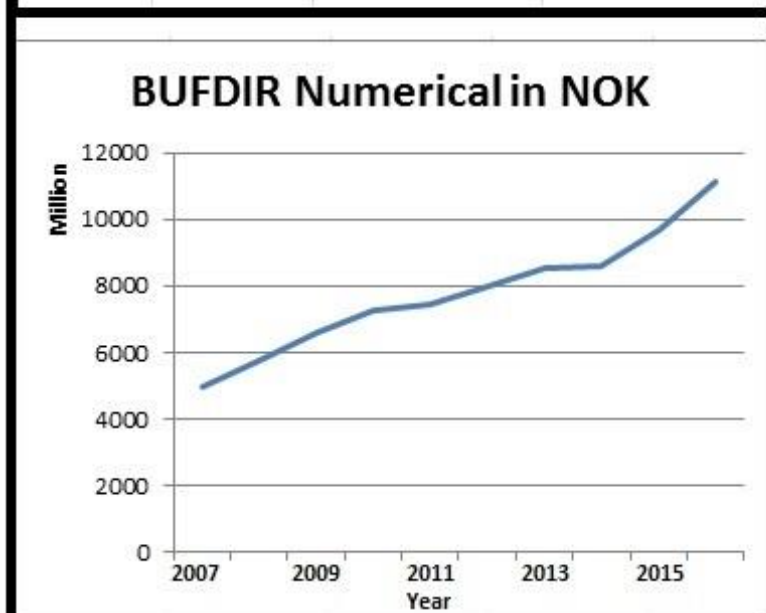
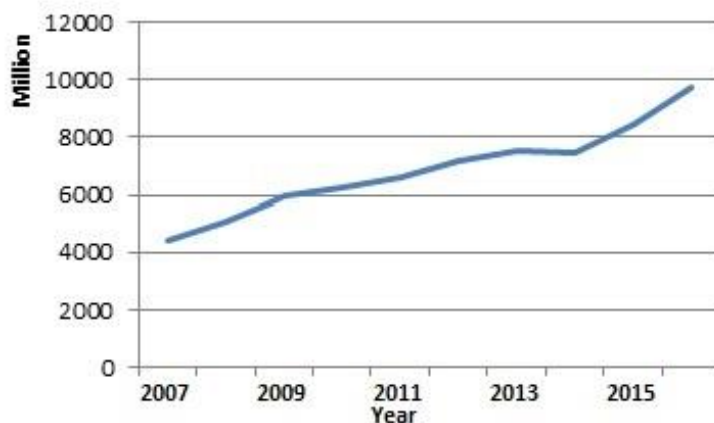


Table 2: The total budget for The Directorate for Children, Youth, and Family Affairs (Bufdir) for 2007-2016 in numerical figures, and percentage of state budget.

Table 3	BUFETAT&BSA Numerical in NOK	BUFETAT&BSA % of total state budget
2007	4394391669	0,616753263
2008	5044896155	0,653988851
2009	5940323300	0,700509823
2010	6265910600	0,690458468
2011	6627029000	0,69024362
2012	7186976333	0,714340158
2013	7490621000	0,703410743
2014	7485800000	0,671974865
2015	8422982000	0,702383422
2016	9749916000	0,782748555

BUFETAT&BSA Numerical in NOK



BUFETAT&BSA % of total state budget

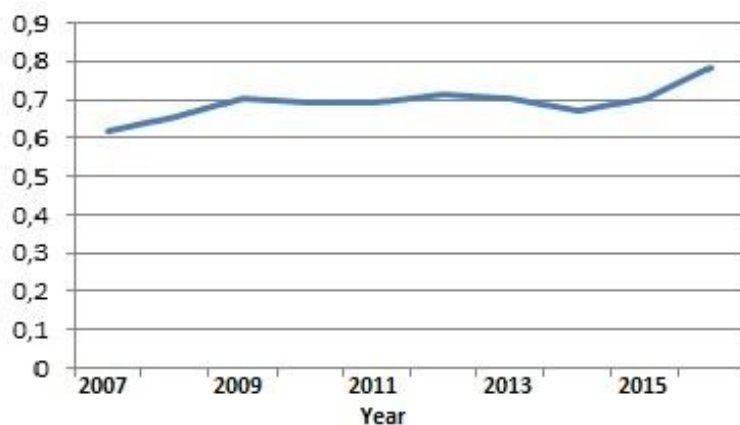


Table 3: The budget for the regional offices for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufetat), and the Centre for administration and development (BSA), in numerical figures, and percentage of state budget.

See the Government's State Budget (in Norwegian) for: [2016](#), [2015](#), [2014](#), [2013](#), [2012](#), [2011](#), [2010](#), [2009](#), [2008](#), [2007](#), [2006](#), and [2005](#).

7. European dimension of youth policy

7.1. Council of Europe programmes or activities implemented in an important way for youth purposes (including funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation)

The activities organised by the Council of Europe, such as trainings for European youth workers, study sessions, intercultural language courses and others are open to members of German youth organisations.

Norwegian youth organisations also make use of the funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation (EYF). More information on grant decisions for 2010: www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/fej/EYF_funded_projects_2010.pdf.

7.2. European Union programmes

7.2.1. Implementation of the Youth in Action Programme

Norway has been one of the participating countries in youth programmes since 1994. The national authority for the programme is the Ministry of Children and Equality.

The Norwegian National Agency for the Youth in Action programme is the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir). The Youth in Action Programme (Aktiv Ungdom www.aktivungdom.eu) is defined by the national agency (NA) as “the European Union’s youth programme for non-formal learning” and that the objectives of the programme are to: 1) strengthen young people’s active citizenship, participation and civil engagement; 2) strengthen young people’s international understanding, tolerance and solidarity; and 3) strengthen youth work in Europe and contribute to increasing European co-operation in the youth field.

The Norwegian NA gives priority to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities who are: youth with disabilities, school “drop-outs” and unemployed youth, youth at risk because of drug abuse, psychological problems, socio-economic deprivation, and youth with a minority background. The Norwegian Government has made a significant contribution to the implementation of the Youth in Action Programme and contributes 68% of the operating costs.

Meanwhile, Eurodesk in Norway carries the primary objective of operation of an open and free European information service for young people and those who work with them. The Norwegian Eurodesk website has on average 1 400 unique visits per month in 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Moreover, the Ministry of Children and Equality participates in several programmes, for example:

- Safer use of the internet
- Daphne
- Europass.

Other EU programmes:

- Programmes for lifelong learning (LLP); the National Agency is the Norwegian Centre for International Co-operation in Higher Education (SIU): www.siu.no/Programoversikt/EU-program/EUs-program-for-livslang-laering-LLP
- Erasmus Mundus
- Progress
- European Language Label.

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

The EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018) on the national level is implemented and is being documented by the Ministry of Children and Equality. The strategy is first mentioned and emphasised in a published government report on state budget for children and youth-related policies, strategies and programmes initiated in all relevant ministries of Norway, “Focusing on Children and Youth: The Government’s goals and focus areas in state budget for 2011” (in Norwegian: Statsing på barn og ungdom). Read more (in Norwegian) at: www.regjeringen.no/pages/2354308/Satsing_paa_barn_og_ungdom_2011_web.pdf. The strategy is also emphasised in every government budget proposition submitted to the Parliament every year since 2010, namely “Prop. 1 S (2010-2011)”, “Prop. 1 S (2011-2012)”, “Prop. 1 S (2012-2013)”, “Prop. 1 S (203-2014)”, they are all accessible at www.dep.no.

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Norway

In September 2011, Norway carried out nationwide local elections for seats in municipalities and county councils where a trial of 20 municipalities reduced the voting age from 18 to 16. The election results and evaluation of the voting age trial can be found in the Norwegian Youth Council annual report of 2012 in Norwegian (www.lnu.no/aktuelt/rapporter/2012/resultatrapport). Currently in discussion in Norway, there was another trial on voting age of 16 in local elections for seats in municipalities and county councils in 2015 – see www.lnu.no/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Resultatrapporten15_web.pdf.

Responding to the policy concerns at European level regarding NEET youth in Europe, the Nordic Children and Youth Committee (NORBUK), the Norwegian Ministry of Children and Equality, and the research institute of NOVA – Norwegian Social Research arranged a Nordic conference on NEET Youth (Ungdom utenfor) in Oslo in 2012. The conference invited policy makers, researchers and youth work practitioners to discuss and exchange practices on the issue: www.nova.no/asset/6374/1/6374_1.pdf (in Norwegian).

The Norwegian Youth Council (LNU) invited policy makers and practitioners to a seminar on September 26-27 2012 in Oslo, where researchers presented study results from the Nordic countries on “Youth, Democracy and Participation in Northern Europe”: www.lnu.no/aktuelt/nyheter/ungdom-demokrati-og-deltakelse-i-norden.

Prevention of forced marriage, and genital mutilation

Title in English: [Action plan against forced marriage, female genital mutilation and severe restrictions on young people’s freedom \(2013-2016\)](#)

Title in Norwegian: [Handlingsplan mot tvangsekteskap, kjønnslemlestelse og alvorlige begrensninger av unges frihet \(2013-2016\)](#)

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: Jan 2013 – in effect.

Status: Relatively new initiative, with a significant expansion of support and services. Norway has expanded its efforts on this topic on an international scale, both through existing bilateral agreements, and through existing developmental programmes ([Internasjonal handlingsplan Kunnskapsdepartementet 2007-2009](#) and [Forebygging og behandling av kjønnslemlestelse](#)), and the efforts following the UN resolution of 2012 [Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations](#) ([Norad om kjønnslemlesting](#)).

Prevention of bullying

Official Norwegian Report 2015:2. To belong – Efforts towards a safe psychosocial school environment ([NOU 2015: 2. Å høre til – Virkemidler for et trygt psykososialt skolemiljø](#)).

Brief summary: This prevention plan is about the prevention of bullying, harassment, discrimination, neglect, and isolation.

Status: On-going initiative. Has had a significant expansion of focus due to an increase in reported incidents of bullying, and incident-related suicides of children.

Prevention of extremism and terrorist recruitment

Title in English: Action plan in the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism (2014).

Title in Norwegian: [Handlingsplanen for å forebygge radikalisering og voldelig ekstremisme](#) (2014).

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”)

Time of introduction and timeframe: June 2014 – in effect.

Status: New initiative, due for evaluation.

Social inclusion

Title in English: Report to Storting No. 6 (2012-2013) A Comprehensive Integration Strategy.

Title in Norwegian: [Meld. St. 6 \(2012-2013\) En helhetlig integreringspolitikk](#).

Type of document: White paper (“Stortingsmelding”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2012 – in effect .

Status: On-going initiative. Discussing expansion of efforts and services, and increasing co-operation with other strategies to prevent socio-demographic and financial challenges.

Title in English: Sami children and youths’ right to participate (2009)

Title in Norwegian: [Retten til medvirkning for samiske barn og unge](#) (2009)

Type of document: Report (“Rapport”) International co-operation between the offices of the Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish Ombudsman for Children and Youth

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2009 – in effect

Status: On-going initiative. Discussing expansion of efforts and services.

Title in English: Universal design 2025. The Government’s action plan for universal design and increased access 2009-2013.

Title in Norwegian: [Norge universelt utformet 2025](#). Regjeringens handlingsplan for universell utforming og økt tilgjengelighet 2009-2013.

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”)

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2009 – in effect

Status: New initiative.

Title in English: The government’s strategy against child poverty 2015-2017.

Title in Norwegian: Barn som lever i fattigdom. [Regjeringens strategi mot barnefattigdom 2015-2017](#).

Type of document: Action plan (“handlingsplan”)

Time of introduction and timeframe: May 2015 (2015-2017)

Status: On-going initiative. Discussing expansion of efforts and services.

Title in English: Co-operation strategy plan on assistance services to youth.

Title in Norwegian: [Ny GIV – Oppfølgingsprosjektet - samarbeid om oppfølging av ungdom](#).

Type of document: Guide (“eksempelsamling”).

Time of introduction and timeframe: March 2014 – in effect.

Status: New initiative, due for evaluation.

Increase decision-making power of youth

Title in English: Hearing note on councils in municipalities and counties for youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities (2016).

Title in Norwegian: [Høringsnotat om råd i kommunar og fylkeskommunar for ungdom, eldre, og personar med funksjonsnedsetjing 2016.](#)

A hearing note suggesting the formalisation of municipal youth council, and make youth council consultation binding by law.

Type of document: Hearing note.

Time of introduction and timeframe: January 2016 – in effect.

Status: Legislative initiative on hearing.

Parliamentary motion on a National Competency Center or Network for Child and Youth Work.

[Representantforslag 98S \(2015-2016\)](#) Representantforslag fra stortingsrepresentantene Martin Henriksen, Torgeir Knag Fylkesnes, Kirsti Bergstø, Tove Karoline Knutsen, Hege Haukeland Liadal og Stine Renate Håheim om et nasjonalt kompetansesenter for ungdomsarbeid, ungdomsmedvirkning og ungdomsinformasjon.

Type of document: Parliamentary motion.

Time of introduction and timeframe: 2016 – in effect, and on hearing.

Status: Parliamentary motion on hearing

9. References

9.1. Legal documents

Act of 17 May 1814. [The Norwegian Constitution](#) (LOV-1814-05-17 Kongeriket Norges Grunnlov)

Act of 10 February 1967 relating to procedure in cases concerning the public administration ([Public Administration Act](#)) ([Lov om behandlingsmåten i forvaltningssaker \(forvaltningsloven\)](#))

Act No. 7 of 8 April 1981 relating to Children and Parents ([the Children Act](#)) ([Lov om barn og foreldre \(barnelova\)](#))

Act of 22 May 1981. The Criminal Procedure Act ([Lov om rettergangsmåten i straffesaker \(Straffeprosessloven\)](#))

Act No. 100 of 17 July 1992 relating to Child Welfare Services ([the Child Welfare Act](#)) ([Lov om barneverntjenester \(barnevernloven\)](#))

Act No. 61 of 17 July 1998 relating to Primary and Secondary Education and Training ([the Education Act](#)) ([Lov om grunnskolen og den vidaregåande opplæringa \(opplæringslova\)](#))

Act. No. 30 of 21 May 1999 relating to the strengthening of the status of Human Rights in Norwegian law ([the Human Rights Act](#)) ([Lov om styrking av menneskerettighetenes stilling i norsk rett \(menneskerettsloven\)](#))

Act of 17 June 2005, the General Disputes Act ([Lov om mekling og rettergang i sivile tvister \(tvisteloven\)](#))

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9.2. Data and statistics

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9.3. Studies, reports and academic publications

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- Knudtzon L. and Tjerbo T. (2009), De unge stemmene. Innflytelsesorgan for barn og unge i kommuner og fylker. (Young voices – local level channels of influence) NIBR-rapport 2009:34 Norsk institutt for by og regionforskning, Oslo.
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